



# THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## Hopwood affects programs

### Minority-based organizations experience fewer participants

By Wesley Poston  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M minority organizations and programs faced the end of race-based admissions and scholarships with *Hopwood vs. The State of Texas*, and now look to a potentially less diverse student body in the years to come.

Minority-targeted programs and organizations have seen a drop in participation as a result of fewer minorities enrolling in the University.

The Aggie Recruitment Committee (ARC) recruits for A&M at the high schools of the committee members.

Toan Duong, ARC area code coordinator and a sophomore computer science major, said the recruiters distribute information at their hometown high schools, but do not have specific information about minority opportunities.

"At this point, we don't have any specific plans to boost minority inter-

est in A&M," Duong said. "It's something we may have to look into."

Carl Baggett, student body president and a senior accounting major, said ARC has always targeted all potential A&M students.

"They've recruited Aggies," he said, "and they're going to keep doing it."

Nikki Guerra, Student Government executive assistant to minority affairs and a senior civil engineering major, said student recruitment efforts would have to combat schools in other states offering minority students scholarships, since Texas universities cannot.

"A lot of the burden has been placed on students' shoulders as far as recruitment goes," she said. "I don't think the administration is going to help us as much as we'd like."

Guerra said minority affairs would have to increase its recruiting efforts at minority-rich high schools and telephone minority applicants to encourage their attendance if accepted.

"We'll have to work twice as hard to make minority students feel welcome at this University," she said.

"If we're having to work so hard, was this (*Hopwood*) such a good decision?"

The decrease in minority enrollment following the *Hopwood* decision has impacted minority programs as well.

Rodney McClendon, coordinator of student retention and development in the Department of Multicultural Services, works with ExCEL, a program targeted toward accepting minorities into A&M.

ExCEL begins with a conference in August for participants and their parents. The conference outlines opportunities and resources for minorities at A&M. Throughout the following year, participants attend a class intended to continue their development and to retain them as students.

See **HOPWOOD**, Page 8

## Chancellor reports low Texas graduation rates

By Melissa Nunnery  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents heard from Chancellor Dr. Barry Thompson Friday that Texas lags behind other states in the number of college graduates it produces. He outlined the System's agenda for the upcoming Texas legislative session, which coincides with the goals of the Texas Higher Education Coalition.

Thompson said Texas graduates 14 percent fewer college students a year than the national average. He said one goal of the Texas Higher Education Coalition is to raise those numbers.

"We want to increase the number of graduates by 15,200 without lowering our standards," Thompson said.

He said one way to bring up the number

of college graduates in Texas is to encourage students to first attend a community college, then transfer to a senior college.

The Texas Higher Education Coalition sponsors public service announcements to inform and encourage students.

Thompson said increasing scholarship money to make attending college easier for disadvantaged students is another of the coalition's goals.

The Regents also heard a report from the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board (CSAB) Friday.

The president of board reported to the regents on the advisory board's goals and progress.

The CSAB consists of student delegates from each of the 11 A&M System schools.

See **GRADUATION**, Page 8



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

### It's too Loud

Megan Winemiller covers her ears while watching a band march by in a Christmas parade. She watched the parade with her brother, Brent Winemiller, and her mother, Leslie Winemiller, Sunday afternoon.

## Campus rests during holiday season

By Wesley Poston  
THE BATTALION

Students vacate the Texas A&M campus each Christmas, leaving a vacuous silence in their wake.

Dr. Malon J. Southerland, vice president for student affairs, described the uncommon quiet as "eerie."

"You can see the silence very clearly," he said.

Southerland said he strolls about campus during the silence, taking in the peacefulness.

"It's a time for reflection, family and

friends," he said.

Southerland will spend the first part of the holiday break with friends in Houston and East Texas. He will return to A&M to spend Christmas with his aunt.

"My family has always had a small Christmas," he said.

Southerland said he looks forward to the relaxed pace of the Christmas holidays.

"I'm about as ready as y'all are," he said.

"Everything returns to normal after New Year's, and then there we go again."

This will be Southerland's third Christmas in his on-campus residence, and he said he

is still waiting for the ever-elusive white Christmas.

Snow fell on the evening of Bonfire in 1980, when it still burned on Duncan Field.

"It's pretty easy to remember," he said. "It was beautiful."

Ray Bowen, A&M president, said his fondest Christmas memories of A&M were from the winter of 1994, his first as president.

"After many years of being away, we spent the holidays with family and old friends," he said. "Things like that are hard to replace."

See **CAMPUS**, Page 8

## GUF proposal to benefit staff

### Fee increase affects more than faculty

By Marika Cook  
THE BATTALION

The proposed General Use Fee increase for Fall 1997 would be used to fund raises for Texas A&M staff members, who often receive less than those doing comparable jobs off campus.

University President Ray Bowen said it is important to remember the staff, not just faculty, when considering pay raises.

"They (staff) often feel left out in issues such as this," Bowen said. "They haven't received a raise in over a year."

Staff members include secretaries, staff assistants and word processors. They are employed in departments such as student financial aid and student affairs.

Bill Crum, vice president for finance and control, said staff raises are a necessity.

"Thirty-seven percent of staff at A&M make less than \$20,000 a year," Crum said. "In comparison, think of a student's budget with tuition and other expenses. These people are having problems just paying everyday expenses for themselves and their families."

Bowen said there is insufficient data on exact staff salaries.

"What we do know is that some of these people are taking jobs off campus for more pay or having to work a second job because their income isn't adequate," Bowen said. "If the increase goes through, the plan is to give a small raise in March and then another small raise in September, totaling a 3 percent increase."

Staff salaries are funded by the education and general budget, which is used for academic and support services.

Jerry Gaston, vice president for administration, said more money must be allocated to staff salaries for the University to remain competitive.

"A study completed earlier this year told us that in order to bring the entire staff up to what they ought to be making, based on a predetermined salary, the University would need an additional \$2.976 million," Gaston said. "This would keep our staff at relative market, which means they make the same with us as in the area of Bryan-College Station."

Ben Armintor, a junior anthropology major, said the GUF increase is legitimate and should be accepted by students.

"I don't feel like students realize that the motivation for this increase is not to add things, it's to keep things from being dropped," Armintor said. "The fee increase is necessary just to maintain the status quo."

Some staff employees believe businesses in Bryan-College Station align their wages with what the University sets because of the school's dominance in the community. Therefore, they would have to go outside of Bryan-College Station to find higher wages for the same job.

Marilynn Osoba, an administrative secretary, said her last pay raise was a 2 percent increase two years ago.

"I think one benefit that should be offered to staff should be a sliding scale for parking garage costs," Osoba said. "I pay just as much to park on campus as someone who makes five times my salary. My salary is pretty low. I'm single and if I didn't have a supplemental income, I couldn't live."

### THE BATTALION TODAY

#### Finals Food

Candy bars and sodas won't be enough to power students through final exams. AggieLife, Page 3

#### Run & Gun

The Men's Basketball team utilized the fast-break in a trouncing of Southeastern La. Sports, Page 5

#### Live and Learn

Heinroth: Life's opportunities outside of the classroom should be seized. Opinion, Page 7

## Students show appreciation for staff

### Dorms, Corps outfits buy Christmas gifts for custodial workers

By JoAnne Whittemore  
THE BATTALION

Some on-campus students at Texas A&M are busy this holiday season collecting money to buy gifts for the custodial workers in their residence halls.

Mike Saddler, president of Moses Hall and a junior business major, said recognizing custodial workers for their efforts is the least students can do.

"They work hard all year long, and a lot of people don't appreciate it," he said. "This just shows our appreciation."

Saddler said students in the dorm collect money each year to buy their custodial workers gift certificates.

Steven Foster, Corps commander and a senior political science major, said the Corps of Cadets does not have a group collection, but some outfits collect

money to give their custodial workers.

"We don't do it as a whole, but I know some outfits that

**"They work hard all year long, and a lot of people don't appreciate it."**

Mike Saddler  
Moses Hall president

do it on their own," he said. "It's a goodwill gesture."

Kenny Robertson, commanding officer of company G-2 and a senior mechanical engineering major, said the cadets in his company collect money to give to a custodial worker who cleans the whole residence hall. He said the worker puts up with the

darkness the cadets like in the hallways, sometimes cleaning by the light of a flashlight.

Robertson said all G-2 cadets make small contributions, which add up.

"If somebody gives, then everybody gives," he said. "When the whole floor is giving money, it adds up to something sufficient."

Aaron Johnson, commanding officer of company K-2 and a senior industrial distribution major, said his company plans to collect money. Companies G-2 and K-2 are both in Residence Hall 7.

He said it is fairly easy to get the cadets to contribute because many of them know their worker on a friendly basis.

"Generally, everybody's all for it," he said. "A lot of us know John (custodial worker) on a personal level, so it's kind of like helping out a

friend or giving a friend a Christmas present."

Jesse Czelusta, Residence Hall Association president and a senior agricultural economics major, said RHA does not have a group effort with all the residence halls to raise money, but he thinks the project is a good idea and is trying to learn more from halls that get involved.

Chad Henke, president of second floor in Moore Hall and a sophomore general studies major, said his hall is currently involved with other Christmas projects but may also raise money for its custodial workers. He said the contributions would be a good way to show appreciation.

"I think it's a really good idea," he said. "The custodians are always very courteous. I think the residents would be willing to chip in a few bucks in order to show appreciation for what the custodial staff does."

### FINAL EXAMS SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY

7:30-9:30 a.m.  
10 a.m.-noon  
12:30-2:30 p.m.  
3-5 p.m.

#### Classes meeting

MW 5:45-7 or later  
MWF 8-8:50  
TR 9:35-10:50  
TR 11:10-12:25

#### MONDAY

8-10 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
1-3 p.m.  
3:30-5:30 p.m.

MWF 9:10-10  
MWF 12:40-1:30  
TR 8-9:15  
MWF 4:10-5:25

#### TUESDAY

8-10 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
1-3 p.m.  
3:30-5:30 p.m.

MWF 10:20-11:10  
MWF 13-3:50  
TR 3:55-5:10  
MWF 150-2:40

#### WEDNESDAY

8-10 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
1-3 p.m.  
3:30-5:30 p.m.

TR 12:45-2  
MWF 11:30-12:20  
TR 2:20-3:35  
TR 5:30-6:45 or later

source: Fall Class Schedule