

THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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The Batt Online: <http://bat-web.tamu.edu>

Student Senate

Senators vote in favor of fee hike

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

The Student Senate voted Wednesday night to support the Student Center Complex Fee, which will be decided by student referendum Dec. 4.

Koldus Building.

Nine senators opposed the Student Center Complex Fee Resolution.

Bergeson said the fee increase is needed to maintain the operating standards of the buildings. The cost of maintaining the buildings, Bergeson said, has increased due to inflation.

"It's (the fee increase) necessary to keep the MSC, Koldus and Rudder at the current standards of service," Bergeson said.

Josh Duncan, a General Studies senator and a sophomore general studies major, voted against the resolution but is in favor of the fee increase.

Duncan said the decision to support the fee increase should not have been made until after the referendum is held and the students have voiced their opinion.

APPROVED BILLS

WINTER SPIRIT OF AGGIELAND
Will form a committee to oversee a campus decoration program for the winter holidays.

EVANS DRINK POLICY REVISION
Allows students to drink in library if drinks are in airtight containers.

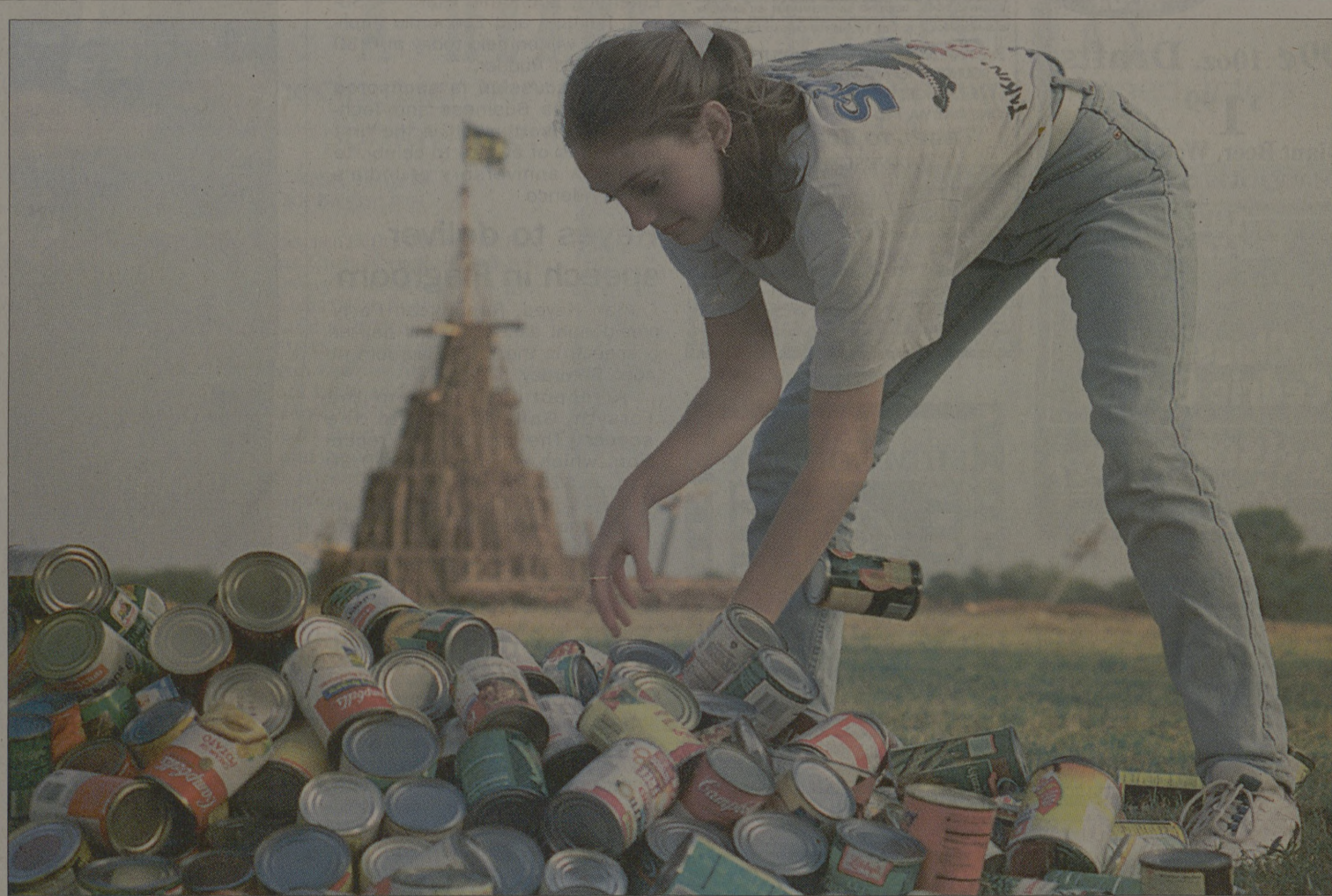
BONFIRE REGISTRATION
Senate does not support policy of scheduling registration the night of Bonfire.

AGGIE BAND SUPPORT
Senate condemns the actions of Rice and UT in Battle of the Bands.

ELECTION REGULATION REVISIONS
Made changes to current election policies.

Revenue generated from the referendum will help maintain, improve and help the Memorial Student Center, the Rudder Complex and the

See SENATORS, Page 4



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Falling Down

Rachel Davenport, a freshman civil engineering major, separates cans after the stack replicating Bonfire collapsed on Thursday. The Student Y Association hosts this competition between student organizations to raise food for the Brazos Food Bank.

Competition prompts increase in Use Fee

By MARIKA COOK
THE BATTALION

The proposed General Use Fee increase at Texas A&M would be used for the sole purpose of raising A&M faculty and staff salaries.

GENERAL USE FEE

PART 3 IN A 5-PART SERIES

SEE EDITORIAL, PAGE 7

Texas A&M Salaries at a Glance

How A&M Salaries Compare to Other Institutions	In F.Y. 1996-	
	U.T.	A&M
1990 - 95%		
1991 - 93%	Professor 76,393	71,568
1992 - 93%	Associate 52,715	49,139
1993 - 92%		
1994 - 92%	Assistant 45,567	42,547
1995 - 91%		

If the increase is approved, the GUF will rise from \$24 to \$34 per semester in the fall of 1997.

The additional money generated will be used to maintain A&M's competitiveness with other universities in terms of faculty and staff.

Jerry Gaston, vice president for Administration, said A&M's average salary is slipping in comparison with its peer institutions.

"In regard to our nationally-recruited faculty, we have gone from paying 95 percent of average salaries in 1990 to 91 percent in 1995," he said. "Clearly, we're going

in the wrong direction."

Classified staff, who are given a job description and title, are typically recruited state-wide and locally.

"In FY (fiscal year) '96, it has been determined that it would take an additional \$2.976 million annually to bring the classified staff at A&M up to par with equivalent jobs in this area," he said. "In other words, they are making less at the University than they would somewhere else."

Texas A&M President Ray M. Bowen said the additional mon-

ey for salaries is needed to keep the reputable staff A&M strives to attain.

"Thirty-seven percent of staff at A&M make less than \$20,000 a year," Bowen said. "There will be a small raise in March if this goes through, and another small raise again in September. It's been a year and a half since anyone received a raise. It's time."

There are two primary methods of granting raises at A&M — across-the-board and merit-based.

See COMPETITION, Page 4

Aggies recall Kennedy's death

In 1963, Bonfire was dismantled in his memory

By MELISSA NUNNERY
THE BATTALION

In November of 1963, Texas A&M students were preparing for Bonfire when they heard the news that President John F. Kennedy had been shot in Dallas. The Aggies dismantled the structure in his memory.

The only other groups of students to sacrifice the tradition were the Classes of '17 and '41. Both volunteered for military service in war.

Mike Marlow, Class of '64, was the head yell leader the year Bonfire was canceled in remembrance of Kennedy. He remembers where he was when he heard the news of Kennedy's death.

"I was walking back from lunch and somebody threw open their window and shouted 'The president's been shot,'" Marlow said.

Nick McGuire, Class of '64 agent, was a senior when Kennedy was assassinated. He said the students at A&M were honored to dedicate their Bonfire to the president.

"We felt pretty good about it, but we didn't have a choice," McGuire said. "(A&M) President Rudder called the seniors together ... and told us what we were going to do."

W.B. "Zip" Zimmerman, Class of '64 class agent, said

dedicating Bonfire to the president was fitting, since Kennedy also served as commander in chief of the armed forces.

"A&M has a strong military heritage," he said. "It seemed like a natural thing to do to make a statement about the assassination. We thought it was a signifi-

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emotional time throughout the country."

The students held a yell practice around the center pole of the Bonfire that never burned. The Texas A&M vs. University of Texas contest was to be a big game that year. UT was the undisputed number one team in the nation, and A&M had won only two games that year, Marlow said.

"There was even talk of canceling the game," Marlow said. "It was the first nationally televised game A&M had been in."

He said because the game was such a talked-about event, canceling Bonfire was a big sacrifice for the student body.

"We had worked for four years to be seniors, but in the end, we knew it was the only thing to do," Marlow said.

In 1993, the Class of '94 invited the Class of '64 to share its Bonfire. Marlow said about 50 of his classmates attended.

Zimmerman said his class was proud to be a part of the 1993 Bonfire.

"We got to march in behind the band. It was an emotional time for all of us," Zimmerman said.

"The Class of '64 was indeed proud that the Class of '94 had done their homework. They (Class of '94) took that and ran with it, and that was good bull."

THE BATTALION TODAY

Aggie Sisters for Christ

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
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Aggie Sisters for Christ is encouraging Texas A&M students to participate in a five kilometer run and walk Saturday to benefit the Stillcreek Boys Ranch.

The Boys Ranch serves as a school and home for 19 boys who have been abandoned. Dan and Margaret O'Quinn have run the ranch for eight years without state funds.

Kristin Harrold, an ASC member and a senior education major, said the family chose to be a private institution so religious education could be offered at the school.

"A Christian family runs it," she said, "and they would not be able to have a Bible class if they were state funded."

Courtney Johnson, an ASC member and a sophomore psychology major, said because the ranch relies strictly on donations, they wanted to make a contribution.

"Stillcreek is a non-profit organization, so a lot of Christian organizations on campus try and help them out," she said. "They are a neat set of boys."

Nancy Baber, assistant to the director of Stillcreek Ranch, said the different organizations' efforts have not gone unnoticed.

"We appreciate their help," she said. "So many A&M organizations, and especially the Aggie Sisters, have shown such genuine interest in helping the boys."

All profits from the run will go to the ranch.

Jenny Dillingham, a member of ASC and a sophomore elementary education major, said the purpose of the run is to raise as much money as possible.

"The important thing is to raise money for the ranch," she said. "All their funds come strictly from donations, so the more money we raise the more money we can give to them."

The run will begin at Spence Park at 9 a.m. Registration will

continue through Saturday.

Ircka Birch, a member of ASC and a sophomore business major, said almost 240 participants have been registered this year.

"Next year we hope to publicize it even more," she said. "But in the last few days we have had a lot of response."

Johnson said the run is not the first benefit they have held for the ranch.

"We do a lot of benefits for the Stillcreek Boys Ranch," she said. "So this is just another fund-raiser we are doing for them."

ASC members also do personal projects with the boys. They volunteer by tutoring and serving as "buddies" to the residents.

Erin Bench, an ASC member and a junior electrical engineering major, said the time she gives contributing to the boys is spiritually rewarding.

"We are doing it to serve the community," she said, "because God calls on us to serve the community."

A&M math department wins \$400,000 grant

By BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK
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The Texas A&M Geometry, Analysis and Topography (GAT) group in the Department of Mathematics won a three-year \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Harold Boas, a professor of mathematics, said the money will be used in several ways.

"The grant will provide support for the infrastructure of the mathematics department," Boas said. "We hope to organize some conferences and workshops and to bring distinguished researchers from around the world to interact with the department."

The money will also contribute to bringing in post-doctorate researchers to help with research and to funding support programs for graduate and undergraduate students, he said.

A total of 11 universities were awarded the grants. Stanford, Columbia, Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech

and New York University were also among the winners.

Boas said the grant will bring recognition to A&M.

"There was just a handful of schools that won the award," Boas said. "The grant helps put Texas A&M in the national scene of mathematics."

The GAT group is comprised of seven A&M researchers who wrote a proposal for the competition outlining how the University's research will aid in strengthening the area of mathematics.

Dr. Peter Stiller, a professor of mathematics and computer science, said in a University Relations press release the researchers' work has paid off.

"Texas A&M has made a serious commitment to this program," he said. "And the National Science Foundation has recognized it as being worthy of support at the national level."

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