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# THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## Concessions revenue benefits students

### A&M receives about \$900,000 in commission each year from vending machines

BY JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER  
THE BATTALION

Ever wonder where all of the money that students and staff put into campus vending machines goes? There are approximately 400 vending machines on campus that include products from Coca-Cola and Dr. Pepper. When a student puts coins into one of the vending machine or uses Aggie Bucks for candy or sodas, they are contributing to a fund that allocates money to student activities and administration. Each month, the University receives a percentage of the money generated

from vending machine sales in the form of a commission check from the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Sales from concessions at athletic events are included. The commission check, which averages about \$100,000 a month, goes into an account called the special concessions account. A&M President Ray Bowen decides how the money is distributed. Senior Contracts Administrator Mike Huddleston handles the contract between the company and the University. He said the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. owns the machines on campus and stocks them, and the University is paid commis-

sion for allowing them on campus. "For each coke or snack purchased, A&M receives a certain percentage on every dollar," Huddleston said. "Coca-Cola writes a check to the University for the total amount." Tom Taylor, assistant vice president for finance, said most of the money goes to the Department of Student Activities. "This money is fairly flexible money for us," Taylor said. "It supports student activities and also administrative applications." Taylor clarified the meaning of administrative applications. He said these funds are allocated to offices to help with

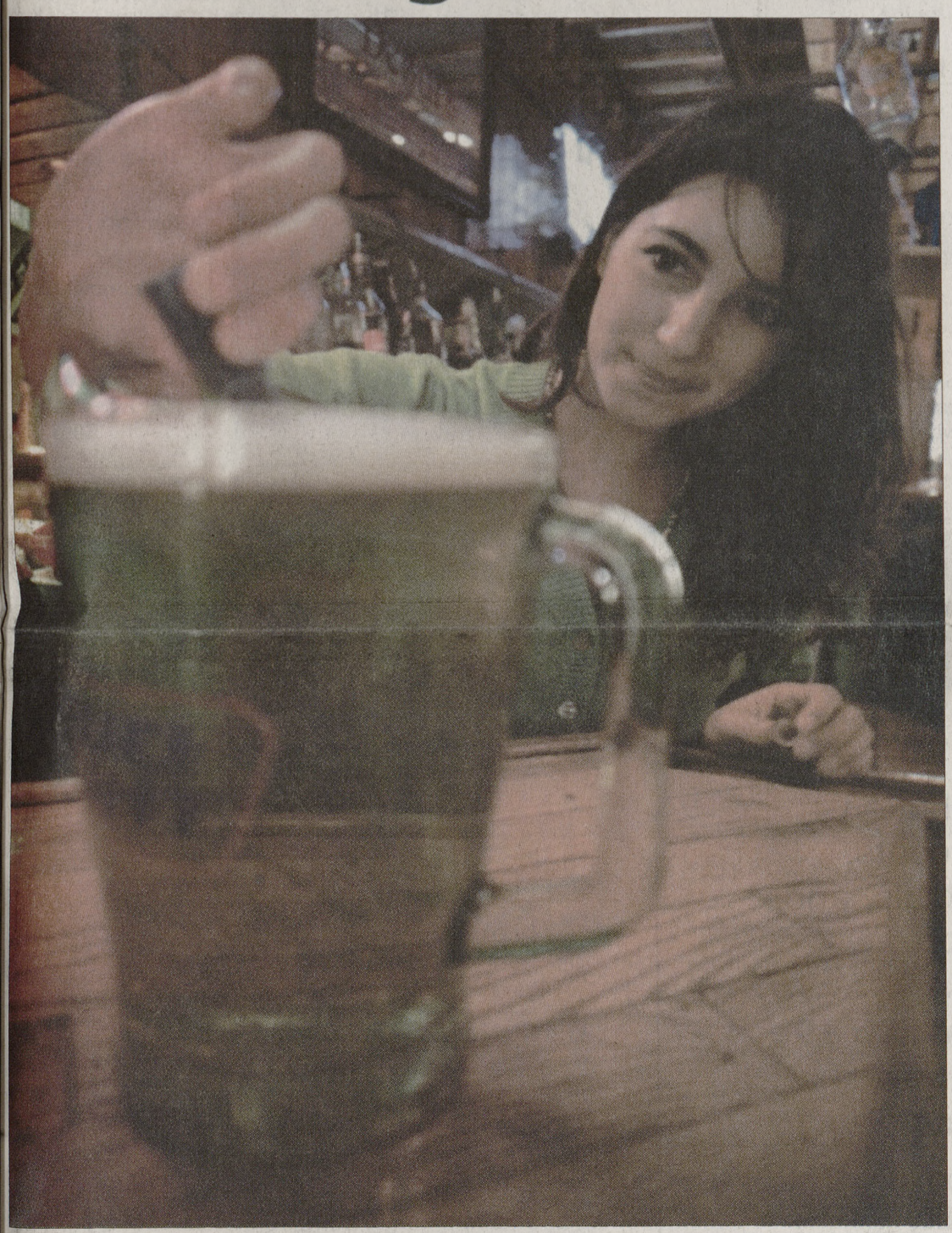
entertainment activities and services the state does not provide for the University. Taylor said A&M receives about \$900,000 in commission from vending machines each year. The money is then allocated to the offices of the president, the chancellor, the commandant and the director of public information. Taylor said the president's office is allotted about \$55,000 a semester for entertainment and office expenses. He said some activities not paid for by the state are necessary.



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION  
Stacy Wilson, a freshman general studies major, grabs her soda from a vending machine in the Blocker Building.

See VENDING, Page 5

## Seeing Green



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Sabrina Lejeane, a bartender at Fitzwilly's, puts green food coloring into beer yesterday. The restaurant served green beer as part of its St. Patrick's Day celebration.

## Commission creates campaign home page

► The web site will give student candidates widespread exposure.

BY LAURA OLIVEIRA  
THE BATTALION

On-line campaigning will make it easier for candidates running for positions in the student body elections to reach their constituents through a home page created by the election commission. The page will include a questionnaire, which gives candidates equal coverage. Candidates may link self-designed pages to the home page. Cody Lane, a candidate for agriculture senator and a freshman agricultural economics major, said the home page gives the candidates widespread exposure that is difficult to get otherwise. "You can't talk to everyone on

campus about how you stand on issues," he said, "but everyone has access to this and can read it and know what you think." Jason Jaynes, elections commissioner and a junior computer science major, said the commission created the home page to be as user friendly as possible. "If they (the candidates) are not familiar with home pages, all they have to do is answer the questions," Jaynes said. Eric Williams, a candidate for Resident Hall Association president and a junior biomedical science major, said constituents might be persuaded to vote for candidates with more advanced linked-on home pages. "Students who are more competent could come up with a real spectacular home page," he said. "But giving everyone the option [to have a page] — they are being fair in that aspect."

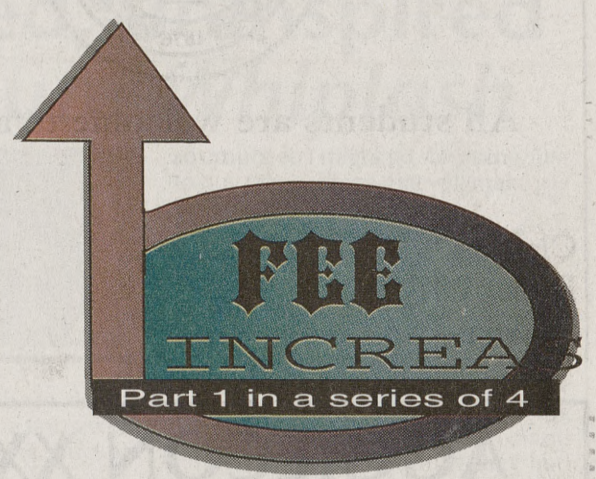
Jaynes said many universities have caught on to the idea of using the Internet in the voting process and have turned to online voting. The election commission has considered using an electronic voting system but doubts it would work well at a large university, Jaynes said. "With a university this size, to be able to enforce security would be almost impossible," he said. Election commission rules and regulations and voting times and places also will be included on the home page. Candidates must give their password and user ID before they may access the system to link on to the site. Jaynes said the pages will be screened daily to eliminate any inappropriate or false campaigning. "This is the first year we are using this and we are testing the waters," he said. "But I am not expecting anything negative to come out of this."

## University plans to install more computer modems

### Regents will consider fee hike to cover costs

BY REBECCA TORRELLAS  
THE BATTALION

A proposal to raise the computer access fee \$1 to pay for new modems installed this semester will be reviewed by the Board of Regents next week. Dr. John Dinkel, associate provost for Computing and Information Services, said the modems were installed to relieve problems with computer access services from off campus. "There were 7,000 users, less than 600 modems and a continued increase in subscribers," Dinkel said. Dinkel hopes the fee will help cover the costs of the current problem, future operating costs and build a fund for new technology and long-term services. Current plans would make 1,700 modems available by the fall of 1999. Plans also would add 7,000 ethernet connections to the current 3,035 connections in residence halls over the next two or three years. This project will cost \$3 million dollars over a three year period. Dinkel said the main concern is to upgrade the current mechanism with constantly changing modern technology, such as cable modems, very high speed telephone connections and satellites. "We could run out and buy modems and next year have a bunch of old modems," Dinkel said. Two years ago the modems were 14.4 kilobyte modems, which made browsing the web difficult and slow. Now Computing and Information Services is installing 36.6 and 56 kilobyte modems. Texas A&M President Ray Bowen said the fee increase is appropriate and there should not be any prob-



lems with students paying the extra dollar. "The increase is modest and it carries with it additional service, so I do not anticipate a lot of objections," Bowen said. "However, fees are a pain for everyone and all of us will understand that many will want good explanations of how the fee benefits students." Michael Barber, a junior industrial engineering major, said it is easier to dial into the system this semester than it has been in past semesters. "Last semester, you needed at least 45 minutes in dialing time," Barber said. "This semester, dialing in might take five minutes on a bad day." The upgrading is scheduled for completion in the fall of '99, and Computing and Information Services anticipates an operating budget of about \$415,000 per year to support the 1,700 modems.

## Marchers honor famine victims

NEW YORK (AP) — Pipes and drums fell silent for one somber minute Monday as St. Patrick's Day marchers honored the memory of 1.5 million Irish who died in the Great Potato Famine some 150 years ago. Echoes of protest also hung over the nation's largest St. Patrick's Day parade for the seventh year in a row as three dozen demonstrators from the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organi-

zation got arrested. They were protesting their exclusion from the march. The 236th annual celebration for Ireland's patron saint was otherwise a spectacle of bands, kilted bagpipers, military marching units and joyous spectators. Organizers estimated that 150,000 people marched and a million or more watched. "The soldiers are my favorite," said 8-year-old Joseph Bassafi-

ume of Montville, N.J. He watched the parade from the shoulders of his father, Mario, who said the boy has "a drop" of Irish heritage. "I love the whole thing," said Terence Sheehan, 20, costumed as a leprechaun and posing with tourists. "But the bagpipes and the drums, that's really awesome." See PARADE, Page 5

## CIA candidate asks Clinton to withdraw nomination

### Anthony Lake was expected to be confirmed as director.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anthony Lake, whose nomination for CIA director appeared strong after surviving stiff GOP resistance, asked President Clinton to withdraw his name from consideration, and Clinton was expected to do so, a senior White House official said Monday night. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Lake complained in a letter to the president that the nomination process in Washington has become too bitter and partisan.

The development was a surprise because Lake, Clinton's former national security adviser, had weathered several GOP attacks to emerge relatively unscathed from last week's confirmation hearings. The questioning was less harsh than expected, and Republicans on the Senate Intelligence Committee said privately he would probably be confirmed. Lake's withdrawal raised immediate questions as to whether a new allegation cropped up at the last minute to undermine his nomination. Lake was not immediately available, and White House officials were not commenting. One friend of Lake's in the administration said there was no new development, "just his feeling that Washington has gone

nuts." The official refused to be identified. The nomination of Lake, the president's first-term national security adviser, raised a steady stream of questions. They included Lake's support for a secret 1994 policy that allowed Iranian arms to flow to Bosnia and his failure to sell \$280,000 worth of energy stock after being told to do so to avoid possible conflicts of interest. More recently, Lake said that as national security adviser he was never told by



Lake

subordinates about FBI suspicions that China was looking to influence U.S. congressional elections. Questions also were raised about the NSC's role in White House policy that allowed several circumspet Democratic donors access to the White House during the 1996 elections. Lake was nominated to replace John Deutch, who has left the administration. No immediate replacement candidates were known. A mild-mannered, professorial man, Lake was said to have little patience for Washington politics and talked more frequently about returning to his serene farm in New England.

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