

Forum to bring diverse political affiliates to A&M

By **KIMBERLEE D. NORRIS**
Reporter

Political Awareness Day on Wednesday will bring to campus a range of politically active groups far beyond traditional Republicans and Democrats. MSC Political Forum, which sponsors the annual event, has invited 110 political groups as diverse as the Communist Party USA, the Moral Majority, American Atheists, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Ku Klux Klan, and four lesbian/gay rights lobbyist groups. The event has dealt with controversy before. Last year, for example, transsexual Phylis

Frye was among the guests. Frye is a former member of the Corps of Cadets who represented the Houston Gay Political Caucus.

Jay Simmons, 1984 Political Awareness Day chairman, said the controversial reaction to Frye was caused by a handful of people who didn't feel comfortable with the fact that there was a transsexual on campus.

"Those who actually talked with Frye learned a lot about political activity in the homosexual community and its effect on government," he said.

Simmons said the purpose of the program is not to present a side-show of freaks or bizarre people, but to allow students to

see the workings of politics by talking with people who are closely involved.

"Nobody learned diddly-squat just because they saw a transsexual," he said. "Those who got something out of it did because they overcame their prejudices and spoke with a member of a powerful political organization," he said.

1984-85 Political Forum chairman, Kevin Brannin, said he is concerned that students understand the Forum's motives for sponsoring controversial groups on campus.

"We're not bringing controversy for controversy's sake — just for open exchange of different viewpoints," he said.

Brannin said he feels the value of bringing a group such as the Ku Klux Klan is learning from people who have not learned from their mistakes.

"Any group that denies people their basic rights because of skin color has real problems," he said. "We can learn from that."

Brannin said some students seem to feel that beliefs which are unlike their own are not worth hearing. He said Political Forum tries to challenge students to evaluate why they believe the things they hold true.

"If you never hear anything but what you already believe, you tend to get the idea that there are easy answers to hard

questions," he said. "That just isn't true in the 'real world,'" he said.

Simmons said all of the nearly 110 groups invited to the program met criteria designed to insure a representative sample of political views.

"A list of potential participants was sent to every professor in the political science department to be rated from 'one' to 'ten' in terms of political influence," he said. "For every 'one' an organization received,

at least three other professors gave the same group a 'ten'. It's hard for anyone to isolate who affects political policy."

Michele Craddock, in coming vice-chairman of Political Forum, said she does not support the philosophies of many of the invited groups.

"Whether or not I agree with their political ideas doesn't matter," she said. "They have the right to express their opinions just as anyone else. This program allows the expression of

both minority and majority viewpoints."

Simmons said not all the groups invited attend the event because of money problems or time conflicts.

"We can't reimburse them, or pay speakers, so some organizations can't accept," he said. "Others have scheduling conflicts, but we feel we attract groups that really affect national as well as local and state-level politics."

Absentee voting begins today

By **THERESA CORNELL**
Reporter

Absentee voting for the May Democratic and Republican primaries will begin today and continue through May 1.

County clerk Frank Boriskie says voters who will be out of the county on the day of the elections may vote absentee. They will be asked at the absentee voting booth to sign a statement testifying to their expected absence.

Absentee voters may vote from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in the county clerk office in the Brazos County Courthouse on West 26th Street in Bryan.

Voters should come to the courthouse with their voter registration cards. If their card is lost or has not arrived in the mail, the voters' names can be checked on an official voter list.

To receive an absentee ballot from the voter's hometown, the

voter must write down his certificate and precinct number from his voter registration card and mail it to the county clerk's office in his home county, asking for an absentee ballot.

Local voters in the May primaries will be choosing nominees for the positions of U. S. senator; 6th District U. S. Representative; 14th District state representative; district attorney; Brazos County sheriff;

Brazos County commissioner, Precinct 3; county attorney; 272th District judge; tax assessor - collector; Brazos County commissioner, Precinct 1; Democratic and Republican Party chairmen, Justice of the peace Precinct 4, Place 1 and Precinct 5, Place 1; and Constable, Precinct 4.

Awards given for academic, extracurricular achievements

Several award winners were announced Saturday during Parents' Day ceremonies including the Buck Weirus Spirit Award winners and the Thomas S. Gathright Academic Excellence Award winners.

Winners of the Weirus award are chosen on the basis of involvement in "the other education," said Association of Former Students President Charlie Bely. At the awards ceremony Saturday, the "other education" includes activities, accomplishments and leadership positions. The Weirus award was first given in 1982 in honor of Richard "Buck" Weirus, whom Bely said had given more to the university than he could ever receive. Winners receive a wrist watch and a framed certificate.

The Gathright Award is named in honor of the first president of Texas A&M College, Thomas S. Gathright, and the winners received framed certificates for having the highest grade-point ratios in their college classifications.

Winners of the Buck Weirus Spirit Award are:

- Freshmen: William B. Alston, Carolyn Brown, Mike Brunner, Joseph Lessard and Eric Thode.
- Sophomores: James Collins, Sharon Gibson, Philip

Golden, Shannon Harris, David Klosterboer, David Lawhorne, Marae Lehnert, James Marek, Matthew McKay and Mark Monroe.

- Juniors: Philip Baker, Dena Brown, Zack Coapland, Jim Currie, Denis Davis, Paul Davis, Anne Marie Dixon, Gina Harlow, Jay Holland, Kevin Jones, Melissa Martin, Karen Pirtle, Tracey Quigley, Charles Hutson Rollins III and Ann West.

- Seniors: Brent Burchard, Julie Caruthers, Patrick Choi, Stephen Cone, Eric Connor, Curtis Jefferson Crofton, Cynthia Davis, Teddy Dela Cruz, Blaine Edwards, Kelly Graham, Beth Hendrix, Jerry Allan Hill, Philip Leopold, Joe Nussbaum, Robert Ogden, Mary Polinard, Phil Rosenfeld, Thomas Salzer, Kelsel Thompson and Julie Walshak.

- Graduate students: Kenneth Fredeen and Ramona Krailler.

The Thomas S. Gathright Academic Excellence Award winners are:

- College of Agriculture: Elaine K. Brown, senior; Mark J. Pirwitz, junior; Michael D. Mulcahy, sophomore.
- College of Architecture and Environmental Design: James Eustace Carrillo, senior;

Cheryl Renee Johnson, junior; Margaret Mary Alsup, sophomore.

- College of Business Administration: Walter Vance, senior; Lynn M. Wilmot, junior; James M. Bailey, sophomore.

- College of Education: Karen Anne Leach, senior; Sally Jean Kirby, junior; Beverly Susan Boyce, sophomore.

- College of Engineering: James David Burnett, senior; Douglas William Grant, junior; Anne Marie Morillon, sophomore.

- College of Geosciences: Ginger Anne Barth, senior; Robert Brent Boyd, junior; Rudolf Harald Petrini, sophomore.

- College of Liberal Arts: Erica Lee Krennerich, senior; Daniel Craig Biting, junior; Michele Anne Mobley, sophomore.

- College of Medicine: Joel Jeffries, senior; Philip Scott Davis, junior; John Strayhorn, sophomore.

- College of Science: William Evan Secor, senior; Julie Joyce Gibson, junior; Eric Leroy Albers, sophomore.

- College of Veterinary Medicine: Kathryn E. Kern, senior; Karen G. Tucker, junior; Scott W. Brooks, sophomore.

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Janet Conquest	Connie Williams	Karen Zern
Pam McDonald	Syndee Stiles	Lori Peace
Shay Warden	Steve Crawford	Scott Kilpatrick
Mike Maxson	Joe Bohac	Scott Abel
Joe Schultz	David Curran	Mark Malin
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