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sports

• A&M freshman guard LaToya Rose looks to play a big part in Aggies' future.

today's issue

Toons 2 Opinion 11

Wednesday's issue Greek Week events kickoff to benefit charity and promote **PAGE 7** *leadership and unity.*

aggielife

• Today marks the beginning of the year 4697, the Chinese year of the rabbit.





MSC names new president

BY NONI SRIDHARA The Battalion

Anderson, MSC presidentect and a senior mechanical engiering major, said his main twort goal for the future of the MSC is empower the internal parts of the ganization and establish its exterprogram to help serve more stu-

Anderson said he got involved th MSC programs as a freshman. He said he wanted to take advanof the unique opportunities ailable and put his skills to use. "I didn't get involved thinking, I want to become MSC presi nt,' Anderson said. "I just wanted et people and learn more about **Bill Anderson,** a senior mechani-



Anderson said as MSC president, cal engineering major, is presi-will oversee a total reconstruction dent-elect for the MSC.

organization.

said he and his staffers are delegating authority and responsis to councils and committees so the executive staff can focus on ange strategic issues.

nderson said he wants the executive staff to concentrate on creataisons within the University.

e want to help improve the student union," he said, "and there's y I can do this by myself.

Il Hurd, current MSC president and a senior computer science d international studies major, said the mission of the MSC is to imthe quality of life of the 43,000 students on campus

Looking back, I feel that we've accomplished a lot," Hurd said. prought a lot of new dynamic programs.

Hurd was on the panel that to select Anderson as the new MSC pres-He said Anderson will do an effective job because he is focused e students.

Bill embodies what this organization is about," Hurd said. "It is a munity center which brings people from different backgrounds and ures together to learn and understand from one another.

Anderson said another change students will see in the upcoming s more openings in student development. He said he se



Senator Phil Gramm speaks Monday morning at the Pavillion. Gramm is urging the Social Security Administration to exempt college student work-ers from having to pay Social Security taxes.

Sen. Gramm advocates tax breaks for students

BY AMANDA STIRPE The Battalion

Senator Phil Gramm visited the Texas A&M campus yesterday to promote the Student Tax Fairness Act and to participate in a letter-signing ceremony to advocate the act to the Social Security Administration.

Donald Engelage, executive director of student financial aid, and Daniel N. Stewart, state Social Security administrator, signed the letter with Gramm. Jill Burness, an economics graduate student, accompanied the panel to express the student

empts University employed students from relinquishing part of their paycheck to social security.

The tax is an inequity that existed in tax laws since 1972," Gramm said.

In 1972, the federal government decided undergraduate and graduate students should be exempt from the tax, benefiting all workers of more than 35 years.

Texas is one of three states that did not sign the bill in time and has been allowing students to pay the tax.

On the A&M campus 13,225 undergraduate and graduate students done and do it.

Speaker addresses effects of bombing

BY AMANDA PALM The Battalion

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Kenneth E. Eickmann shared his experience of the Oklahoma City Bombing rescue and recovery efforts Monday evening at Rudder Theater.

Eickmann completed a 31year career in the U.S. Air Force and is director of the Construction Industry Institute, a national forum for construction research housed at the University of Texas. He was invited to speak by the Association of General Contractors of the Construction Science Depart-

ment When the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City was bombed on April 19, 1995, the governor of Oklahoma asked Eickmann, who was commanding general at Tinker Air Force Base, to guide the disaster response.

Eickmann said 122 vehicles and 800 people, including 11 rescue teams, were brought to Oklahoma City to respond to the bombing.

He said people from the Air Force base and the local fire departments worked well as a team because many already knew each other.

"It was a great experience to work with the rescue workers," Eickmann said. "Coordination is critically important. You have to think of everything that can be



Retired Air Force Lieutenant General Kenneth E. Eickmann speaks about the aftermath of the Oklahoma City Bombing Monday night.

major part of the response effort, Eickmann said.

The dogs were used to sniff for parts of the bomb and to search for survivors in the debris of the building.

Eickmann said after the recovery efforts were finished, many of the rescue dogs stayed in Oklahoma City to visit local schools and help aid grieving children. As a result of the bomb-

ing, 219 children lost a parent and 30 were orphaned.

"We wanted those 249 kids to never have to worry about paying for college, to have free education anywhere they went," he said. "The amount we estimated was \$9.5 million. We asked and had it in three weeks."

Eickmann said no one can ever train for a situation like the Oklahoma City bombing. "It's still hard to tell the

he said

rowth in the MSC.

ometimes I lie awake at night and see these visions in my head wonder how to make them realities," he said.

view of the act The Student Tax Fairness Act exwork for the University. SEE GRAMM ON PAGE 2.

'We had a plan, we followed it, and it worked." Rescue dogs were also a portant people understand what happened.

University looks to hike schooling costs

Four student fees may increase in Fall 1999 pending approval

BY SALLIE TURNER The Battalion

Four student fees are scheduled to rease for Fall 1999, costing a stuent taking 14 hours \$97.30 more per mester.

The proposed increases of the Uniersity Authorized Tuition (UAT), Liry Use Fee (LUF), Computer Use e and Student Service Fee will go fore the Texas A&M Board of Reents in March for approval.

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William B. Krumm, vice president finance and controller, said the oposed UAT increase of \$4 per seester credit hour will fund salary increases for faculty and staff. The UAT increase will generate an additional .4 million.

"We would rather not raise fees, ut the University has to move for-rard," he said. "This is one of the elnents we have to balance.

The proposed increase will provide the University with the opportunity to vard merit salary increases to faculand staff.

Krumm said the University is keepstudents in mind as fees increase. "As tuition and fees increase, every fort has been made to increase the vel of financial aid to students in ch classification," he said. The LUF has gradually increased

ver the past three years. In 1996 the

fee was \$2, \$3 in 1997 and \$4 in 1998. The fee would increase to \$5 for the 1999 school year, raising the library's budget to \$8.8 million.

Charlene Clark, public relations officer for the Sterling C. Evans Library, said the fee increase will help the A&M libraries acquire more collections including electronic databases and a base of journal subscriptions.

The LUF] has allowed us to finally begin acquiring materials necessary to support teaching and research at a level commensurate with our stature as a university," she said. "It has made us a national leader in the acquisition of electronic databases and texts.

The Student Service Fee would increase from \$9.97 per semester credit hour to \$10.92 per semester credit hour, an increase of 9.5 percent.

Corey Rosenbusch, a member of the Student Service Fee advisory board and a sophomore agricultural development major, said the maximum increase of the Student Service Fee would be 10 percent per year, unless a student referendum is held.

'The fee is divided up between 23 departments who receive funding,' he said. "The different departments make presentations to the advisory board, who then allocates the funds.'

SEE FEES ON PAGE 2.

Proposed Student Fee Increases

- University Authorized Tuition (UAT) -A fee increase of \$4 has been proposed. The increase would be used to increase faculty and staff salaries based on merit.
- Library Use Fee (LUF) The LUF has in creased a dollar each year since 1996. It will increase by another dollar, allowing the library to allot these funds towards acquiring more collections such as electronic databases and journal subscriptions.
- Student Service Fee The fee is divided by 23 departments. Each department then makes the decisions about how the fund will be spent. The fee could be increased 10 percent per year unless a referendum is held. This year it may be increased by 9.5 percent.
- Computer Use Fee The computer fee may change to a pay-per-copy fee or the per semester credit charge may be increased by \$1, raising the fee to \$7 per semester credit hour.

Study finds women at greater risk for STDs than they believe

(U-WIRE) NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. Many women are at a greater risk of contracting sexually-transmitted infections than they believe, according to a recent study.

Perceptions of risk based on good impressions of a sexual partner are relied on more heavily than testing for STDs, said Mary K. Hutchinson, assistant professor at the College of Nursing at Rutgers-Camden.

Hutchinson recently conducted a study of 18- to 26-year-old women to determine whether their perception of being at risk of contracting STDs is the same as their actual risk

Even formal education about STDs does not make a big impact on many people's perception of risk, Hutchinson said.

She said the results of the study will not be published until later this month, when they will appear in the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing and in the Journal of Family Relations.

"I know unsafe sex is bad for me," Rutgers College senior Rebecca Keptner said.

"If there was some way that a condom could magically appear at the appropriate time, I would be set, but who has the time to think about their risk when they're all riled up?

The participants of the study consisted of a sample of 100 Black women, 100 Latina women and 100 White women. Findings were similar among each group, Hutchinson said.

More than half of the women surveyed said they did not discuss their level of sexual risk with their partners before sex Hutchinson said.

She said common reasons for not discussing risk include assumptions that their partners were low-risk individuals, they were too uncomfortable or embarrassed to talk about sex or they just didn't think to ask.

The survey also found that condom use within ongoing relationships declines as the relationships progresses.

Women who had more than 30 partners in the past, but who were currently involved in monogamous relationships, perceived themselves as low risk

"The idea that women thought that discussing sex was too personal was very disturbing," Hutchinson said. "If you aren't comfortable talking about sex with someone you are having sex with, you are taking a serious sexual risk. If you can't trust someone enough to talk about sex, do you really want to trust your permanent health to them?'

All sexually active people are at risk, she said. Any person who has sex and thinks he or she is not at risk of contracting diseases is making an inaccurate assessment, she said.

"Going by the kind of person someone is, being selective about who you sleep with, and choosing certain kinds of partners is not a good method of protecting yourself from the permanent STDs that are out there,' Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson said partners should bring up the topic of sex before they have sex, not during sex or foreplay.

Risk can be nearly eliminated if sexual partners discuss sex early on and get tested twice before having sex without a condom, she said.