

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Presidential list may not be final

By Sommer Bunce
THE BATTALION

The three candidates named by the Texas A&M Presidential Search Committee as contenders for the University's top spot may not be the only candidates for the job.

Saying that the three were not "finalists" because that was too technical a term, Deputy Chancellor Dr. Jerry Gaston said the three candidates whose names were released Tuesday are people the search committee is "interested in."

Gaston and several members of the search committee would not confirm or deny rumors of two additional unnamed candidates waiting in the

wings.

The three candidates for the spot A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen leaves vacant June 30 are Robert Gates, the former interim dean for the George Bush School of Government and Public Service and former director of the CIA; Richard Herman, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and Jon Whitmore, a provost at the University of Iowa. Herman and Whitmore are scheduled for a round of campus visits beginning next week.

Gaston said others also may be considered in the search process.

The A&M System Board of Regents, which is not bound to the committee's suggestions, will

make the final decision on who will be the next president of A&M. The Regents can potentially nominate and approve a candidate who has not been screened through the search committee. As Gaston said, the search process "does not conclude until the Board has made a decision."

"Until that time, there are any number of possibilities of things that may happen in the next weeks and months," Gaston said.

Aside from the leeway granted to the Regents in selecting a president, the search committee may bring forward more names of potential candidates.

"There are no other potentials [candidates] scheduled, but it is conceivable that there will be more in the future," Gaston said. "These are the three people who have been scheduled ... many possibilities abound."

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, was widely rumored to have wanted the University's top position. His name was not among the three candidates, despite the expectation that Gramm, a former A&M economics professor, would be nominated for the job. Uncertainty lingers over whether Gramm applied for the University's top post or interviewed with the search committee, but talk in the Austin political arena Thursday concluded that Gramm still may have a chance, reported the *Austin-American Statesman*.

Given the possibilities still open to the Regents and search committee of who can be named a candidate, Gramm, who has maintained ties to the University, still may be a potential candidate.

See **Presidential** on page 2

Houser's veto stands

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

Mustering less than the three-fourths majority required, a Student Senate vote to override a presidential veto was not passed Wednesday night, 19 to 20.

The amendment to the constitution that Student Body President Schuyler Houser vetoed would have required the student body president or an appointed representative, to attend both a Northside and Southside student forum in the fall semester. It was passed by the Senate along with an additional amendment that would require the forums be formed by Northside and Southside senators.

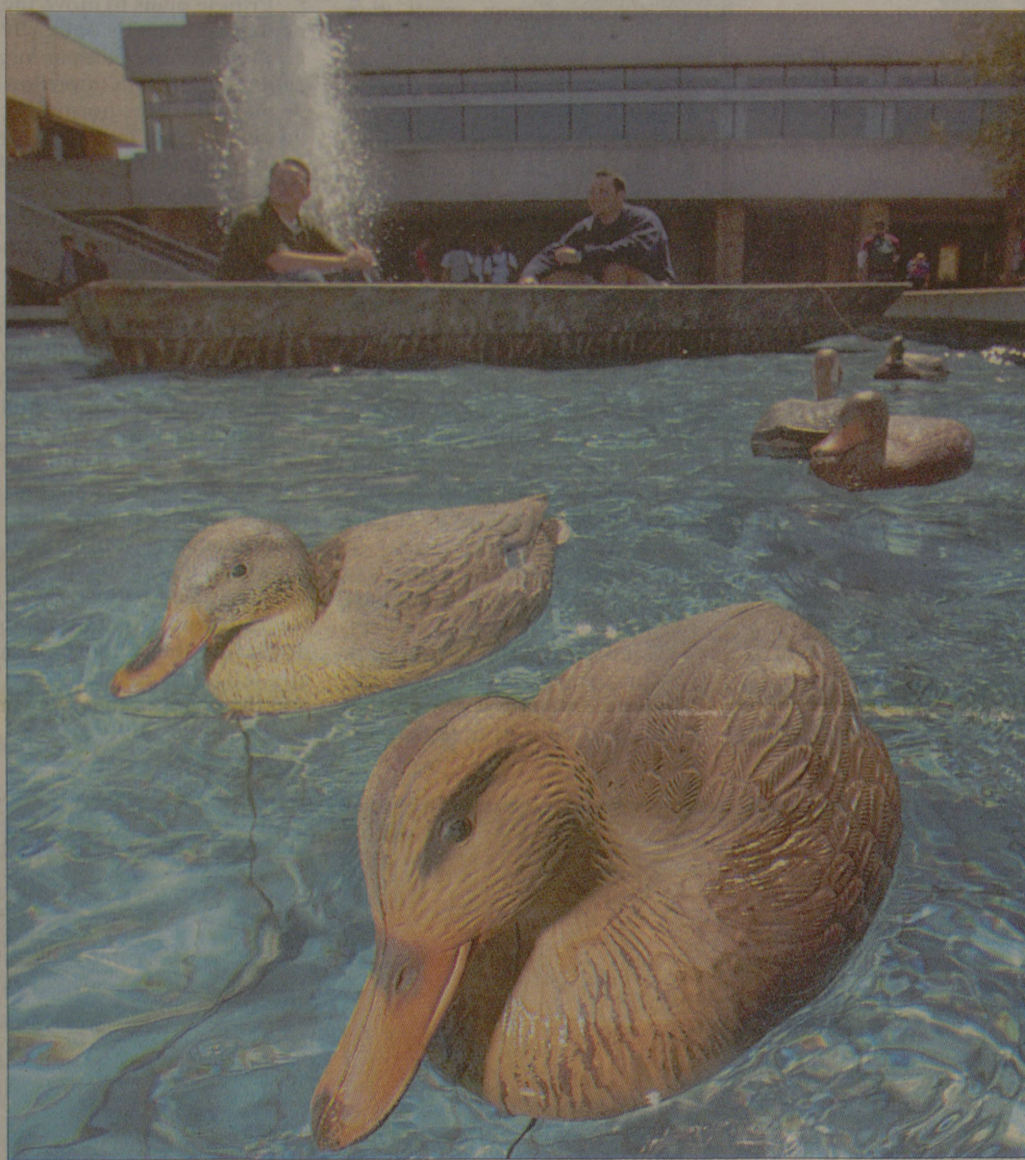
The amendment was created to ensure that a president communicate with students.

The original legislation, which was passed last month, required the student body president to be at both forums, but senators changed the amendment to allow for an appointed representative to be sent to believe Houser's concerns that the amendment would tie a future president's hands and possibly be used for impeachment purposes.

Houser said she felt legislation

See **veto** on page 8

Ducks on a pond



STUART VILLANEUVA • THE BATTALION

Junior agricultural economics major Jay Fields and senior agricultural development major Frank Biediger float in Rudder Fountain with plastic decoy ducks on Thursday. The two are members of the Texas A&M chapter of Ducks Unlimited, a wetland conservation organization.

A&M tuition will increase

By Emily Peters
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M System Board of Regents committee will approve the largest student fee increase in A&M history today and offer endowment money to students injured in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse.

The Academic Enhancement Fee will charge \$30 more per semester credit hour starting with students who enroll next fall, requiring the average student to pay \$400 more in tuition each semester.

Parking, diplomas, transcripts and medical services will also be more expensive, in addition to a new software licensing fee and a \$2 fee increase for faculty salaries.

Increases come in the midst of A&M's poor fare in last year's legislature and an emerging \$6 million budget shortfall.

A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen assured the board that A&M tuition will remain at the cheaper end of the Big 12

Conference, and that 10 percent of the fee will be set aside for financial aid.

Approval came following an open forum attended by five students, where one student spoke in support of the Enhancement Fee and three expressed concern whether prospective students are aware or will have time to consider them in their decisions to attend A&M in the fall.

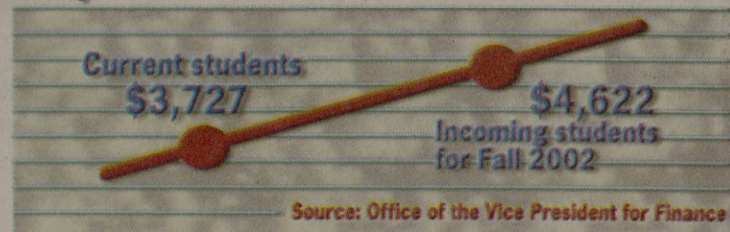
"It's hard to get students here now to care about something they won't have to deal with. Students this will affect do not know about the fee increase. I think we are jumping the gun here," said Jack Long, Student Senate speaker and a member of the Young Conservatives of Texas.

Bowen said a letter explaining the fee increase will be sent to applicants as soon as possible.

April Sommers, student government vice president for policy and a senior microbiology and

See **Increase** on page 8

Proposed Tuition Rates for 2002 - 2003



CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Diversity and leadership a top SBP priority

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

This is the second in a three part series that presents the positions of the student body president candidates on issues of interest to students. Part 3 will run Monday.

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION



PRINGLE



COVENTRY

Question 4: How do you plan to foster the philosophy "lead by example?" What do you believe a student leader's role is for promoting this idea, and should they be held responsible for their actions?

To candidate Zac Coventry, holding the title of student body president requires maintaining a public and private life that is

respectable.

"When you go to bed at night, you better be able to look in the mirror and say, 'I'm proud of who I was today, what I represented and the decisions I made,'" he said.

Being a campus leader makes it impossible to put your private life in a box, Coventry said. He said being accountable means having your life open and visible to the public and surrounding yourself with people who will hold you to your standards.

See **Lead** on page 8

See **Diversity** on page 2

European Union Center opens

By Tanya Nading
THE BATTALION

A group of 13 distinguished men and women from around the world participated in the official opening Thursday of Texas A&M University's European Union Center at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex.

A three-year grant was awarded to A&M International Programs Office for the establishment of the center in December 2001 by the European Union Commission, making it the only center of its kind in the state of Texas.

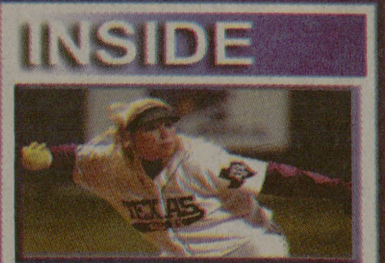
"We are one of the 15 centers in the United

States funded by the European Union Commission," said Dr. Michael Laubsher, director of the center. "It is a significant achievement for A&M that we are in that company, that we can do something in international development efforts on long-term basis."

The center's establishment at Texas A&M is important because of the close relationship Texas has with Europe, Laubsher said.

"Our relationship with Europe is both economic and cultural. It's important that we enhance the appreciation between Europe and the United States, as well as Texas," he said.

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Sports Pg. 5

Aggies set for showdown with OU

No. 22 A&M softball team hosts No. 9 Sooners

WEATHER TODAY

HIGH 59° F
LOW 39° F

SATURDAY

HIGH 70° F
LOW 35° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.collegeweather.com



ALLISA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

A ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the opening of the European Union Center at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21
FRIDAY, MARCH 22
SATURDAY, MARCH 23