

Conference focuses on *Hopwood* effects

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

Participants in the Second Annual Conference on Minorities and Policy Issues at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center yesterday to discuss positions while expanding their about the *Hopwood* decision.

Steve Murdock, director and chief photographer for the Texas State Data Center and professor and head of Rurcology, opened the conference with his assessment of unmet needs and most opportunities of students due to the decision.

Murdock said it has caused a loss of enrollment of minority students in Texas public universities and colleges. He said it presents a challenge for these schools, especially Texas A&M.

Only one-third of African-American students who were accepted to Texas

A&M in the fall actually enrolled," he said. "The other two-thirds attended schools outside of Texas."

Murdock said this loss of students is directly linked to the *Hopwood* decision and is a problem that is being addressed by the conference.

Legislators from the Texas State House of Representatives attended the conference to present their views on the decision to participants and Dr. Ray M. Bowen, president of Texas A&M.

They presented their perspectives on the decision and how it is mainly affecting Texas.

Donald R. Haragan, president of Texas Tech University, Charles A. Hines, president of Prairie View A&M, and Bowen had a round table discussion on the decision.

Hines said it has had a reverse effect on his campus because the Anglo-American population is the minority. It has resulted in lost opportunities for these students

because the entire scholarship program for them has been canceled.

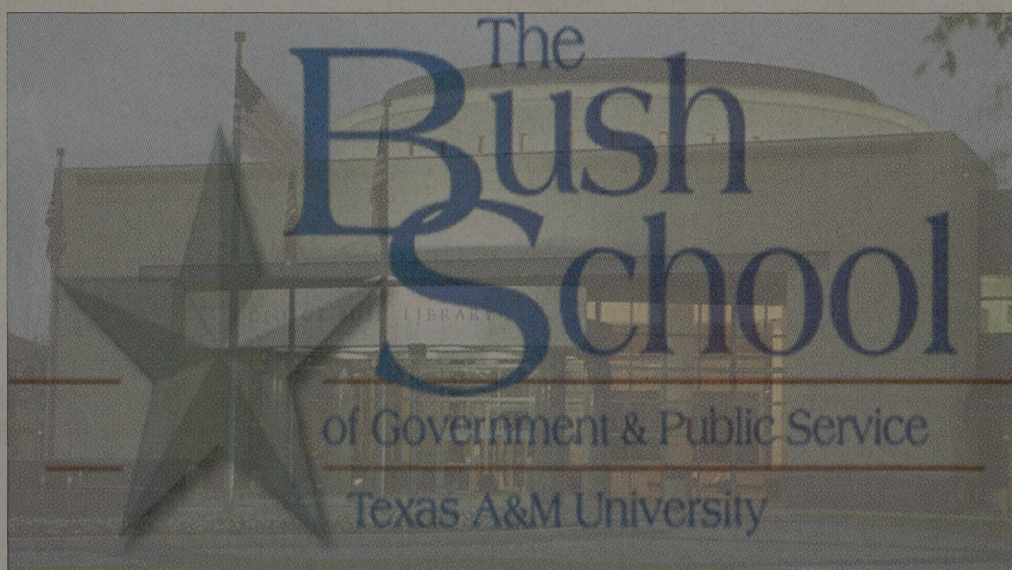
Hines said Prairie View A&M has developed creative ways to comply with the law.

He said their partnership with the A&M College of Medicine allows a direct transfer of top students into the school without having to take the MCAT. He said this helps to prevent a loss of talented African-American students to other schools.

"The major crisis facing the state is losing the best and brightest students to other schools outside of Texas," said Hines.

Curtis Childers, A&M student body president and a senior agricultural development major, met with other student leaders from the University of Texas and North Carolina State University to present their standpoints regarding *Hopwood* and the impact it has had on their campuses.

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Hot stuff



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Devin Welch, a senior mechanical engineering major, lifts a sand casting with tongs before dunking it in water during a mechanical engineering manufacturing lab Thursday afternoon.

University to use \$5 million to match scholarship donations

By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

In an effort to increase non-athletic scholarships, Texas A&M University has established a \$5 million matching-gift program of which \$1 million will be for President's Endowed Scholarships. The matching-scholarships program encourages donors to establish endowed scholarships to benefit A&M students not involved in athletic program. The program, in effect since 1991, has 18 different scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students.

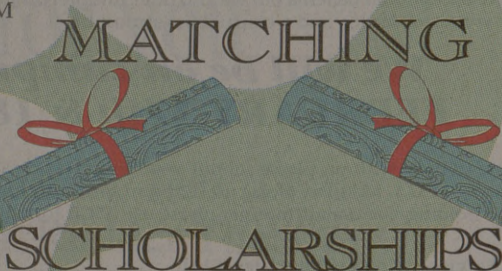
Dr. Ray M. Bowen, A&M president, said that he had a sum of money at his discretion and decided to use it to promote scholarships. "It's a great opportunity for someone to support scholarships at Texas A&M," he said. Dr. M. Palincsar, senior vice president for development at the Texas A&M Foundation, said that the interest is great because donors get to leverage their own gift by creating an extra one.

"Endowing scholarships is one of the most popular among our former students to fund because they want to help the students," Palincsar said. "It helps our work and fund-raising efforts. This matching-scholarship program is a win-win situation."

Melissa Baird, Texas A&M Foundation communications specialist says that the program "encourages those who give now to get the second scholarship named in their honor."

Undergraduate scholarships will be matched on a one-to-one basis, with a minimum \$25,000 donation. Graduate scholarships also will be equally matched by the University, with a \$50,000 minimum donation. Eligible gifts may be made in five annual installments if there is a signed gift agreement or written pledge.

Students can contact the Department of Student Financial Aid to find out more about the scholarships. Anyone interested in contributing to the matching-scholarship program can contact Durwood Lewis, director of development operations at the Texas A&M Foundation.



Students voice opposition to proposed hall changes

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The student protest of the modernization of a Texas A&M residence hall continued Wednesday night as The Residence Hall Association (RHA) voted to support a bill that opposes a University proposal to add air conditioning to Walton Hall.

Proponents of the bill said the Department of Residence Life proposal lacks adequate research to consider adding air conditioning to a currently non-air conditioned residence hall.

Peter Schultz, Residence Hall Association (RHA) executive vice president of administration and a sophomore business major, said Residence Life needs to consider the voices of student residents.

"On campus, there are residents adamantly opposed to the change," Schultz said. "Walton is slated to get air conditioning after the spring semester. Walton residents came to RHA. We (are here) to fight for the resident's needs."

The decision to rewire and add window air-conditioning units to Walton Hall accompanied a proposal announced on Feb. 9 by the Department of Residence Life to open Hart Hall, a male non-air conditioned residence hall, to female residents.

Kern Rudely, the associate director of Residence Life, said the proposals will not be finalized until after spring housing contract renewal, Feb. 28 to Mar. 3. Hart may be opened up to female residents based on the numbers that express interest, Rudely said.

"The reality is that we have to wait until after contract renewal to determine whether Hart will be opened up to female residents," Rudely said. "Our intent is not to destroy community or tradition or to do away with low-cost housing. If

we install window units in Walton, then it gives us an additional housing option. We always want to provide increased opportunities for students."

The proposal to add window air-conditioning units to Walton Hall would increase a resident's rent from the current \$525 per semester to \$956 per semester, according to Residence Life.

Jeremy Nelson, the Walton resident

"I think that the changes will hurt Walton Hall and segregate the leadership within the hall."

Jeremy Nelson
Walton Hall resident

who authored the bill and a junior computer science major, said bringing air-conditioning into Walton Hall would increase costs and force many students to find cheaper housing.

"Half of the people living in Walton are living there because they can't afford to do anything else," Nelson said. "Now because of these changes, people are going to leave. I think that the changes will hurt Walton Hall and segregate the leadership within the hall."

Jerry Smith, an associate director of Residence Life, said the proposal is open to change and current residents

may select housing options for next spring during the contract renewal period, Feb. 28 to Mar. 3.

"At this time, nothing is chiseled in stone for Walton Hall," Smith said. "We are looking to upgrade facilities. We hope to add to the retention of current residents and incoming students by installing window air-conditioning units."

Opponents of the Residence Life proposal said installing window air units compromises the traditions of the all-male, non-air conditioned residence halls on campus.

"Non-air conditioned dorms contribute a lot to organizations on campus," Nelson said. "You don't have residents locked up and enclosed in air-conditioned cages (in Walton). People interact with the others in the hall because there doors are open. They are proposing to change not just our housing but our communities."

According to Residence Life, all students who sign up for air-conditioned dorms will first be placed in Hart Hall and any overflow residents will be placed in non-air conditioned rooms in Walton Hall. The installation of window units will be determined by the number of students who request non-air conditioned housing during the renewal period.

Smith said that the Residence Life proposal demands that residents adapt to change.

"Change is something that we have to embrace," Smith said. "We can look back at the 1960s when women were first allowed to come to Texas A&M University. I think that has made a positive impact and we feel that allowing women to come to Hart could be a positive change."

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SGA looks to increase awareness of J-Board

By STACEY BECKS
Staff writer

Texas A&M students may not know that the Student Government Association (SGA) has an active judicial branch to interpret rules and constitutions. The Judicial Board is trying to increase awareness of its service of resolving disputes and interpreting legislation about possible violations of SGA or SGA organizations' constitutions.

David Muckerheide, a member of the J-Board and a junior finance major, said students wrongly think the Judicial Board is limited to questions of the SGA constitution.

"The power of the J-Board is not limited to interpretation of the Student Government constitution and election regulations," he said. "We also have jurisdiction to hear appeals based upon bylaws of other Student Government constitutions."

Muckerheide said J-Board is planning to speak to organizations within the SGA to convey what their rights are in the upcoming elections and to tell about the service J-Board has in resolving disputes.

Students can file a complaint in the form of an appeal to J-Board when they

think legislation has been compromised or misrepresented. The J-Board will interpret the bylaw or regulation in question and rule on its constitutionality.

Charles Williams, J-Board chair and a sophomore political science major, said the board does not handle all items passed by the Student Senate, but only those conflicting with constitutions.

"A lot of legislation that is passed would not be challenged for its constitutionality," he said. "We do not handle things like Q-drop dates or deal with the PTTS."

The board is reviewing old J-Board cases and plans to meet with a district judge to prepare for possible hearings this semester.

Jody Pollard, a member of the J-Board and a junior agricultural development major, said the board is hoping they will learn the way hearings are held outside of the A&M community.

"We plan to go out of our way to be familiar with hearings in the real world," he said. "By going out and visiting with real live judges we would be better equipped to make better judgments on campus."

Students can submit appeals to the J-Board chair.

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aggielife



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