



Counseling Services requests funds increase

By Jibrán Najmi
THE BATTALION

The Student Service Fee Advisory Board (SSFAB) began its deliberations Thursday for the allocation of more than \$12.8 million annually in next year's student service fees with a request for an increase in funds from Student Counseling Services (SCS).

Every year, the SSFAB makes recommendations to the vice president of student affairs in regards to the amount of student service fees.

"Every department receives 30 minutes to present their budget, and we have a liaison who meets with departments after the presentation," said Jim Carlson, chairman of SSFAB. "When we get to the deliberation process, we go through each individual request and try to determine whether the request is valuable to the student body."

As part of the allocation process, each depart-

ment requesting funds from SSFAB is required to make multiple presentations to the board defining their initiatives, goals and uses for the funds. One of the departments requesting funds from SSFAB was Student Counseling Services (SCS).

"One of the reasons the suicide rate at A&M is so low compared to other colleges is due to many of the programs we've started including helpline using student service fees," said Dr. Maggie Olona, director of SCS. "It is absolutely unacceptable to us to have three suicides in the past six months."

SCS has started several programs to address the issue of suicides including Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR).

"QPR teaches students what questions to ask a person who is suicidal, where to get help and how to deal with the situation over all," Olona said. "Training only takes an hour, wouldn't you give an hour to save another Ag's life?"

Olona said SCS serves approximately 11 to 12 percent of A&M students and that it needs more money to be able to serve the students who request SCS services.

"One of the things we would like to do this year is to hire an additional psychologist and another academic career counselor," she said.

Olona said that if her request is not approved, students will suffer.

"We will ultimately serve fewer students, and we'll have to cut things such as individual counseling sessions," Olona said. "We have 25 professional staff and 45,000 students, you can do the math."

Among the other organizations requesting funds from SSFAB were The Battalion and Graduate Student Council (GSC). GSC President Cassandra Rutherford did not request an increase in the allocation of funds for GSC, nor did The Battalion.

STUDENT SERVICE FEE SUMMARY

Each student taking at least 12 hours pays \$145.80 per semester.

The rate is \$12.15 per semester credit hour

The fee only charges up to 12 credit hours

The fee funds Student Counseling Services, MSC, SGA, study abroad programs and more

WILL LLOYD - THE BATTALION

SOURCE - JIM CARLSON

See Funds on page 2

Furniture finds



ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ - THE BATTALION

Freshman biology major Dana Pappalardo tests out the residence hall furniture options at an exhibit held by Reslife at the Memorial Student Center. Students have the

opportunity to voice their opinions on next year's furniture options. The exhibit will be open until Wednesday in MSC 225 and MSC 226.

Bush Library director moves to new post in D.C.

By Matthew Wilkins
THE BATTALION

A national search for a new director of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum is already underway, outgoing Director Douglas Menarchik said Monday.

The selection process, which is overseen by the National Archives and Records Administration, may only take a few months, he said.

Menarchik has already begun the transition to his new position as assistant administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. He spent Thursday and Friday being briefed in Washington, D.C.

Menarchik was recently nominated by President Bush for the post and expects confirmation from the Senate before adjournment in early October. Because of the nonpartisan nature of the position, he would be surprised if any opposition surfaced.

"I'm not a political person," he said.

However, he said his connections with former president Bush likely influenced the nomination. An expert on terrorism and low-intensity conflict, Menarchik served as a military adviser to Bush during his vice presidency. Bush later recruited him for the presidential

library position and they continue to interact on a monthly basis.

Menarchik said that if the confirmation proceeds as expected, he will leave the Bush Library with pride of its growth under his watch.

After taking over as second director in 2001, Menarchik worked to keep local visitors coming back for more with new programs such as the Classic Film Series and through cooperation with University groups such as the MSC Wiley Lecture Series.

John Jackson, a senior political science major and president of the College Republicans, said those efforts have been successful.

"Dr. Menarchik has made valuable contributions to the Bush Library, and his efforts to bring in political speakers have enriched the community," he said.

Nick Anthis, a senior biochemistry major and publicity director for the Aggie Democrats, said the library's willingness to sponsor programming without bias has been positive for the University community.

"It was obvious to me (when I arrived) that what I needed to do was take the library into the local community," Menarchik said. "I think that has happened under my watch."

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CBS apologizes for ‘mistake in judgment’

By David Bauder
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - CBS News apologized Monday for a "mistake in judgment" in its story questioning President Bush's National Guard service, claiming it was misled by the source of documents that several experts have dismissed as fakes.

The network said it would appoint an independent panel to look at its reporting about the memos. The story has mushroomed into a major media scandal, threatening the reputations of CBS News and chief anchor Dan Rather.

It also has become an issue in the presidential campaign. The White House said the affair raises questions about the connections between CBS's source, retired Texas National Guard officer Bill Burkett, and Democrat John Kerry's campaign.

Rather joined CBS News President Andrew Heyward in issuing an apology Monday.

"We made a mistake in judgment, and for that I am sorry," Rather said. "It was an error that was made, however, in good faith and in the spirit of trying to carry on a CBS News tradition of investigative reporting without fear or favoritism."

Almost immediately after the story aired Sept. 8, docu-

ment experts questioned memos purportedly written by Bush's late squadron leader, Lt. Col. Jerry B. Killian, saying they appeared to have been created on a computer and not on the kind of typewriter in use during the 1970s.

CBS strongly defended its story. It wasn't until a week later — after Killian's former secretary said she believed the memos were fake — that the news division admitted they were questionable.

Burkett admitted this weekend to CBS that he lied about obtaining the documents from another former National Guard member, the network said. CBS hasn't been able to conclusively tell how he got them, or even definitely tell whether they're fakes or not. But the network has given up trying to defend them.

"Based on what we now know, CBS News cannot prove that the documents are authentic, which is the only acceptable journalistic standard to justify using them in the report," Heyward said. "We should not have used them."

CBS said it approached Burkett initially about the documents. Rather said Burkett was well known in National

See CBS on page 2

Hu's new military status as commander could strengthen Chinese economy

By Joe McDonald
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — President Hu Jintao's new status as commander of China's military should strengthen efforts to fight corruption and control a surging economy, forcing resistant lower-level officials to recognize Hu as their undisputed leader, analysts said Monday.

Former President Jiang Zemin's decision to hand over his last post as military chief on Sunday, almost two years after Hu succeeded him as Communist Party leader, ended tensions over control that had let local officials resist pressure to cut spending and carry out painful reforms, the analysts said.

"This is a very significant event," said Kenneth Lieberthal, a China specialist at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "Hu really has the future in his hands at this moment."

The consolidation of China's top party and military posts in Hu's control is expected to give him and his premier,

Wen Jiabao, a freer hand to act as they wrestle with huge challenges ranging from rural poverty to fighting rampant corruption that is undermining public acceptance of communist rule.

It also could help a government austerity campaign aimed at cooling off an economy that is growing by more than 9 percent a year, threatening to ignite politically dangerous inflation and weaken China's fragile banking industry.

Despite repeated orders from Beijing, local officials have balked at orders to cancel major construction and

other big spending projects — austerity moves that could cost local jobs and reduce opportunities to line their pockets. Hu and Wen reportedly have been forced to visit Shanghai and other areas to compel obedience in person.

"As long as there was the impression that there was political infighting at the top, there was a reason for local officials who didn't like the changes to hold out in hopes of getting a different option," said Lieberthal.

But now, he said, "at lower levels it will be seen that the wave of the future is the Hu Jintao leadership, and that should tighten discipline."

See Hu on page 2

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Storm sail A&M sailing team hosts regatta, competes despite hurricanes

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M-Galveston sailing team hosted a district regatta this weekend, despite the recent hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

"We were not sure if Tulane and the University of South Alabama were coming because they were evacuated due to Hurricane Ivan," said Maureen Frerichs, a junior maritime systems engineering major.

With competitions occurring during the hurricane season, coach Gerard Coleman said sailing can be affected by the weather, especially when hurricanes come through.

"If they come within 100 miles, it is probably too windy to sail and we have to pack up the boats and bring them to Pelican Island," Coleman said.

The team hopes to go to nationals again this year after ranking 20th in the Sailing World College Rankings in May 2004 — the end of last season.

"Hopefully, we will rank nationally again," McInnes said. "The team is on an upward trend and I hope that we can continue going."

As of the Aug. 18 rankings, the sailing team was not in the top 20 ranked teams, which currently include University of Southern California, Harvard and Dartmouth.

Texas A&M-Galveston is in a district that includes schools competing from the Florida panhandle area as well as all across the Southern states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and north of Texas including Oklahoma and Kansas.

"The big disadvantage of a large district is that schools are so far apart, whereas in the northeast, the schools are so close so they can compete more," Coleman said.