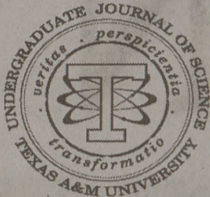


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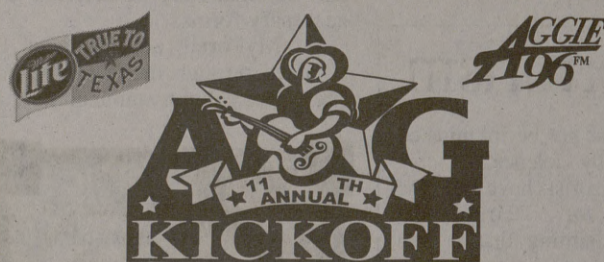
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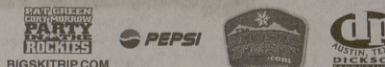
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## FISH



BY R. DELUNA Tuition

Continued from page 1A

expansion is due to tuition. Some growth can also be attributed to the impact of other factors such as the top 10 per rule, he said.

Blinn is receiving less funding from the state and has to raise tuition as well, he said.

The administration at A&M is trying to soften the blow to students by making budget cuts across the board, chopping 10 percent from the administrative budget and a total of 54 percent from the colleges' libraries. This totals a cut of nearly \$20.5 million from school's budget.

To balance the budget for 2004 fiscal year, which starts from now through Aug. 31, tuition increases were required.

The way state law prevents controlled tuition increases is that a school could only raise tuition by the same amount the state increased it.

For this semester, the state approved a \$2 per student credit hour increase in tuition. Schools across the state had to match, but could go no higher. A&M matched this increase, resulting in a \$4 per credit hour rise in tuition.

But with schools no longer required to stay within a specified cap, A&M plans to increase tuition another \$9 per credit hour in the spring.

Some schools are bumping their rates up higher than A&M, such as the University of Houston, which plans to raise tuition \$19 per credit hour.

Gates said the \$9 increase would have been higher if the Student Government Association had not intervened.

"Matt Josefy and the rest of the student government stepped up and encouraged me to keep it low, which is more budget cuts were made," he said.

As for the numerous fees students pay along with tuition, it is likely they will increase again in the future, well, Gates said.

Also, to keep up with the plan to hire 100 new faculty members each year for the next four years, he says there will need to be more help from the state, more cuts internally and "modest tuition increases."

Tom Taylor, vice president of finance, said three new forces have been formed to seek out funding to invest in the hiring of those new faculty members.

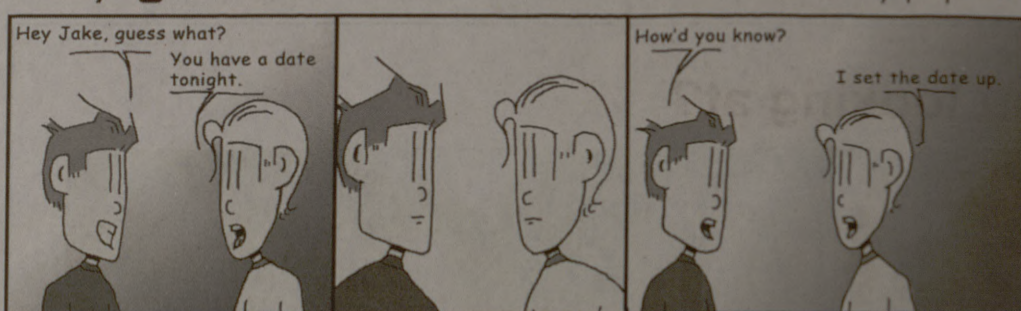
"I hope the students will be supportive of all of this," Taylor said, "and understand that we are doing this to better the quality of education they receive."

## NOISE & POLLUTION



BY JOSH DARWIN

## Crazy Jake



By M. Mouse

## PUN BOY



BY: WILL LLOYD

## Research

Continued from page 1A

discovered that electron beams could be used on beef to kill bacteria such as E. Coli without harming the meat.

"Irradiation just means 'rays of energy' and is actually quite safe," Vestal said, hoping to dispel the negative connotation of irradiation. "Everyone just associates it with nuclear energy."

Currently, irradiation is used on beef, pork, poultry, cereal grains, spices and potatoes. Irradiation use on fish, shellfish and ready-to-eat deli foods has not yet been approved.

The use of this technology on meat adds 10 to 25 cents to

the price of a pound of meat, but Vestal said the added cost is worth it if it can save even one life.

Electron beam research is also being tested to kill insects on fruits and vegetables to prevent the spread of harmful pests around the world. It was used to help kill anthrax being sent through the mail in 2001.

Vestal explained that research will be done on making oysters safer, as well as trying to extend the shelf-life of fish, strawberries, mushrooms and even cut flowers.

"This is an extremely unique technology with many, many useful purposes," Vestal said. "We will be able to do many great things with it in the future."

## Bush

Continued from page 1A

when he stood on the deck of the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln and declared an end to major combat operations. Since then, more Americans have died in Iraq than were killed during the war. The overall death count is 287 — 149 since May 1.

Bush described Iraq as the central front in the war against terror and said that "enemies of freedom are making a desperate stand there, and there they must be defeated."

"This will take time and require sacrifice," he said. "Yet we will do what is necessary, we will spend what is necessary, to achieve this essential victory in the war on terror, to promote freedom and to make our own nation more secure."

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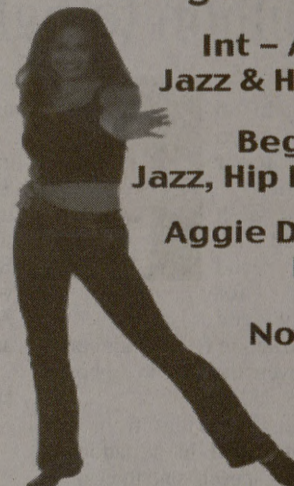
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