



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Benefits of tuition increase discussed

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Texas A&M officials introduced the proposed University Authorized Tuition (UAT) increase to fund salary increases for faculty and staff, library improvements and classroom technology upgrades yesterday at a state-mandated public forum.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents is scheduled to vote on the \$4 increase in UAT, which would take effect in the fall 1999 semester.

President Ray Bowen said there was not demand to increase UAT for fiscal year 1998. Texas A&M's proposal to increase the UAT for fiscal year 1999 would bring the UAT to \$38, the maximum level mandated by the state.

The revenue generated by the \$4 increase will generate \$4.4 million over a two-year period, which will be applied to a faculty pay increase of an estimated 3 percent.

Texas A&M University continues to pay faculty members less than most Big 12 universities, according to a report from the TAMU Office of Institutional Studies and Planning.

William Krumm, vice president for finance and controller, said Texas A&M University continues to lag behind the University of Texas at Austin in professors' salaries.

"We think we should be leaders here," Krumm said. "We are followers on every level."

A Texas A&M professor earns an annual salary of \$73,400, compared to \$82,400 at

the University of Texas at Austin, according to a report from the Office of Institutional Studies and Planning.

A Texas A&M associate professor earns \$52,400, compared to \$53,700 at the University of Texas. A Texas A&M assistant professor earns \$45,800, compared to \$49,700 at the University of Texas.

In a comparison with institutions throughout the state, Texas A&M University ranked at 92 percent of average salary pay for fiscal year 1998, compared to 92 percent in 1994 and 95 percent in 1990.

Krumm said the objective goal for Texas A&M University is to be at 95 percent, in



BOWEN

comparison to peer institutions.

"We are barely sustaining ourselves in comparison with our peers," Krumm said. "We need to see some good budget years. What our staff earns in comparison to the marketplace is relatively low."

Krumm said he hopes to see an increase in student financial aid, as the cost of education increases.

"Our objective is to look at the cost of education for students," Krumm said. "The university student is continuing to have more support on paying the cost of education. That is a show of public support."

The average Texas A&M student received \$4,121 in financial aid in fiscal year 1999, compared to \$3,706 in financial aid in fiscal year 1998.

Committee looks into details of sculpture

BY RONDA COOK
The Battalion

The creation of an on-campus cultural diversity sculpture was the topic of discussion at Monday's meeting of the Commemorating Diversity at Texas A&M Sub-committee, a branch of the President's Advisory Committee on Art Policy.

The committee, which consists of a diverse group of faculty and students, considered many aspects of the sculpture including funding, artists and location.

Laurie Nickel, student body president and sub-chair of the committee, said the committee members are trying to create a program to portray the diversity of the student body in the art.

"We realize that art is something that is in the eye of the beholder and we want to accomplish something positive for the future and positive for the student body," she said.

She said she hopes the sculpture goes beyond being a piece of art and becomes a landscaped environment.

The location of the sculpture has yet to be determined. Nickel said one suggestion is the plaza between the Academic Building and Cushing Library because the unhealthy trees and asymmetrical walkways create an ideal environment for the sculpture, but she said she wants to allow the artist to evaluate the options.

Dr. Rodney Hill, associate dean of the College of Architecture, said that the sculpture will have to be abstract to fully consider and convey the depth of the issue of diversity.

"My concept would be an all-inclusive land sculpture, a place for students to gather and conducive to student unity," he said.

SEE SCULPTURE ON PAGE 6.

New head of geo-geo department named

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

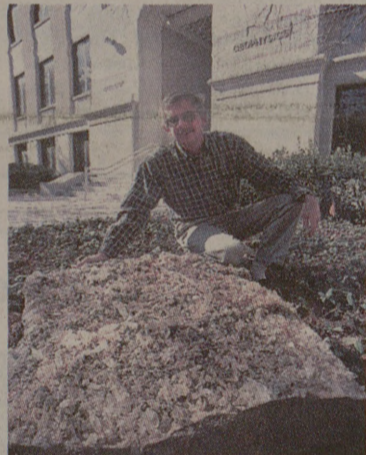
Dr. Andrew Hajash, professor in the Department of Geosciences and former assistant department head, has been appointed as the head of the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Hajash, who won the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1982 from the Association of Former Students, said he plans to continue the tradition established by the previous head, Dr. Phillip Rabinowitz.

"[I plan] to lead wisely, while listening to the needs of the students and faculty," Hajash said.

"The Department of Geology and Geophysics is dedicated to meeting the challenge of protecting the quality of life and the health of the planet through teaching, basic research and service," Hajash said. Dr. David B. Prior, dean of the College of Geosciences, said Hajash was appointed because of his support of the faculty and his appreciation of the work done within the department.

"[Hajash] will bring new ideas about expanding courses offered to students," Prior said. "[He will also bring about] a keen sense of how to address the challenge that Geology



CARRIJO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Dr. Andrew Hajash is a professor at Texas A&M.

and Geophysics faces in improving the national ranking."

Hajash said the department is offering a bachelor of arts degree in geology for students who plan to use geology as a basis for careers in other disciplines.

"Science-based careers will help immensely to improve science literacy of our society and to integrate science into policy discussions and decisions," Hajash said.

Roof work



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

L. Jim Rhodes and R. John Locke, workers for Area Maintenance 7, spray Polymeric MDI on the roof of Bizzel Hall East while replacing rotted spouts.

Health Beat

Rules of disclosing HIV test results changed

BY MEGAN WRIGHT
The Battalion

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) has adopted a new policy to change disease reporting rules to require providers and laboratories to report confirmed HIV infections by name, unless patients choose to be tested anonymously.

Since the adoption of the policy, patients have the option of testing confidentially or anonymously. Heather Clark, a health educator for Planned Parenthood, said the difference between the two types of testing is indicated on the sample label.

"On an anonymous test, there is no identifying information. The patient is given a pseudonym and a number," Clark said. "Confidential testing provides the Texas Department of Health with the name and identifying information of the patient."

When a person is tested confidentially and is returned positive,

the case information is sent to the TDH in Austin. TDH will remove identifying information and send the case information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Margaret Griffith, a health educator coordinator and HIV/sexual health specialist for A.P. Beutel Health Center, said there is a fear of a decrease in the number of people obtaining HIV tests due to what some would call an invasion of privacy.

"I think once students understand how important this is, they won't be afraid to continue testing," Griffith said. "People take these tests anyway. We are marching towards having all states requiring reporting HIV cases by name, eventually. We are marching towards being more open about the entire process of testing."

According to the Texas Depart

SEE RESULTS ON PAGE 6.

Prof to speak about link between fiber and cancer

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Joanne Lupton, professor and William W. Allen Endowed chair, will speak tonight on whether fiber is protective against colon cancer at 7:30 in Blocker 457, as part of the Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui Memorial Lecture and awards ceremony.

Robert Kennedy, vice president for research and associate provost for graduate studies, said Lupton is one of the premier biomedical scientists on campus.

"She is an expert on her specialty, which is the relationship between cancer and nutrition, and is funded by the National Institute of Health," he said.

Dr. Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui was a professor of biochemistry and biophysics at Texas A&M from 1969 until her death in January 1988. Ashworth-Tsutsui helped in the establishment of women's programs at Texas A&M by serving as a member of the program advisory committee for Women's Studies and as director of women's

studies. Ashworth-Tsutsui served as the first chair of the Faculty Senate Committee for the Status of Women in the University.

Becky Morrow, staff assistant for the College of Science and a member of Women In Science and Engineering (WISE), said when choosing the speakers, the lecture sponsors alternate between a scientist who works on campus and one who does not annually.

The lecture will be the seventh annual lecture for the WISE conference. Nancy Magnussen, director of WISE and program coordinator in the Office of the Dean of the College of Science, said Ashworth-Tsutsui was the co-founder of WISE, and upon her death last year, members of WISE decided to dedicate this year's conference to her memory.

"We wanted to have a female scientist who was very well known on campus, and Dr. Lupton is a world-renowned scientist," Magnussen said.

SEE CANCER ON PAGE 6.

Newest date rape drug difficult to detect

BY MEGAN WRIGHT
The Battalion

Gamma Hydroxy Butyric Acid (GHB) is quickly gaining exposure as the replacement of the narcotic Rohypnol, commonly referred to as the date rape drug.

According to Alcohol and Drug Education Programs of Student Life, GHB is used in Europe as a general anesthetic and in treatment of anxiety, stress, insomnia, narcolepsy, alcoholism, alcohol withdrawal and as an aid in childbirth. It has been promoted as a steroid alternative for body building.

In the United States, GHB is relatively new but has gained favor as a recreational drug because of its intoxicating effects.

Lorna Breault, coordinator of first-year student alcohol education programs, said GHB was originally an over-the-counter medication.



(Gamma) (Hydroxy) (B)utyric

Other names include: G.H.B., G.B.H., Grievous Bodily Harm, Cherry Meth, Liquid X, Liquid Ecstasy, Easy Lay, G-juice, Energy Drink

Rohypnol

Other names include: Flunitrazepam, the forget pill, Mexican Valium, R-2, Rib, Roaches, Roofies, Rophies, Ruffles, Ryles, Roofenol, Roofers

"Drugstores sold GHB over the counter for a number of years as a dietary supplement, until the FDA stopped the distribution in 1990 because it was allegedly linked with cases of date rape," Breault said.

SEE GHB ON PAGE 6.