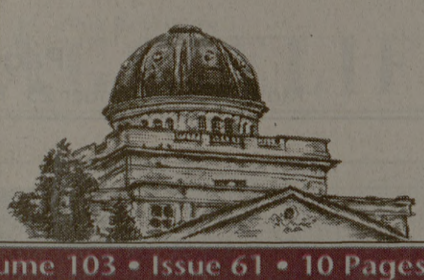


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Yell Leader bill tabled by committee

By JOANNE WHITTEMORE
THE BATTALION

A bill that would require run-off elections for the top five senior Yell Leader candidates and the top four major Yell Leader candidates was tabled by the Rules and Regulations Committee of the Texas A&M Student Senate Sunday night.

Eliot Kerlin Jr., one of the authors of the original bill and a senior finance major, said the committee's decision was upsetting.

"We just told the student body their opinion doesn't matter even though we asked for it."

Eliot Kerlin Jr.
Student senator

"I think it's a travesty," he said. "Senate dropped the ball as a representative of the students."

The proposed bill first appeared as a referendum on the election ballot last spring. Of the 10,000 students that voted, approximately 6,300 voted in favor of requiring run-off elections for Yell Leader candidates.

The Senate then set out to amend the election regulations to include Yell Leader run-offs.

Kerlin said the issue has been

in committee for seven months, so the impact of the referendum has lost its effect.

"We just told the student body their opinion doesn't matter even though we asked for it," he said.

Kerlin said run-offs would increase representation of the student body as well as increase the legitimacy and prestige of the Yell Leader office.

"Yell Leaders define Texas A&M tradition and spirit," he said.

Chris Torn, head Yell Leader

and a senior agricultural development major, said the run-offs would lower the chances of candidates not in the Corps of Cadets being elected.

"If you've got guys that are running for Yell Leader within the Corps, they're going to muster up more support than a student that has to do it by himself," he said.

"That's going to hurt non-reg candidates wanting to be Yell Leaders."

Torn said the Senate does not have the right to legislate the activ-

ities of the Yell Leaders, just as the Yell Leaders do not have the right to interfere in the Senate's affairs.

He said it would be an injustice if a candidate who did not work as hard during the first part of the elections made it to the run-offs and then decided to work hard and won over a candidate who had worked hard the entire election. Torn said that is not what being a Yell Leader is about.

See COMMITTEE, Page 4

A&M president to host forum

By WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

University President Ray M. Bowen will present the General Use Fee (GUF) increase proposal and answer questions about its implications at a public hearing tonight at 7 in Rudder Theatre.

Two years ago, the Texas State Legislature passed a bill increasing the tuition at all state-funded colleges and universities by \$2 per semester credit hour until it reaches \$40 per credit hour in 2000. The Legislature also lifted the \$12 GUF cap, allowing the Board of Regents to raise the GUF to equal tuition for that year.

Bowen will propose to the Board of Regents that the GUF be increased \$10 to \$34 per semester credit hour for Fall 1997. The increase would support faculty and staff salary raises.

With each GUF increase proposal, a public forum is required by law. For A&M, that forum is tonight.

Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for student affairs, said the University will

GENERAL USE FEE

► SEE EDITORIAL, PAGE 9

PART 4 IN A 5-PART SERIES

present the forum not only because it is required, but because they value student feedback.

"We want them to have opinions based on facts," he said, "not on perceptions."

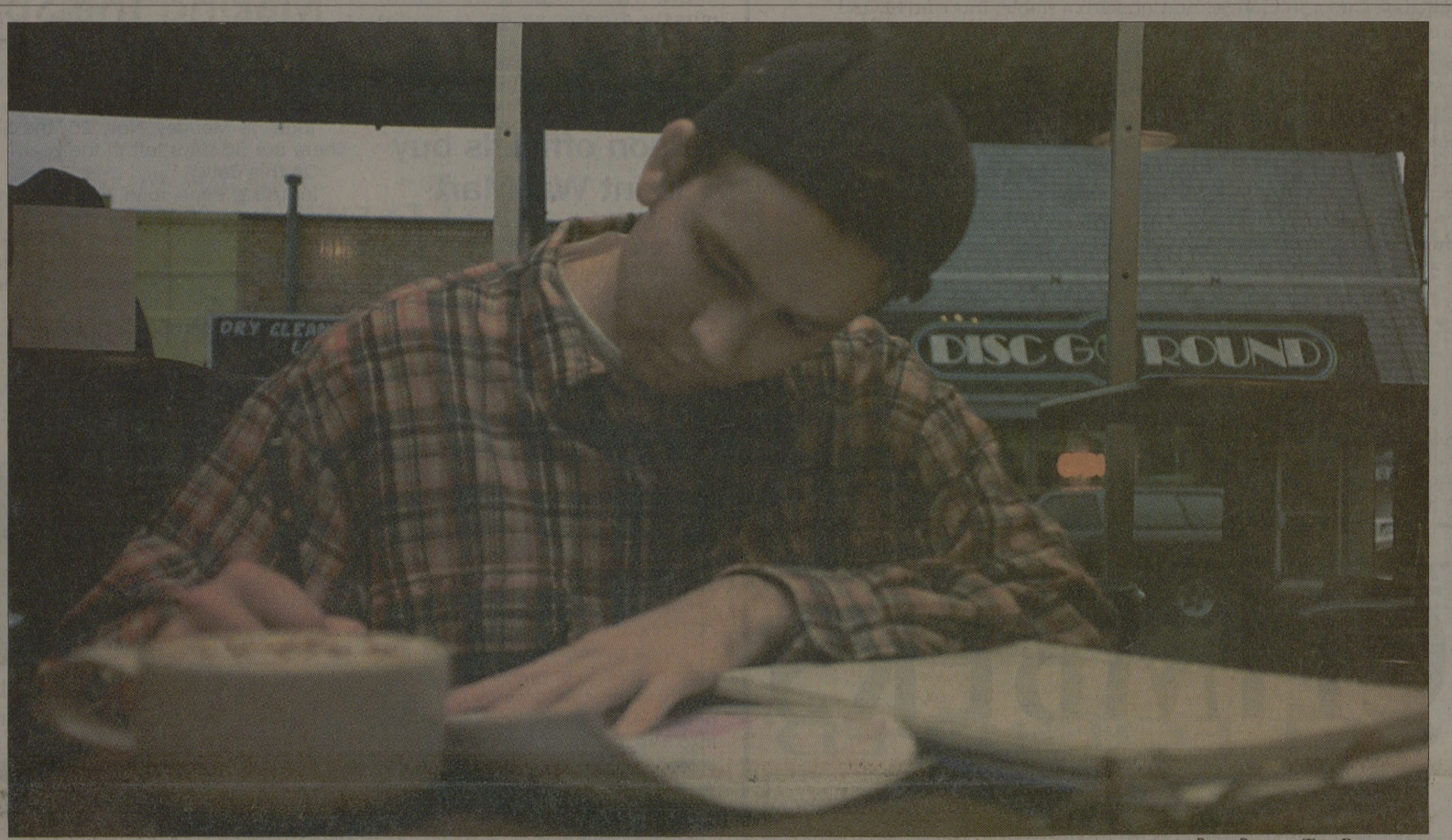
Bowen said students' support of the increase proposal is of personal interest to him.

"I want to get a buy-in," he said.

Kibler said despite the University's efforts to publicize the forum, only a small percentage of the student population is expected to attend the informational session.

"Rudder Theatre has 750 chairs," he said. "We'd be absolutely thrilled if 750 people came."

See GUF, Page 6



Chillin' | Kevin Farrell, a graduate student in student affairs, takes shelter from the hostile weather Sunday afternoon in the Copesetic Cafe. This week temperatures will stay low, slightly warming through Friday.

TOP TEN QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE GENERAL USE FEE

1. Can I be sure that all the money is going to salaries?
2. Why raise student fees without raising financial aid?
3. Didn't the fees just get increased?
4. Will the money be used for classroom improvements?
5. Will the increase solve the problem?
6. Can they link GUF increase to tuition?
7. Are we going to slow our efforts to get more money from the state Legislature?
8. Couldn't it be done in increments?
9. Why are we so far behind?
10. Will the increase always go to faculty raises?

Keyes stresses morality in politics

By JOANNE WHITTEMORE
THE BATTALION

Alan Keyes, Republican Party presidential candidate, said those who voted President Clinton into office for another term are in for a disappointing four years.

"I think there are some really bad times ahead for Clinton voters," Keyes said Saturday in the MSC Flagroom. "They're going to have to go through some real agencies. I have a feeling that the next couple of years are not going to be so great for them."

Keyes, along with Republican Party Congressional candidate Gene Fontenot, was brought to Texas A&M by the Eagle Forum Collegians.

Keyes said the fact that Clinton was re-elected did not increase the First Lady's respect for the Ameri-



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Alan Keyes spoke to students in the MSC Wednesday.

can people. He said this was reflected in her recent trip to Australia, where "she went ... to tell us that Americans are really terrible and want a First Lady with a bag over her head."

Keyes said people often ask him why he talks about morality, claiming it has nothing to do with politics. He said it fascinates him that the doctrine of separation of church and state has now expanded into a doctrine which requires separation of morality from politics. Keyes said when one looks at the behavior of many political figures, it is apparent they have achieved that separation.

Keyes said most politicians use the "sneeze approach" in their campaigns and speeches. He said the politicians will go through their entire speech as if God does not exist, and then put in a "God bless you" at the end.

Keyes said God should not come at the end of speeches, but at the beginning of thoughts. He said one should consider this when choosing pro-life or pro-choice because it is not up to

man to decide the issue.

"Life and rights are not based on a woman's choice or a man's choice," he said. "They are based on God's choice, made long before we got here, and all we have the right to do is respect that choice."

Keyes commended welfare, saying the core of human virtue must include a love for fellow human beings, regardless of their backgrounds. He said people must be willing to reach down and help lift others up.

Keyes ended his speech by urging the public to vote for Fontenot.

"I am standing today to declare that if you care about these things that I care about, you can do nothing better than to cast your support and your vote for Gene Fontenot," he said. "We need his voice in America."

THE BATTALION TODAY

- Ritual Art**
Artist Sharon Kopriva shows the universal connection between death, life and love.
Aggjelife, Page 3
- Reflections**
The Texas A&M Soccer team discusses the abrupt end to its season and hopes for next year.
Sports, Page 7
- Deep Sleep**
Heinroth: President Clinton's nightmare sheds light on glum reality.
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Elephant Walk 1996

Students design their own Class of '97 T-shirt to feel included

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

In the spirit of diversity, a group of students have designed a Class of '97 T-shirt they feel is more representative of the student body at Texas A&M.

The decision to design the shirt was made after the Class of '97 Council introduced this year's Elephant Walk T-shirt.

The E-Walk shirt features five A&M students, all of whom are Anglo, standing in locked arms in front of Bonfire.

Mosadi Porter, the initiator of the more inclusive T-shirt design and a senior speech communications major, said the design will give a better representation of races.

"We felt the original Class of '97 E-Walk shirts weren't in-

clusive," she said. "We are doing this in an effort to make everyone feel included."

Their shirt design will include African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, Native American and Anglo students.

The committee originally designed an E-Walk shirt, but due to financial complications, the shirt was not ready for today's event. The design will now be a Class of '97 shirt.

The shirts will be sold at cost and are anticipated to be ready for sale at the beginning of the spring semester.

Porter said no profit will be made from the shirts.

"It is not about profit, it is about principle," she said. "We just want to make a shirt that people will be proud of."

Other student organizations have designed Class of '97 shirts without the support of the Class Council.

An off-campus vendor, working with the Texas A&M Management Society designed and sold a Class of '97 shirt with a pitcher of beer on the back of it. The Class of '97 Council reported the shirt to

"It is not about profit, it is about principle."

Mosadi Porter
Design initiator

Juniors, Seniors to brave cold weather for E-Walk

By WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

Cold, wet and muddy conditions will not stop the elephants of 1997 from wandering across campus to find a place to die today.

At 97 minutes after noon, 1:37 p.m., the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 1997 will gather at Kyle Field for Elephant Walk, where Tom Fitzhugh, a former Memorial Student Center president and a member of the Class of '71, will address the senior class.

Concurrently, the Class of '98 will meet at Bonfire site 98 minutes after noon, 1:38 p.m., to begin their own E-Walk activities.

Melanie Bradshaw, E-Walk committee chair and a senior elementary education major, said the weather may keep some seniors from participating in Elephant Walk, but between three and four thousand people are still expected.

"We're basically going to play it by ear tomorrow," she said.

Senior events will begin at 11:30 a.m., with the Final Feast barbecue in the Grove. If it rains, the lunch will move under the stands at Kyle Field.

See E-WALK, Page 5

See SHIRTS, Page 5