

Super Sunday

The Dallas Cowboys look to get back on top in the NFL. Sports, Page 5

SHOULD GREEKS BE PART OF A&M?

Columnists debate the pros and cons of fraternities and sororities. Opinion, Page 7

CLUB CRAZE

Vertigo adds a new dimension to the Northgate club scene. Aggellife, Page 3

THE BATTALION

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Friday • January 26, 1996



an Fisheries Society... 104 Nagle Hall.
Issues Committee... 7:00 p.m. in 144...
For more information... contact Danny Frazer

A general meeting... 8:30 p.m. in 308...
For more information... 260-9082.

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Team: A general... held at 8:30 p.m...
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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

Smoking singes nerves in MSC

□ One University policy prohibits lighting up in the MSC, but another allows Bowen to grant smoking exceptions.

By Pamela Benson
THE BATTALION

Some MSC employees are fuming mad. Not because of people wearing hats or walking on the grass, but because some people are ignoring the state and campus policy that prohibits smoking in all Texas A&M University buildings.

See related EDITORIAL, Page 7

Employees in the Center for Diversity Education said that smoke periodically seeps through the vents in their MSC office, making it difficult to work. And they said they believe the smoke is coming from the Board of

Regents office next door. Tanya Williams, an A&M graduate assistant who works in the Center for Diversity Education office, said the smell of smoke is sometimes so strong that it affects working conditions.

"I was here over the weekend," Williams said, "and a smoke smell came into the office. I got sick and had to leave."

Some MSC staff members said they deal with smoke fumes by burning potpourri.

Richard Burgess, Native American Association president, said he too suspects that the odor is coming from the regents office.

"I've noticed smoke before and have discussed it with others in the office," he said. "It seems pretty obvious that it's coming from their office, because they are the only ones close enough."

Thelma Isenhardt, Board administrative assistant, said that she does not know of anyone who works in the regents office who smokes, but that the regents do sometimes smoke in their private MSC quarters.

The University's smoke-free poli-

cy states that "effective June 1, 1993, smoking will be prohibited inside all facilities and vehicles, owned or leased, under the administrative purview of the President of Texas A&M University."

According to this policy, smoking in the MSC is prohibited for everyone, including the regents.

But Mary Nan West, chairman of the Board, admitted that smoking does occasionally occur in the regents office.

"I've been known to light up in the office when I'm under pressure," she said.

This is not necessarily illegal, because a smoking policy on file in the Board office states that it is the responsibility of the University president to decide which smoking restrictions apply to the regents office.

This policy, implemented by former President William H. Mobley,

has not been changed by Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, and is still in effect.

This is not the first time that smoking has been a problem in the MSC.

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission once occupied an office space near the regents office, and Sue McBeth, commission employee,



"I've been known to light up in the office when I'm under pressure."

— Mary Nan West
chairman/Board of Regents

said the same smoke problem occurred when she was there.

"We never were able to identify if the smoke was coming from the rooms upstairs or the office, but it seemed that the smoke would occur

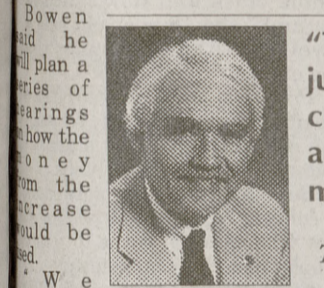
See Smoking, Page 4

Board of Regents put fee increase on hold

□ Board members said they do not yet support Bowen's call for an increase in the general use fee.

By Johanna Henry
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents granted permission Thursday to Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, to hold public hearings with students, faculty and staff about a proposed increase in the general use fee.



"The Board requires that justification for a fee increase must be very clear and that alternate funding methods are explored."

— Don Powell
Texas A&M University System Regent

Bowen said he will plan a series of hearings to show the money from the increase would be used.

"We want to hold them anywhere students are gathered," he said. "We might use TV show, and we are open to suggestions."

Regent T. Michael O'Conner said public hearings for such matters became a requirement after the general use fee was increased for the fall semester.

"The administration cannot approach the Board until they have held public hearings," O'Conner said. "It needs to happen before the semester ends so that all parties can express their opinions on a fee increase."

Many students were upset

that Bowen proposed the first fee increase in the summer when fewer students were on campus.

Regent Don Powell said the Board has not decided whether or not to support Bowen's proposal for the general use fee increase of \$8 per semester credit hour.

"The Board requires that justification for a fee increase must be very clear and that alternate funding methods are explored," he said.

Students can be confident that the Board will fully assess the need for an increase in the general use fee, he said.

"My concern is that the administration is doing all they

can to spend the money wisely," he said. "We need to ask lots of questions, and this Board will do that."

Kelli Harman, chair of the Student Services Fee Allocation Committee, said that if the administration is serious about eliciting student opinion, hearings are a feasible way to do it.

"I hope that it is not just a formality," she said, "and that the administration really wants to hear the students' opinions."

Harman said she thinks a fee increase is necessary, but how much of an increase and how

See Regents, Page 4

□ The Board also named a new provost and gave the go-ahead for a westside garage.

By Johanna Henry
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved Dr. Ronald G. Douglas as A&M executive vice president and provost Thursday.

Dr. Ray Bowen, University president, who requested the appointment, said he is pleased that Douglas will fill the position directly beneath president.

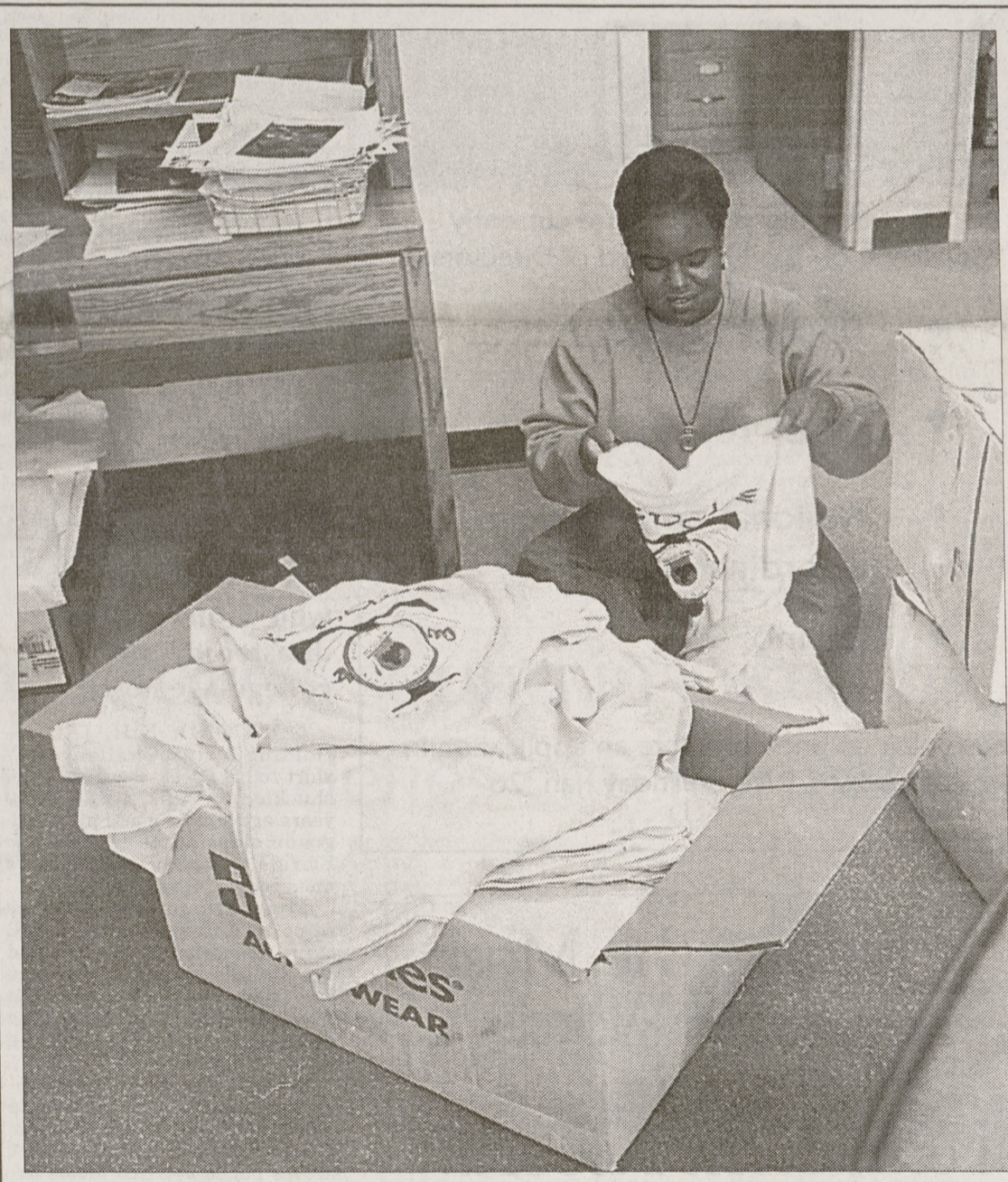
"Dr. Douglas is a distinguished mathematician and an experienced academic administrator with a proven commitment to undergraduate education," Bowen said in a Thursday press release.

Douglas, a former vice provost for undergraduate studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, will assume his position March 1.

"Texas A&M is an impressive university that balances strong undergraduate education with quality research and graduate programs," Douglas said.

In other action, the Board: • Passed a Facilities Planning and Building Committee recommendation to initiate construction of a West Campus parking garage.

• Awarded Corey Pullig, former quarterback, a framed certificate in appreciation of his contribution to A&M football. Pullig is the quarterback with the winningest record in A&M's past 101 years.



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

TON O' T-SHIRTS

Lexie Okeke, a senior kinesiology major from Garland, finishes preparations for MEDALS '96, a college preparatory program for Texas high school students. This year MEDALS is expecting over 750 participants to spend the weekend at A&M.

Cadet creates common ground for minorities



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

Jermaine Hailey, a Company E-2 cadet began the support group for minorities.

□ Jermaine Hailey started the support group to increase Corps unity.

By Johanna Henry
THE BATTALION

Members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets started a support group this semester for minority cadets to share common concerns.

Jermaine Hailey, an African-American Company E-2 cadet and senior political science major, was prompted to start the support group by minorities who told him they were disenchanted with the Corps.

"We started it to create a relaxed environment for minority cadets to share and deal with their social concerns," he said.

Hailey said the support group will improve relationships between minorities and the Corps as a whole.

"It is not intended to create a clique," he said. "Its purpose is to lead to the betterment of the Corps. We want to find ways that minorities can help the Corps and encourage these cadets."

Everyone is welcome to attend the support group meetings.

"It's not a closed-door thing," he said.

Hailey said the effect of the support group on the Corps will be increased minority recruitment and retention.

Minority enrollment in the Corps increased from 21 to 23 percent from Fall 1994 to Fall 1995, and Hailey said he thinks this trend will continue.

Marsha Johnson, a Squadron 12 cadet and sophomore microbiology major, said

being an African-American woman in the Corps is difficult.

"You feel like you are the only one going through what you are going through," she said. "We don't have any historic base at this university."

Johnson said the number of women in the Corps has doubled since a women's support group was started a few years ago, and that a minority group might have a similar effect.

One junior in the Corps, a Caucasian who wishes to remain anonymous, said not all minorities are uncomfortable in the Corps.

"I've seen minorities that have no problem fitting in," he said. "The Corps has no problem accepting them."

The support group will meet Saturday to establish a regular meeting time and to discuss selection of an adviser.