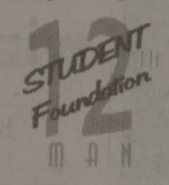


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FORUM

THE BATTALION

Page 8 • Friday, October 10, 2003

Increasing tuition

Students need to stay informed of budget issues

While there are a number of opinions circulating about the resurrected yell "Skyrocket," the yell certainly does not mean students are supportive of a national trend of skyrocketing tuition and fees. At Texas A&M, tuition has been increased \$9 per credit hour, effective this spring. While an easy answer as students is to respond negatively to any thought of increased costs, current decisions surrounding the budget are not that simple.

The \$9 per credit hour equates to giving up your weekly trip to the movies. Or it might mean giving up your daily Sonic run. A student worker will need another hour a week on the clock. For some, the increase means goodbye to Christmas money. For some students working year-round and living without many frills, the hardship is more severe.

Some cannot afford to pay another penny. For others, quality or convenience outweighs price. But the same person who complains about a particular campus issue rarely realizes that he voted down the funding for its remedy.

While we are all concerned about increasing costs, I thank University President Robert M. Gates for his willingness to meet with students to discuss tuition increases by hosting three forums this summer. At the request of Student Government, he repeated that briefing this fall.

My concern is not as much with the \$9, but what will come the semester after that and the next. How much will my sister, a sophomore in high school, pay when she arrives on campus?

As students, we have a responsibility to know the scenarios and then make our voices heard.

Would you rather pay what you're paying now and have more than 200 people in an auditorium class or pay more for a class of

Student Leader Views
Matt Josefy



35? Would you rather have a lecturer who's just read the book you're assigned to read or pay premium for the professor who actually authored the text?

When it comes to fees, would you rather wait 30 minutes or pay more and know the bus will be there when you get out of class? Would you rather call next on the weight bench or pay more to know one will be available?

Some would be horrified by cuts of funding to student organizations, while for others that sacredness belongs to intramurals. Some don't understand spending for a certain program, but would be horrified if we cut resources to technology. You don't value keeping a certain facility open past hours until you're the student working late on a lab.

While I may represent students in these discussions, we each have a unique perspective on the impacts of each and every budget cut or increase at our beloved A&M.

So I ask you to voice your concerns and suggestions. Come hear Gates the next time he makes a presentation. Do some research on your own. Cut the fluff out of your student organization's budget. Turn off the lights when you leave your residence hall. E-mail your suggestions to Student Government at aggiematters@neo.tamu.edu or find more information on its Web site, sga.tamu.edu.

No matter how loud we scream "Whistle-E!," tuition will be \$9 more per semester credit hour next January, but by being proactive we can make an impact on what will happen after that.

Student Body President
Matt Josefy is a
senior accounting major.

MAIL CALL

YCT actions hypocritical

Yesterday as I ran into the Memorial Student Center to escape the torrential rains a couple of guys walked up to me and handed me a flyer. I had no idea who they were or what their flyer was about, but I went ahead and took it and read it later in class. Turns out the flyer was an anti-homosexual statement from

the Young Conservatives that called all liberals hypocritical for "forcing" their accepting view onto others. They state that "the Constitution does not say anything about the right to have your (liberal) values accepted by others."

Is it not weird that you, the Young Conservatives, call liberals hypocritical for "forcing" their views onto others yet at the same time attempt to force your

own views on to me? If your argument truly is about the University spending your student fees on actions that you are opposed to, as you stated, then please take your protests to the heads of the University and stop trying to force me to accept your ideals.

Aaron Wilkinson
Class of 2007

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