



COOKIN'

The Lady Aggies rout Rice, 91-63, in the SWC Classic. Sports, Page 7

SLIP SLIDIN' AWAY

Halbrook: The conservative Supreme Court is slowly taking away basic rights. Opinion, Page 11

THE FINAL REIGN

Bethany Burnam's reign marks the end of TAMU pageant tradition. Aggiefife, Page 3



THE BATTALION

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Bowen decides against automatic fee increase

State Rep. Ogden said he is glad Dr. Bowen has realized that forgoing public hearings would violate a state law.

By Danielle Pontiff
THE BATTALION

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, has changed his mind about his proposal to automatically increase the General Use Fee by \$2 each time tuition is increased by \$2.

Bowen, at recent public hearings about his proposed increase of \$8 per semester credit hour in the General Use Fee, said linking the General Use Fee with tuition would eliminate the need for holding public hearings each time it increases. However, an amendment to Texas Legislature House Bill 815 requires universities to hold public hearings on all fee increases.

See related EDITORIAL, Page 11

Bowen said he realized this after consulting with lawyers.

"We asked for a legal opinion," Bowen said, "and they advised us not to stop having public hearings."

State Rep. Steve Ogden, the

District 13 Republican who authored the amendment, said Bowen's proposal would have violated Texas regulations.

"I'm glad to hear that Dr. Bowen changed his mind about the automatic fee increases," Ogden said. "The statute requires public hearings."

Ogden said the amendment was written to protect university students from excessive fee increases.

"The amendment requires two important things," Ogden said. "One is the need for public hearings on fee increases. The other is that money collected from these fees must stay at the specific university where students are paying them."

Public hearings provide an opportunity for students to express their opinions to university administrators, he said.

"When I wrote the amendment, I wanted to make sure that the public could have some input on fee increases," Ogden said. "The people that are collecting those fees have a duty to be accountable to those paying the fees."



"The people that are collecting those fees have a duty to be accountable to those paying the fees."

— Rep. Steve Ogden
State representative for District 13

State Rep. Kevin Brady, a District 15 Republican, agreed that students should be able to

Brady said. "The more student involvement, the better."

Ogden said the amendment has been successful because students have taken advantage of hearings as a way to become informed and have their questions answered.

"The reports I've gotten back from staff members attending these public hearings show that people are using the opportunity to express themselves," Ogden said. "Anyone who wants to just listen or make a comment can do so."

"I think this is something that we should go through all the time, whether the issue is an increase in student fees or tax increases."

Senate rejects GUF increase

The Student Senate will ask the student body to vote for changes in yell leader election policies during this month's campus elections.

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

In the final meeting of the Student Senate's 48th Session, the Senate unanimously disapproved of A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen's proposed increase of \$8 per semester credit hour in the General Use Fee.

Tracey McAllister, an off-campus senator and junior marketing major, said the Senate had to take a stand against the fee increase.

"We need to stop compromising with the administration," McAllister said. "It is time we stand our ground and find out if money is being managed correctly."

Melissa Moloney, an off-campus senator and junior political science major, said the decision

represents what the student body wants.

"I think we listened to what the students wanted because almost everyone I talked to was against the fee increase," Moloney said.

In an attempt to change the way yell leaders are elected, the Senate decided to place a referendum on the Spring 1996 election ballot.

Jason Herrick, an off-campus senator and an industrial engineering major, said the referendum asks students to decide if they want run-off elections for yell leaders.

Run-off elections between the top four junior candidates and the top five senior candidates as identified by the primary vote would be held to ensure that the two juniors and three seniors chosen are supported by a greater majority of students.

Jason Waligura, an engineering senator and a junior petroleum engineering major, said the weight of Corps of Cadets members' votes would be decreased by the run-off elections.

"We say this is to improve

See Senate, Page 6



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

GOING FOR A SPIN

Andrea Stingley, a senior political science major, gets into a Pontiac Firebird 3.8 V6 on display at the Texas A&M Sports Car Club show at Rudder Plaza Wednesday.

Drainage problems addressed

College Station and A&M will likely enter into negotiations to determine whether the University will contribute financially to the city's proposed drainage plan or develop its own.

By Kendra S. Rasmussen
THE BATTALION

College Station's drainage problem has prompted city officials to propose a drainage plan that would lessen flooding in the area.

Mark Smith, director of public works, said several areas of the city are prone to flooding during severe weather.

Bee Creek Park near A&M Consolidated High School and Brison Park near the south side of the Texas A&M campus are areas that have always been flood-prone, Smith said, but their problems are worsening because of unusual weather patterns and increased city development.

See Drainage, Page 12

Bar, club shuttle proposed Gov. George Bush endorses Sen. Dole

The buses would run from Wednesday to Saturday from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

Fewer drunken drivers on the streets of Bryan-College Station is the goal of an alternative form of transportation currently in works.

David Redfield, a Blinn College sophomore business major, and Matthew Kenyon, a Texas A&M senior biomedical science major, have brainstormed a shuttle bus service to transport Bryan-College Station residents to and from bars and clubs.

Preliminary plans for the non-

profit service include running seven to 12 buses Wednesday through Saturday from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Buses would stop at bars and at the major apartment complex areas, similar to University Bus Operations routes.

Kenyon said the feedback he has received as a defensive driving instructor sparked his interest in creating the shuttle system.

"I'm a defensive driving instructor, and being out there, I hear a lot of stories and I hear a lot of reasons about why people drive after they drink," Kenyon said. "There's no alternative transportation in Bryan-College Station."

The biggest obstacle Kenyon and Redfield face, they said, is finding help to organize the plans.

"We need help with legal services, people to sponsor us, to help us get started and to set up

major fund raisers," Redfield said. "People out there in the community who do this kind of thing for a living can really help us out by volunteering."

Although the plans are in the preliminary stages, their goal is to begin the service Fall 1996.

Redfield and Kenyon are seeking support from city officials, police departments and University organizations and will submit a proposal to them later this semester.

"We've contacted the leaders in the community to get their feedback," Redfield said, "and we haven't had one response yet that has been negative."

Responses from bar owners, bar managers and city officials have been positive so far, they said.

See Shuttle, Page 12

The announcement was made close to the same hour both Lugar and Alexander withdrew from the race.

AUSTIN (AP) — At the same time two other candidates were quitting the GOP presidential race Wednesday, Gov. George W. Bush threw his backing to Kansas Sen. Bob Dole.

Bush said Dole understands Texans and Texas issues, particularly the importance of free trade and good relations with Mexico.

He also praised the senator's record of service to the country.

"I've been fortunate to see the presidency from a unique perspective," the son of former President George Bush said. "Being a good president requires strong character, integrity and will."

"Sen. Dole's character has been forged by fire — by a childhood which instilled the importance of family and work and community — by a war that almost cost him his life, and by the will that refused to allow it do so. Sen. Dole is a leader."

Bush's endorsement came at almost the same hour both Lamar Alexander and Sen. Dick Lugar dropped out of the presi-

dential race, and while Pat Buchanan was acknowledging that it "appears inevitable" Dole would be the GOP nominee.

Standing with Bush outside the Governor's Mansion, Dole said the governor's endorsement was "the icing on the cake" after his sweep of all eight GOP primaries on Tuesday.

"This endorsement means a great deal to me," Dole said. "The governor's done an outstanding job. He's probably the most popular governor we've had in Texas in anyone's memory."

Dole, who said his military service began in Abilene, said Texas and its delegates are "very important" to his nomination strategy.

"This endorsement means a great deal to me."

— Sen. Bob Dole
presidential candidate

Bush's endorsement was the second piece of good news for Dole in the state with the largest GOP primary yet.

A new Harte-Hanks Texas Poll showed Dole leading his closest GOP rivals by a 2-to-1 margin in Texas and said he would easily defeat President Clinton in the state if the election were held today.

Among likely Republican primary voters, Dole led the others with 45 percent. Pat

See Dole, Page 12

Where Good Bull Ends and Hazing Begins Speaker focuses on judgment

A&M's hazing policies are Texas state law.

By Marissa Alanis
THE BATTALION

In light of recent hazing incidents at Texas A&M, a panel of students and Eugene L. Zdziarski, assistant director of student life, addressed associations and intentions surrounding hazing controversies March 5 at the MSC.

During "Where Good Bull Ends and Hazing Begins," Zdziarski said there has been much discussion about A&M's hazing policy being broad and

needing to be changed, but people should realize it is Texas state law.

"Our policy as an institution is to set standards," he said, "and the lowest we can set standards is the law."

Zdziarski said that because hazing laws can be interpreted so broadly, there will inevitably be problems with them.

"You can never craft a law or policy that will be perfect," Zdziarski said. "It comes down to the people in the situations using their judgment."

The Texas hazing law went into effect August 1987 and was revised May 1995. The only way this law can be changed is if the Texas Legislature

See Hazing, Page 12