



Sports:
Aggie tennis heads to North Carolina to face Duke.
Page 7

Senate votes against fee proposal

By Anthony Woolstrum
THE BATTALION

The Student Senate voted Wednesday against a proposal to raise student service fees beyond the state cap, and voted to send the issue to a referendum in the spring.

"With this first vote we've said that the fees are high enough and we refuse to increase them anymore," said Matthew Wilkins, speaker of the Student Senate. "But we are sending the issue to referendum so that ultimately the student body will have the final say."

The Student Service Fee Advisory Board (SSFAB), which authored the proposal, can propose an increase in student service fees up

to 10 percent per year with a state-mandated cap of \$150. Any increases of 10 percent must be voted on by students in a referendum.

Currently students pay \$11.86 per semester credit hour in student service fees. The proposed increase to \$12.51 per semester credit hour would increase fees to \$150.12, which is just 12 cents more than the cap.

If the student body does accept the fee increase, a new cap of \$250 will go into effect, allowing the board to raise fees less than 10 percent per year without a referendum.

It would take the SSFAB five years to reach this cap if it raised it as much as possible each year.

"Based on my understanding

of the budget situation for the division of student affairs, I would have preferred the Senate voted to endorse the bill," said Dr. Kevin Jackson, director of student activities.

Many organizations have trimmed their budgets due to financial restrictions last year. Will McAdams, Corps commander of the Corps of Cadets, spoke in favor of raising the fee, citing that these student organizations can only survive so long before they will die due to money restraints.

Later in the meeting, the Student Senate voted against the Voting Disclosure Bill, which would effectively remove secret ballots. The arguments against the bill pointed

out that many senators would be susceptible to the influence of their peers on sensitive subjects if they weren't allowed to vote in a secret ballot.

The bill's authors, Lindsey Shanklin, Jason Sherrieb and Dustin Teems said allowing students to vote on a secret ballot is not representing the student body fairly.

The Student Senate also announced a number of vacancies that can be filled by any student who is in the College of Architecture, Business, Agriculture and Life Sciences, lives off campus, or is a member of the Corps. Applications are available in Koldus 127.

STUDENT SERVICE FEES

If students vote in April to approve the raise in Student Service Fees (SSF), the Board of Regents can increase fees up to 10 percent without a referendum.

Current SSF

- \$11.86 per credit hour
- The current fee cap is \$150

Proposed SSF:

- \$12.51 per credit hour
- The \$250 cap will go into effect

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SOURCE: STUDENT SERVICE FEE ADVISORY BOARD

Martial dance



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

African Martial Arts and Dance artists Kilindi Iyi (left) and James Washington demonstrate Zulu izinduku, a form of dance that uses two sticks to mimic movements of traditional South African spear and shield

combat Thursday night at Rudder Theater. The demonstration was sponsored by the departments of Anthropology, Performance Studies and Visual and Performing Arts Academy.

640 cadets head to Houston to volunteer for Super Bowl

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

Six hundred and forty members of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets will be trading in their khakis, boots and camo for collared shirts and security jackets when they head to Reliant Stadium in Houston on Sunday for Super Bowl XXXVIII.

As the New England Patriots take on the Carolina Panthers, 300 cadets will be working security and 340 will be selling programs in the stadium.

"The company that provides security at the Super Bowl is employing 2,200 people," said Jonathan Platt, a senior political science major. "This same company (Contemporary Services Corporation Inc.) employs security at Kyle field so

they asked the Corps of Cadets to help."

Tim Shanks, a junior kinesiology major, said anyone in the Corps could volunteer to work. The volunteers were then divided between security and program sales.

"The cadets working security will be working the gates, searching people and manning the metal detectors," Platt said.

The Corps will also be providing security inside the stadium.

All of the security volunteers had to undergo vigorous training and background checks to be eligible to work at the Super Bowl.

"We attended two five-hour training sessions,"

See Cadets on page 2

New department head hopes to increase funding

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Department of English has appointed Dr. Paul A. Parrish as the new department head.

Former head Dr. J. Lawrence Mitchell had occupied the position since 1989.

"I hope to continue the trajectory that my predecessor, Dr. Mitchell, had laid out," Parrish said. "I want to continue to work with the faculty and students to make the department one of the centerpieces of the University."

Parrish has been a part of the faculty since 1974. He received a Bachelor of Arts in

English from Abilene Christian University in 1966, a master's degree in English from the University of Kansas in 1968 and a Ph.D. in English from Rice University in 1971.

Since coming to A&M, he has served as associate dean for the College of Liberal Arts, arts development coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts and on the Faculty Senate. He has been a distinguished regents professor, a designation made



PARRISH

by the A&M University System Board of Regents given to two A&M professors each year, Parrish said.

Parrish has taught 15 English courses at A&M, including Renaissance and Early Modern Literature, Shakespeare, Milton and 17th Century Literature.

"I like all of the courses that I've taught, and I like them equally well," Parrish said.

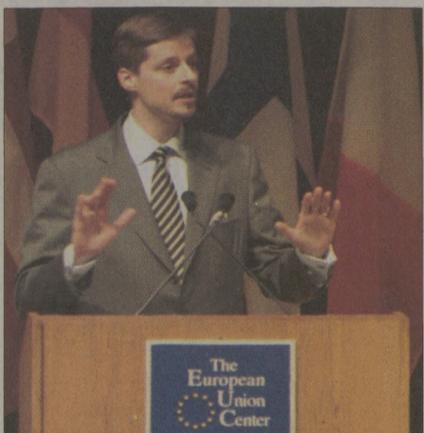
Mitchell described the head of the English department's main responsibilities as overseeing the large graduate program and the 600-plus students in

See Parrish on page 2

EU leaders oppose death penalty

By Michael Player
THE BATTALION

Jordan Steiker, Cooper H. Regents Professor in Law of the University of Texas, predicted the future demise of capital punishment at The Eye



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

The Hon. Szabolcs Kerek-Barczy speaks on the death penalty at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center Thursday night. Kerek-Barczy is the Consul General of Hungary and holds two bachelors degrees from the College of Foreign Trade in Budapest.

For An Eye Death Penalty Symposium, which presented historical aspects of the death penalty from viewpoints of representatives of Hungary, France and Texas.

The symposium, presented by the European Union Center and the Aggie International Ambassadors, was held at the George Bush Presidential Library Conference Center.

Ben Crouch, executive associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, opened the forum with questions about the death penalty. Crouch said people have a "morbid fascination" with the death penalty.

"If the trend of only regional enforcement of the death penalty continues, it is only a matter of time before the (U.S.) Supreme Court steps in and abolishes it again," Steiker said.

Steiker said the southern United States sentences criminals to death and carries it out, while other states that sentence inmates to death do not.

Szabolcs Kerek-Barczy, consul general of Hungary, depicted the abuses of the death penalty in Hungary under the former Communist regime.

"I found it interesting that even after the Communists lost power, their victims were not bloodthirsty for revenge," Kerek-Barczy said.

Kerek-Barczy said capital punishment is more of a moral issue than a political one.

The last speaker to address the audience, Dennis Simonneau, consul general of France in

See Leaders on page 8

Top 10 percent rule criticized

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

Statistics for the University of Texas last year showed 75 percent of the freshmen admitted were in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

Texas A&M hopes not to be in the same boat, said Frank Ashley, associate provost for enrollment. On average, about 5,300 of 18,000 applications received by A&M are applications of students who are in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class.

In the fall of 2003, more than 50 percent of students admitted to A&M were in the top 10 percent, Ashley said.

According to the top 10 percent rule, students who are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class are qualified for automatic admission to any Texas public university. Although the students are admitted to the university, the policy does not promise admission to a college within the university of their choice.

In addition to graduating in the top 10 percent, students must attend a public or private high

school in Texas, enroll in a college no more than two years after graduation and submit an application before the deadline. Students may still be required to take the SAT or ACT, Ashley said.

Ashley said he believes the top 10 percent rule is a good rule, but it needs some changes. He said he believes every student should take a college preparatory course, because some students may not take more rigorous courses in high school.

Students not admitted in the top 10 percent of their class support the rule, but only to a certain extent.

"In some regards, the top 10 percent rule is good," said junior international studies major Leslie Lane. "Those students worked hard to get those grades for four years. But what about those who had to work or were busy with extracurricular activities?"

Lane said she believes A&M is focused on modeling Aggies who are well rounded, and if a prospective student only has the grades, A&M is missing out on a student who can add so much to the Aggie family. If a prospective student has both

See Top 10 on page 8