

# THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## A&M presidential candidates named

By Emily Peters  
THE BATTALION

After a hushed selection process, the Texas A&M presidential search advisory committee announced a short list of finalists that does not include Sen. Phil Gramm and boasts only one candidate with any previous ties to A&M.

Drs. Robert Gates, Richard Herman and Jon Whitmore were chosen from a list of about 125 applicants and have been invited to the University for interviews.

"I think we have top-notch candidates," said Charles Sippial, advisory committee member and A&M vice president for administration. "(The candidates) have gone through a rigorous process of off-campus interviews and discussions, and I think the committee has done an outstanding job pro-

viding the University with three great candidates to be presented to the chancellor and to the board."

The Board of Regents will make the final decision and is not bound by any of the committee's recommendations.

Gates, former director of the CIA, was interim dean for the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M from 1999 to 2001. A career CIA officer, he served as adviser to six U.S. presidents.

Gates has lectured at numerous universities, including Harvard, Yale and Georgetown. He has served on the Board of Visitors of the University of Oklahoma International Programs Center, and as a trustee of the endowment fund for the College of William and Mary, where he earned his bachelor's degree in history.

He earned a doctorate at Georgetown University in Russian and Soviet History and holds a master's degree in history from Indiana

University.

Whitmore has been provost at the University of Iowa since 1996, following six years as dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas-Austin.

The *Courier-Journal* of Louisville, Kent., reported last year that Whitmore raised millions of dollars for the UT fine arts program to make it one of the most technologically advanced in the state. The paper also reported that Whitmore overhauled the Iowa provost office and tenure system, while helping to raise the school's share of minority faculty to nearly 13 percent. Whitmore was named a candidate for president of the University of Kentucky last year, but was not offered the position.

Whitmore earned his bachelor of arts and master's in speech



GATES



WHITMORE



HERMAN

See **Candidates** on page 2

### Hotdog kid



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Peyton Burson enjoys a hotdog at the Texas A&M baseball game against Sam Houston State Tuesday night at Olsen Field. Aggie baseball sponsored 50-cent hotdog night at Olsen Field. See game story on page 5.

## Student injured in New Orleans

By Tanya Nading  
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M Corps of Cadets student remains in stable condition at the intensive care unit after being admitted to Charity Hospital in New Orleans March 10.

Herman Mauch III, a senior management information system major, was found unconscious and severely injured in a park near Jackson Square, said family members.

Mauch and a small group of friends were traveling to Florida for spring break when they stopped for a night in New Orleans.

Just past midnight on March 10, Mauch became separated from the group near Bourbon Street.

"One minute he was there with us and a few minutes later we turned around and he wasn't there anymore," said Danny Oglesby, a senior agriculture systems major and friend. "We just figured he was OK at our hotel. Since he was familiar with Bourbon Street we didn't worry."

Mauch was picked up by an ambulance after a bystander called 911 at 6:26 a.m., said his father, Herman Mauch Jr., Class of 1973.

"We don't really know how long he was lying there," his father said. "He was admitted to the hospital as a John Doe because he didn't have any identification on him. Hospital officials ended up identifying him by his Aggie Ring."

Mauch was brought into the hospital with a ruptured spleen, his jaw broken in two places, a broken nose, a fractured bone around his eye, a fractured shoul-

der and fractured vertebrae.

"They were able to stop the bleeding and his jaw has been wired shut, and there is no paralysis," his father said. "He has undergone two surgeries, one for his spleen and one for his spine. Doctors have told us that Herman was very lucky that it was cold outside, the weather helped slow the bleeding."

A police report has not been filed yet. Mauch Jr. said the person who called 911 did not wait for authorities to arrive.

"We don't know what happened. They (the police) speculated that he fell off a balcony, but he was found in a park."

— Herman Mauch Jr.  
victim's father

"We don't know what happened. They (the police) speculated that he fell off a balcony, but he was found in a park," he said. "Doctors have told us that his injuries are not consistent with a fall, so we believe that he was mugged."

Mauch Jr. visited the area where his son was found and said it was "a nice looking place, better than Bourbon Street."

Mauch remains in intensive care

See **Injured** on page 8

## MSA clears Islam misconceptions

By Elizabeth Kline  
THE BATTALION

Despite the widespread belief that Muslim women are oppressed, Islam teaches that men and women are to be treated as equals, Fatima Begum said Tuesday.

Begum, who works in the counseling department at Blinn College, said Muslim women have the same rights as men, but are called by Allah to different duties. "Never in Islam does the question

arise 'Are men better than women?'" she said. "For example, is bread better than meat? No. You cannot compare the worth of two different entities."

The Muslim Student's Association (MSA) presented "Women in Islam" as part of "Islam 101," a series that educates Texas A&M students on the religion and promotes discussion and debate.

Begum said the three main duties of Muslim women are those of mother, wife and society member. A woman is called to teach religion to her children and strive for emotional well-being and

spiritual harmony in her marriage.

She said women are encouraged to pursue an education and a career if they promote the worship of Allah, the ultimate goal of Islam. They are required to cover their bodies outside the home to show modesty in front of foreign men.

"The bare minimum requirement is to cover everything but the hands and face," she said. "Anything more is better, but it is an individual choice."

MSA adviser Faisal Chaudhry said most Islamic countries do not com-

pletely abide by the laws of Islam in their treatment of women.

"Most societies are distant from Islam," he said. "They are not guiding Muslims as they should be and, as a result, we have problems."

Mike Martin, a MSA member, said the issue cannot be viewed as completely religious in nature.

"You have to look at the treatment of women as a whole," he said. "Even in this country, women didn't have the right to vote until the 1920s, and big business still views them as a minority."

## Bush aims to bolster border patrol agency

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, responding to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, is expected to ask Congress to remove the Customs Service from the Treasury Department and create a new agency in charge of securing America's porous borders.

His domestic security team recommended in a briefing Tuesday that Bush seek to merge the Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which includes the Border Patrol, according to senior administration officials.

The Justice Department would oversee the new agency, which would take over enforcement activities from the embattled INS.

In a sign that Bush is likely to endorse the plan, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer defended the concept of merging border security agencies.

"There is a school of thought that you can have

better controls and more effective ways of welcoming people to this country, welcoming trade to this country, while keeping people out who would do us harm as a result of consolidation," Fleischer said.

Though he said Bush has not decided whether to accept the recommendation, other aides said the president is likely to do so. It is the first major overhaul plan presented by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge.

The plan would require congressional approval. Bush's lobbying team began consulting with Congress Tuesday, a step that aides said Bush wanted taken before he signed off on the plan.

Praising the proposal, Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-Texas, said, "Terrorists are not playing by the old rules and neither should we."

The suicide hijackings over Washington, New York and Pennsylvania pointed out holes in the nation's

border security procedures.

The government has acknowledged that four of the Sept. 11 hijackers had overstayed their visas, and a recent Justice Department review suggested the system has remained lax since then. That review found that even after the Sept. 11 attacks, U.S. immigration officials have been failing to consistently check terrorist watch lists when approving foreign visitors entering the United States without visas.

In addition, Bush was embarrassed by last week's disclosure that the INS issued paperwork relating to student visas for two of the hijackers six months after the attacks.

Tuesday's recommendation came as lawmakers considered trying to compel Ridge to testify about security issues. Bush has rejected the request for Ridge testimony, saying presidential advisers traditionally do not testify before Congress.

### INSIDE



Sports Pg. 5

### Aggies fight back to beat Bearkats

Schindewolf's home run boosts No. 17 Ags past Sam Houston State

### WEATHER TODAY

HIGH 65° F  
LOW 55° F

### THURSDAY

HIGH 72° F  
LOW 45° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.collegeweather.com