

THE BATTALION

Volume 109 • Issue 97 • 12 pages

Texas A&M University

www.thebatt.com

Monday, February 17, 2003

Two senators reject deregulation

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

The Student Senate will consider a resolution Wednesday rebuking Student Body President Zac Coventry for lobbying state legislators in support of tuition deregulation and demanding he solicit student opinion on the issue.

"For Coventry to go to Austin and voice support for tuition deregulation without getting student input was reckless," said Jeff Graham, a student senator and sophomore management major.

The resolution, introduced by Graham and student senator Kerri Ward, seeks to hold Coventry

accountable and to put the issue of tuition deregulation on the senate's agenda.

Coventry, however, denies speaking in support of deregulation and said student government would study the issue more before taking a position. During a Feb. 11 trip to the state capital sponsored by the Association of Former Students, Coventry and other student leaders were supportive of deregulation, which would remove tuition caps currently in place and allow the Board of Regents to raise tuition without approval from the legislature.

"We were just talking about different options," Coventry said. "If the state cuts the University's budget, (raising tuition) is one way to make that up."

He also cautioned against following the lead of the University of Texas Student Government, which recently passed a resolution expressing fervent opposition to tuition deregulation.

"UT may have done it a little too quickly. If you just throw a fit and say 'no,' you lose credibility," he said.

Friday, Student Senate Speaker Brooks Landgraf requested senators gather student opinion on tuition deregulation for Wednesday's meeting. Landgraf, a senior political science major, said the request was not prompted by Graham's resolution. Although no resolutions in support of or opposition to deregulation are currently pending, Landgraf said he wanted the senate to be



COVENTRY

"If the state cuts the University's budget, (raising tuition) is one way to make that up."

ready to discuss the issue when a deregulation bill comes before the state legislature.

Graham said the steep tuition hikes resulting from deregulation would jeopardize accessibility to a quality education for many Texans and urged student leaders to oppose deregulation.

"At a public university, it should be the responsibility of elected representatives, who are accountable to the voters, to set tuition rates and not unelected regents," Graham said.

Want milk?



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Senior agriculture development major **Chad Martindale** tends a group of research cattle after laying down hay for them to eat on Sunday at the Texas A&M Dairy Center off of F&B Road in College

Station. The cattle are part of an Embryo Transfer Research project at A&M. The Dairy Center is also home to a large number of cattle that are milked twice a day.

A&M reacts as the world protests war

By Michael Neu
THE BATTALION

A flood of antiwar rallies has decorated the streets of Washington, D.C., New York, and most of Europe during the last few days amid fears of impending U.S. retaliatory efforts. In Geneva, around 2,500 people protested on Sunday against potential military reprisals, according to CNN.

The protesters marched peacefully from the center of the city to the European headquarters of the United Nations, carrying banners proclaiming, "No war," and "Stop global terror, fight for justice."

Although many students on the A&M campus demonstrated similar anti-war feelings at a peace rally Feb. 3, others have remained in support of the position held by President George W. Bush's administration.

"I don't like the idea of going to war, but I feel that the Bush administration should be trusted in making the right decisions," said Alexandria Arbizu, a senior marketing major. "We've elected them as our representatives, and we need to stand behind them on these issues."

In addition, several A&M students who had spent the summer traveling abroad shared their opinions on the bitter but evolving European sentiment on U.S. policies.

"Spending most of my summer in Europe, I witnessed a lot of disdain toward Americans and U.S. foreign policy," said Matt Josefy, a junior accounting major. "The lack of acceptance I sometimes felt as an American student led me to be more open in listening to the views and concerns

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New top 40 radio station hits B-CS

By Molly Cain
THE BATTALION

A local radio station will go off the air at the end of the month to make way for a new hit music station aimed to play music's top 40 hits.

KNDE 95.1, or Candy 95, will replace Clear Channel Communication's KTSR 92.1, which plays hard rock and alternative music. KTSR will officially go off the air Feb. 27.

Clear Channel CEO and Texas A&M University System Board of Regents member L. Lowry Mays testified at a congressional meeting in January that Clear Channel is not a monopoly.

The new station's history goes

back 14 years, Downs said. It took the Federal Communications Commission that long to decide whether Bryan Broadcasting or someone else should have the rights to the frequency.

He said once the FCC made its decision place a radio station in College Station instead of its competition city, which was in Caldwell, KNDC received the go-ahead for its plans for the new station.

Candy 95, which will officially launch March 3, will play only current radio hits. The new station was tested Friday afternoon to aid in a smooth transition. The first two songs played on the channel were "Amazing Grace" and the

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Gas prices experience record highs in Texas

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

Gasoline prices experienced a record one-week increase last week and will continue to rise as crude oil inventories are at the lowest point since 1975, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

The price of fuel rose more than 8 cents last week to a statewide average of \$1.56 per gallon, almost a 50 percent increase since the statewide price of \$1.04 during February 2002.

Texas prices are 4 cents less than the national average of \$1.60 and 19 cents less than the California average of \$1.75, the highest statewide average.

Texas is categorized as part of the EIA Gulf Coast region, which experienced the largest increase out of the five regions. The lowest regional increase was in the West Coast region.

Local prices posted on gaspricewatch.com range from \$1.49 per gallon for regular to \$1.59 at gas stations in Bryan

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A&M and Clark Atlanta seek alliance

By Nicole M. Jones
THE BATTALION

The administrators of Texas A&M and Clark Atlanta University, a predominantly black university in Atlanta, Ga., are contemplating an alliance that would construct an educational pipeline between the two institutions.

In January, Dr. Walter D. Broadnax, the president of Clark Atlanta, visited A&M and publicly invited A&M President Robert M. Gates to form a partnership between the two universities.

A&M students would go to Clark Atlanta to study liberal arts, and Clark Atlanta students would reciprocate by sending students to A&M to study cut dif-

ferent fields of engineering.

Brooks Landgraf, a senior political science major and speaker of the Student Senate said Clark Atlanta's department of liberal arts is highly accredited.

A measure approved by the A&M Student Senate said the benefits A&M would reap through the association with Clark Atlanta University include a more appealing curriculum to a wider spectrum of students, a more receptive learning environment and the ability to share and exchange priceless experiences with another university.

Gates said he supports the student initiative, though he is only aware of the proposed endorsement in general terms.

Landgraf said the alliance would cause no financial burden for A&M, and that

both universities would possibly gain greater recognition in their counterparts' geographic region.

Clark Atlanta students would come to A&M for the same reason current students do: to receive an education at the highly-ranked Dwight Look College of Engineering, Landgraf said.

Levi Winn, student senator and a freshman general studies major, supports the educational alliance.

"This resolution will open the door for increased knowledge and understanding of unique perspectives," Winn said.

The Student Senate unanimously approved the proposed alliance.

Landgraf said the Student Senate feels

See **Clark** on page 2



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

The weekend highs in College Station were similar to this Exxon