

ould never, harm a child.
have written things that
user," Jackson was quot-

hat Jackson chose to pay
ment to the boy's family
d to a media circus."
entary, Jackson said he
"many children," includ-
ulkin and his brother.

you're thinking sexual,"
t sexual, we're going to
It's very charming, it's

THE BATTALION

Volume 109 • Issue 94 • pages 10

Texas A&M University

www.thebatt.com

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Student leaders, alumni support deregulation

By Melissa Fowler
THE BATTALION

AUSTIN, Texas - Student leaders and alumni from Texas A&M and the University of Texas at Austin lobbied for tuition deregulation Tuesday as part of the Orange & Maroon Legislative Day.

Deregulation would grant universities local control over tuition, giving them the freedom to set and raise their own tuition rates without state approval. Under this system, individual boards of regents would have the authority to regulate tuition instead of the state mandating a limit to the amount of tuition a student can be charged at a public university.

At the Legislative Day Kick-Off Event, Speaker of the House Tom Craddick said he supported tuition deregulation.

"We are going to pass a bill to give you flexible tuition," he said. "The board of regents are elected to run universities and should be given power to do that."

Student Body President and senior agricultural development major Zac Coventry agreed that when a board is charged with running a university, it should be granted controls to accomplish that.

UT President Larry R. Faulkner and Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates spoke to a crowd of volunteers from both schools and oriented them on the issues of focus for the lobbying effort.

The more than 250 Orange & Maroon Legislative Day participants divided into predetermined groups of both Aggies and Longhorns to canvas the capital and visit representatives in their offices.

The group office visits were part of the

event's goal of letting alumni and those directly affected by the universities share their personal stories with state leaders.

"We at A&M and UT have a story to tell and this is the day for you to tell that story of how A&M or UT has changed your life and enriched the community," Gates said. "We need to remind legislators that these two universities are priceless assets of the state of Texas that require continued investment."

Rep. Barry Telford's Legislative Director N. Alex Winslow, a UT graduate, expressed concern for students and the negative effect raising tuition rates could have on future Aggies and Longhorns.

In defense of deregulation, junior political science major Megan Stephenson

See Austin on page 8



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Left to right: Douglas Duke, a University of Texas alumnus, Zac Coventry, student body president; Junior political science majors Megan Stephenson and Natasha Eubanks take notes in the halls of the Texas Capitol Building Tuesday.

Ross Volunteers cleared of charge

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

The Ross Volunteers Honor Corps organization resumed activities Tuesday after an investigation by Corps of Cadets officials cleared the unit of allegations that they had disrupted a Feb. 3 antiwar protest.

Corps Commandant Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne said the cadets were conducting a regularly scheduled practice drill in front of the Academic Building that day, and did not do or say anything intended to intimidate the protestors.

However, because of the close proximity of peace demonstrators to a large group of uniformed cadets involved in military drills with nonfunctional weapons, the situation was ripe for misunderstanding, Van Alstyne said.

"Some of the Ross Volunteers were just 8 to 10 feet from the periphery of the drill, and they're dealing with people who have a very different view of things," he said.

Ross Volunteer Commander Phillip Noack said he never doubted the investigation would vindicate the unit.

"We were just out there doing our normal routine," said Noack, a senior wildlife and fisheries science major.

To avoid any potential confrontations in the future, Van Alstyne said Ross Volunteer leaders will now be required to check each week with University officials to see if any rallies or protests will be held in areas where the unit practices.

"It's a big campus, and for that day, we can find somewhere else to practice," he said.

Some of the peace protest organizers will meet with the Ross Volunteer leadership to tell the cadets why their practice drills came across as hostile and intimidating, Van Alstyne said.

"(Ross Volunteers) are a great group of young fellas, and this experience will help to heighten their awareness and sharpen their judgment."

— John Van Alstyne
Corps Commandant

See RVs on page 2

Grand jury to hear Parsons hazing case

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

A Brazos County grand jury will begin an investigation Thursday into hazing allegations in Parsons Mounted Cavalry and 27 cadets in that company have been subpoenaed to testify.

The operations of the Corps of Cadets unit have been suspended since October after a senior cadet accused other cavalry members of hazing underclassmen.

Brazos County Attorney Jim Kuboviak said the grand jury inquiry would supplement the investigation already conducted by the University Police Department by forcing the cadets to testify under oath.

"If they lie, they can be charged with perjury," Kuboviak said.

The grand jury can also grant immunity to selected witnesses, he added.

"I'll present them (the grand jury) with the evidence, ask what they think, who they would like to talk to, and where they would like to go with the investigation," Kuboviak said.

After the grand jury inquiry, he will decide whether to pursue charges against the accused cadets.

Kuboviak told the Bryan-College Station Eagle in its Nov. 2 issue that in addition to hazing, some cadets may also face assault charges. Kuboviak declined to discuss the allegations, but the Eagle reported in the same issue that a source close to the investigation said some cadets are accused of beating other cavalry members, urinating on them and dousing them with water and horse feces.

About 60 cadets are members of the

cavalry, which is best known for firing the cannon at Texas A&M home football games and Midnight Yell Practices. Although operations of the unit have been suspended, Corps Commandant Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne said a limited number of cavalry members are still permitted at the unit's facility at Fiddler's Green to maintain the stables and take care of the horses. Equestrian training has also resumed, he said.

The cadets who could face criminal charges are still prohibited from Fiddler's Green, Van Alstyne said, and the unit's limited operations will continue if charges are filed.

See Cavalry on page 8

Parsons Mounted Cavalry Oct. 15, 2002

● Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne, commandant of the Corps of Cadets, suspended the unit because of underclassmen hazing allegations from a senior cadet

Nov. 2002

● University Police Department begins criminal investigation of the allegations

Feb. 13, 2003

● Brazos County grand jury inquiry regarding the hazing allegations

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: THE BATTALION, THE BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION EAGLE

How many?



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Fans at the Texas A&M men's baseball team's season opener at Olsen Field guess the number of engines on the coming train Tuesday afternoon. The Aggies beat Texas

A&M-Corpus Christi 6-5 with an Aggie homerun in the bottom of the ninth inning. The teams' next game will be Feb. 21 against UCLA.

States raise college tuition to balance budgets; experts see no end to the pattern

By Steve Giegerich
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cash-strapped states from coast to coast are weighing hefty tuition increases for public colleges and universities, prompting experts to wonder aloud if state schools are pricing themselves out of the market for most students.

"This trend is going to catch up with the middle class at some point," said Barmak Nassirian, an analyst with the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

Vermont, Hawaii, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, New York and Utah are among the states that have already adopted or are considering tuition

hikes at public institutions for the fall semester.

The budget woes have been especially painful for University of Oregon junior Rachel Pilliod, who may forego her senior year if an additional tuition hike is imposed next fall. Students at Oregon this year have already faced tuition increases of \$10 per credit hour for the winter and spring terms. That's more than \$100 per term for a full-time student.

"I'm ahead on my credits so I can graduate with the bare minimum for a degree. That's graduating without honors and that's graduating without the classes that will fully develop me," said Pilliod, a self-described middle-class student who has assumed most of the cost of her own education. "The real determining factor will be my ability

to pay for school next year."

If she can't afford the extra classes, Pilliod fears it will affect her chances of getting into graduate school.

The tuition increases at Oregon and elsewhere come in an academic year when tuition at four-year public institutions jumped by an average of 9.6 percent, according to the annual survey of college costs released last October by the College Board, the owner of the SAT exam.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education reported in a study released Tuesday that students at public, four-year colleges in 16 states were hit with tuition hikes of more than 10 percent for this academic year.

One expert sees no end in sight.

See Tuition on page 2

Driving
h-a-lot
discount.
(6 p.m.-9 p.m.),
(m.-2:30 p.m.)
\$25 Cash
5-6117
Eyed Pea.
minutes early.

Nails
the Best!!
\$10 off
Acrylic
Full Sets
\$3 off
Reg. Fill
\$2 off
Hot Oil
Manicures

Service
\$25
in Bryan