

**SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE SHOWDOWN**  
A&M and Tech hook up in Lubbock for four games.  
SPORTS, PAGE 7

**Pro / Con: Was the recent affirmative action decision a step forward?**  
OPINION, PAGE 9

**Setting Standards**  
James Jolivette becomes the first winner of the Mr. Black Positive pageant.  
AGGIELIFE, PAGE 3



# THE BATTALION

Vol. 102, No. 119 (10 pages)

Serving Texas A&M University Since 1893

Friday • March 29, 1996

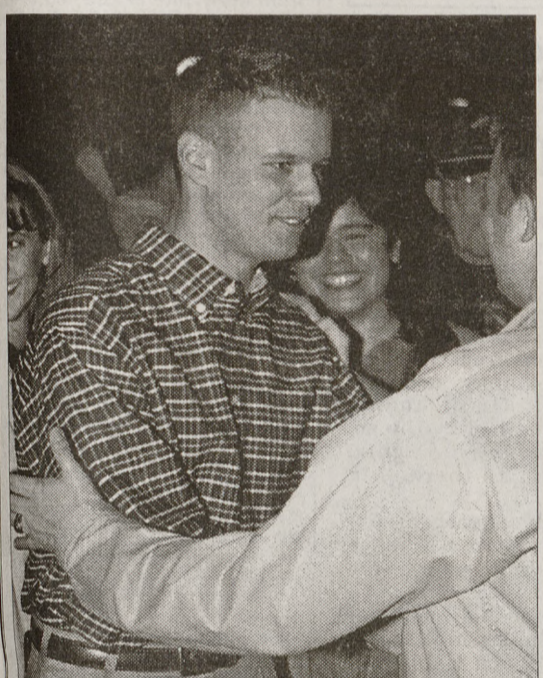
## Baggett, Shopp to face off in run-off

By Eleanor Colvin  
THE BATTALION

Student body election officials are hoping the fervor that compelled 10,100 Texas A&M University students to vote in the Spring 1996 campus elections will not diminish as candidates gear up for the April 4 run-off elections.

See RESULTS, Page 6

Chris Cochran, election commissioner and a junior industrial engineering major, said voter turnout on March 27 and 28 was up from about 6,000 in last year's election and represents the largest turnout ever at A&M.



Sterling Hayman, THE BATTALION

Carl Baggett, student body president candidate, is congratulated by a supporter after the student elections results were announced Thursday night.

Increased student interest and involvement in elections should be good news for Ryan Shopp, a senior electrical engineering major, and Carl Baggett, a senior accounting major, both of whom will compete in the student body president run-off election.

Shopp said hearing his name announced as a run-off candidate was an indescribable feeling. "I was in a dream world," he said. "I was in total shock. If they hadn't been holding me up, I don't know what would have happened."

Shopp said he is optimistic about the upcoming election and that he hopes the same number of students will vote in the run off.

"Go out and vote," he said. "It's not over yet. If people don't vote, the student body won't accurately be represented."

Will Hurd, Carl Baggett's campaign manager and a freshman computer science major, said Baggett was pleased and excited about the announcement.

"He is glad that he is one step closer to taking the University to the next level," he said. "He is definitely happy that he got such broad support and that so many people came out to vote."

Overall, students said they were excited that the voter turnout was so high and that A&M students seem less apathetic about elections than in past years.

Christopher Leschner, a junior agricultural systems major, said the large number of voters resulted from the controversial yell leader races.

"I ran for junior yell leader last year, so I know that it's a race that involves a lot of heart," he said. "The enthusiasm from all the groups involved created more aware and informed voters."

Anand Sindhri, a junior chemical engineering major, said he is impressed that the number of voters climbs steadily each year.

"It's exciting to see the great increase in comparison to last year," he said. "I'm glad more students are committed to electing the

See Turnout, Page 6



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Ryan Shopp, student body president candidate, is surrounded by supporters after student election results were announced Thursday night.

By Heather Pace  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M student body yesterday elected Gary Kipe and Jimbo Cross and re-elected Chris Torn as the 1996 senior Yell Leaders.

Receiving the junior Yell Leader positions were Brandon Meche and Tim Duffy.

Meche, a sophomore business major, said his election to Yell Leader is the best thing that has ever happened to him.

"It is just unbelievable," Meche said. "It is something you see other people do and you never believe you can do."

Cross is one of only a handful of non-regs in A&M history to be elected to the position of Yell Leader, and Kipe's election is unusual because he went against the Corps of Cadets Bloc.

Jaime Reyes, a senior communication health major, said he does not support the campaign Kipe used to get elected.

Reyes said that Kipe, as a member of the Corps, should not have gone against the Corps Bloc, which is a system the Corps uses to select candidates. Kipe was not one of the supported candidates.

See Results, Page 6

## Settlement reached

Brushy Creek residents and A&M officials agree to continue development on ASTREC

By Lily Aguilar  
THE BATTALION

Moments before a hearing was to convene Thursday in a Houston courtroom, Texas A&M officials and residents of the Brushy Creek community reached an agreement to continue construction of A&M's Animal Science, Teaching and Research Extension Complex.

The decision ended Brushy Creek residents' attempts to get a court injunction to stop the development of ASTREC.

Jim Ashlock, director of University Relations, said A&M officials are pleased with the settlement and are waiting for Dr. Barry Thompson, Texas A&M University System chancellor, to approve it.

A&M is not yet releasing the agreement's details.

"Basically, we have reached a settlement on a range of the issues," Ashlock said. "There will be no interruption in the development of the site, and we will keep on going with the project."

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, said he is relieved that the parties reached an agreement and that he is looking forward to ASTREC's continued development.

"We are relieved and grati-

fied that the parties were able to resolve this issue without the time, expense and inconvenience of further litigation," Bowen said. "Now Texas A&M may continue with its mandated responsibility to educate the young people of Texas."

Dr. Ruth Schaffer, a Brushy Creek resident and A&M professor of sociology, said Brushy Creek residents opposed to ASTREC think they are better off now than when they began their battle two years ago.

"Well, we didn't feel that we had won, but we didn't feel that

See Settlement, Page 5

## Big Event kicks off Saturday

By Danielle Pontiff  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Government Big Event Committee has a mission: Show the people of Bryan-College Station how much A&M students appreciate their support.

See related EDITORIAL, Page 9

Saturday, March 30, this mission will be accomplished by 4,800 students tackling 450 community service projects in the 14th annual Big Event.

Amy Wilkinson, Big Event assistant director and a junior accounting major, said the Big Event is a traditional A&M way of thanking Bryan-College Station residents.

"They support us in so many ways," Wilkinson said. "They share their town with us. They

let us build a big fire every year. They put up with a lot."

The Big Event will start with a 9 a.m. party at Olsen Field.

Chris Dugosh, Class of '86, will speak at the party. Dugosh participated in the first Big Event in 1982, when the event consisted of a group of six students taking on a single community service project.

Today, the Big Event is the largest student-run community service project in the nation.

Brad Russell, Big Event director and a junior journalism major, said this year's Big Event will have the largest number of participants in the project's history.

"The growth of the Big Event over the years demonstrates the incredible spirit of Texas A&M," Russell said. "Other universities interested in doing similar projects have been in

touch with us to ask for advice. We are an example to them."

Each student participating in the Big Event will be assigned to a group and given a task to complete by the end of the day. Some of the jobs will include painting houses and constructing handicap access ramps.

Wilkinson said anyone in the community can make a project request to the Big Event Committee.

"We've been fortunate to have enough students available to do all the jobs," Wilkinson said. "No one's ever been turned down. We hope we never come to the point where we'd have to select people."

Businesses donate money and tools for Big Event. When the work is done, tools are stored in a storage shed at Hensel Park to be used in future Big Events.

## Regents plan to uproot greenhouse

Changes to be made to West Campus include an increase in parking

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

Driving on Texas A&M's West Campus should become easier once construction on Agronomy Circle ends.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents approved a \$572,000 plan last week to complete the roadway on the north side of Agronomy Circle east of Agronomy Road.

The plan calls for the demolition of the Horticulture Greenhouses, which stand between the existing stretch of the circle and parking area 68.

The two-lane divided road that currently ends at the greenhouses will be extended.

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Transit and Transportation Services, said once the greenhouses are relocated, the construction should not last more than a year.

The construction is part of the design to improve traffic in

the area, Williams said, and has only been on hold because of the greenhouse relocation.

"The only delay has been that we didn't have anywhere to put those greenhouses," he said.

Dan Kennedy, a civil engineer for the Texas A&M University System, said the University is working to design a new site for the greenhouses.

"The new site hasn't been firmly established yet," Kennedy said. "I think the A&M Physical Plant is developing a design."

Construction plans also call for an additional 50 parking spaces in parking area 68, to meet parking demands for West Campus buildings.

"There was a need for parking access to the West Campus Library, the (Biochemistry/Bio-physics Building) and the Wehner Business Administration Building areas," Williams said, "especially for the late-night library users."



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

The greenhouses on West Campus will be relocated to accommodate construction to Agronomy Circle. The new location for the greenhouses has not been established.

Williams said the construction should not cause any major traffic problems for students driving around West Campus.

## New deadline for withdrawal from University: April 1

Because of changes in the Texas A&M withdrawal policy, Monday, April 1, is the last day students can withdraw from the University for academic reasons. Prior to this semester, students were able to withdraw until the final day of classes.

The policy changes, developed by the Academic Operation Committee, have removed the differentiation between students who withdraw passing and who withdraw failing.

Before this semester, students were determined to have "withdrawn passing" or "withdrawn failing" by the professor of each course enrolled in at the time of withdrawal. "Withdrawn failings" were averaged into students' grade-point ratios. Professor involvement in the system has been eliminated, and now the registrar simply declares a student "withdrawn."

Students will still be allowed, upon approval of the dean of their colleges, to withdraw for nonacademic reasons until the final day of classes.