

THE BATTALION

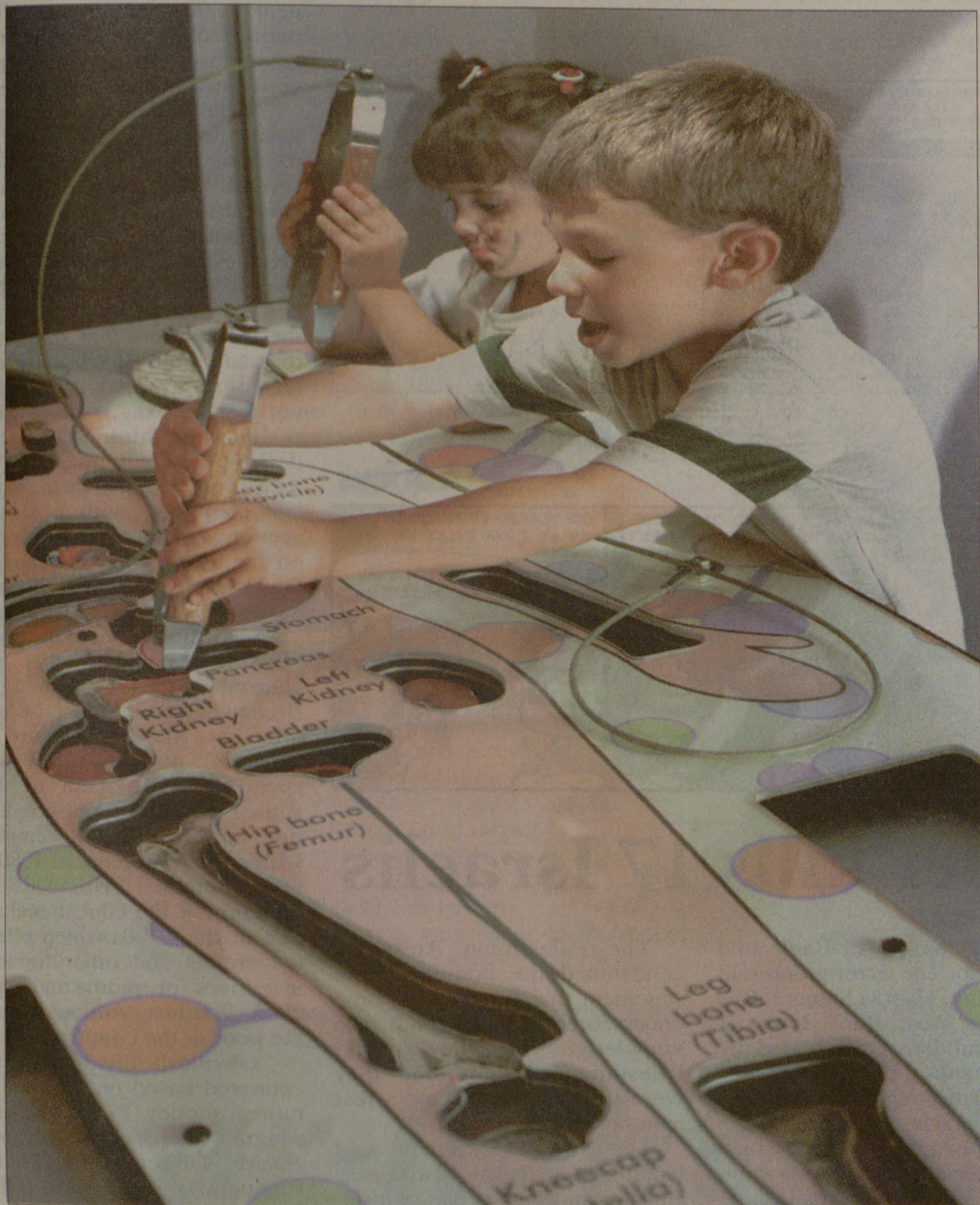
108 Years Serving Texas A&M University

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Field trip



Christopher Knudsen, 5, and sister Laura Knudsen, 4, perform operations on a life-size electronic human body at the Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley in downtown Bryan. They were on a field trip with their class from the Brazos Christian School.

RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Faculty senate responds

Proposal regarding Zey's dismissal on agenda

By Don White
THE BATTALION

A proposal deciding the Faculty Senate's response to the dismissal of tenured professor Dr. Mary Zey because of plagiarism will be on the agenda in hopes for a resolution at its meeting Monday.

Zey, a professor of agricultural economics, was initially fired after a University Investigation Committee concluded she published information belonging to faculty member Harland Prechel and former faculty member John Boies and attempted a cover-up.

That decision was reversed in April when University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen decided to accept the recommendation of the Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure (CAFRT) not to fire Zey.

According to A&M rules, the CAFRT has limitations to determine whether or not a dismissal is for a good cause. In March,

Senators amended the rules to hold CAFRT members to a higher standard and underscore the extent of committee's duties.

The proposal was originally brought before the Senate at the May ninth meeting but was sent back to the executive committee to be rewritten after objections from Senate members.

Barbara Finlay, associate professor of sociology and senator from the College of Liberal Arts, said she agreed with the spirit of the resolution but felt it was too rushed and lacked the proper background information to make a valid decision.

"In my opinion, there was plagiarism and Bowen admitted it occurred, so he shouldn't exonerate a person that commits that since faculty members should be held to high standards for academic honesty," she said. "But the resolution itself was not well-crafted."

At the time, she felt the discussion was going too fast and

motioned to table the proposal until more information could become available, she said.

Executive committee member Michael L. Greenwald said the committee put a lot of thought and effort into the proposal and was very sympathetic to Bowen's predicament of having to decide Zey's fate based on two committee reports that were not completely in agreement with each other. He said he felt the proposal was a compromise most people can accept.

"We are absolutely committed to academic integrity," he said.

Greenwald felt the Senate needed to make a statement since the rest of the nation is watching to see how the situation is handled, he said.

The ad hoc CAFRT committee recommended amendments to the University rules' procedures for

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Commandant nominee speaks at Forsyth Gallery

By Lauren Bauml
THE BATTALION

Unlike Maj. Gen. M.T. Hopgood, 87th Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, who emphasized his motto of "recruit, retain, and graduate," Lt. Gen. Van Alstyne said he wants to bring the Corps into a more integrated position among student life.

Van Alstyne, one of two candidates for the 38th Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, spoke Wednesday afternoon regarding his candidacy for the position left void after Hopgood's retirement on May 31.

Van Alstyne, Class of 1966, currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy in Washington, D.C. After serving in the U.S. Army for 36 years, he feels the only thing that could pull him away from his current position is Commandant at Texas A&M.

He wants to continue his goal to make a contribution to his family, students in the Corps and youth of America, and feels being the Commandant at A&M will allow him to do this. He said his pursuance of the position is with the purest of heart, and he has "no ulterior agenda."

"I feel I can make a contribution to this University. I am overcome with excitement and invigorated to work with [A&M students]," he said.

Van Alstyne said every Corps member should possess three traits — understanding of self and pure heart, consideration of every opinion but ability to make tough decisions in times of crisis, and being able to focus on the leadership development of others.

He said leadership development is the course of choice for youth in Texas, and A&M has potential to have an edge in leadership development.

Van Alstyne also said he intends to push the future of the Corps to focus on "basic leadership recruiting, retention, and convincing young



Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne speaks at an open forum at the Forsyth Gallery about being a candidate for Commandant of Corps.

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Americans that being part of the A&M system will push them towards their goals."

He added that in order for the Corps to be successful keepers of the Spirit, they must realize the intentions and needs of those they are preserving the Spirit for.

Tuition hike causes burden

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

Despite the additional financial demands placed on families, new fee increases are essential to increasing the services and continuing the academic progress of Texas A&M University, according to university officials.

The Academic Enhancement Fee, set to take effect in the fall, will increase student tuition by \$30 per semester hour for all students who did not attend A&M prior to or during the Spring semester of 2002.

The increasing tuition rate continues a trend of rising costs at A&M. Tuition has

increased over \$5,000 during the past three years for an average student to attend a year of schooling at the University.

According to the Texas A&M financial website and Director of University Relations Cynthia Lawson, the average cost for attending one full year of school in the 1999-2000 school year was \$8,150 for a Texas resident. The estimated cost of one year in the 2002-2003 school year will top \$13,300.

These figures include tuition, housing, food, transportation and other living expenses, said Lawson.

"We are obviously concerned about the cost of educa-

tion for all of our students," said Texas A&M Vice President for Finance Bill Krumm. "At the same time, we have to move forward with our University and the services we provide. We cannot control all of the factors that contribute to what a year costs because there are several instances, such as housing and books, that the University has no say in."

The funds collected from the fee are expected to contribute \$8.8 million to A&M's revenue next year, of which roughly 10 percent is expected to be transferred to student financial aid for graduate and

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Coventry takes office, wants to bring unity to A&M community

By Jessi Watkins
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During his term as student body president, Zac Coventry, a senior agricultural development major, said he hopes to develop a sense of unity among the student body of Texas A&M University.

"My number one priority is to bring the diversity of individuals we have here at A&M together as a family," Coventry said.

Coventry hopes to accomplish this primarily through the Fall Activities Council (FAC), he said.

In April, students were given a survey, sponsored by FAC, listing several options being considered to take the place of Bonfire in the fall.

The main event will be the Bonfire Skills Challenge, a series of activities in a field day-type event Wednesday before the Texas A&M-Texas game, Coventry said.

"It is a day of competition with a festival atmosphere. There will be bands playing and that night we would try to bring in a big name band," he said.

Coventry said he will also use a traditions partnership to accomplish his

goal of student body unity.

"We brought groups together to discuss traditions, the goal being to have consistency among the traditions we profess," he said. "For example, there is a debate on the exact date that Muster began."

Coventry said he also plans on helping the new University president adjust to Texas A&M and make sure student concerns are heard by the new president.

"One issue on the horizon is the new university president," Coventry said. "One of my priorities is working with Dr. Gates, when he is appointed, on his transition to the university and voicing student opinions and passions to him."

One way to accomplish this is to have more access to the student body, such as an easy-to-find link on the web, he said.

Coventry also voiced his concerns on the challenge students face with the future of Bonfire.

"I think the most important characteristic about Bonfire is it brought Aggies together," he said. "It brought current students and former students together."

Coventry said Aggies should not divide into groups of different opinions.

Instead, he said, they should work together to bring Bonfire back in the future.

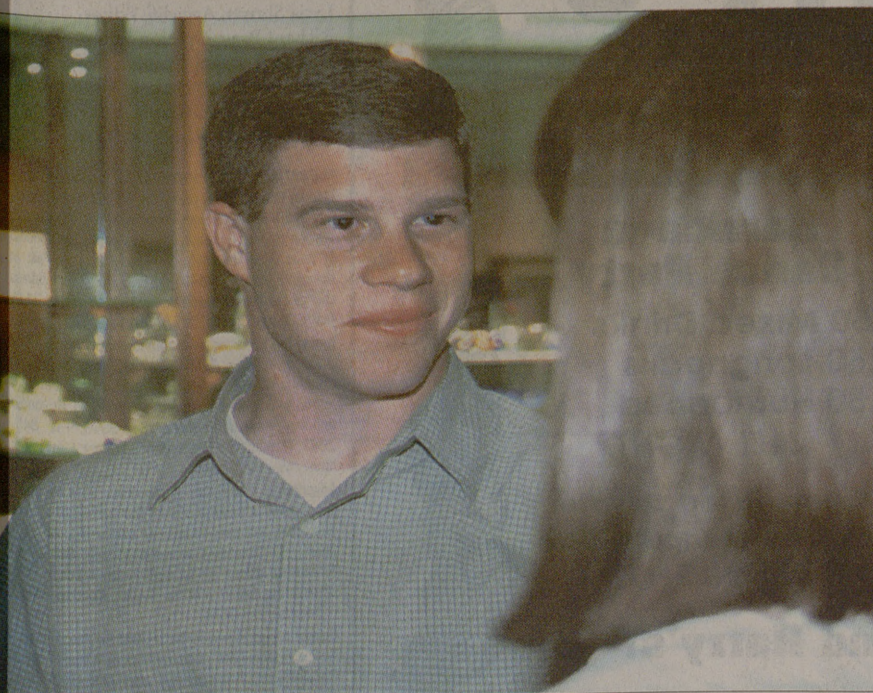
"I think an off-campus Bonfire would be counter productive to the unity of the student body. I do understand the passion of those involved with Bonfire, but it was based on unity."

Coventry said he plans to take the approach of, "All that matters is what we do as a team," in his interaction with the student body.

"I'm an external type of leader. If I've been chosen to serve people I should be out there with the people, not in my office," he said.

Coventry hopes while he serves as president people will see how A&M is unique compared to other Universities.

"My philosophy is the characteristic that sets A&M apart from many of the colleges in the nation is our people. Our academics, athletics, and the services we offer our students are first class," Coventry said. "But what really sets us apart is the people. At Texas A&M people go out of their way to make people feel at home. It's about teamwork and making us feel like we are part of a family."



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Student body president **Zac Coventry** talks with a student at the Memorial Student Center Wednesday. His main goal is to bring diversity to A&M.