

# Bratton wins run-off election for place on school board

**By KARI FLUEGEL**  
Staff Writer

Gerald Bratton easily defeated Robert Stallings Saturday in the run-off election for a seat on the College Station School Board.

Bratton, head of the Texas Veterinary Anatomy Department, defeated Stallings, business manager of the agricultural economics department, almost a 2-to-1 margin.

Only six percent of the registered voters took part in the election. Stallings says he is disappointed in the low voter turnout.

"I'm really disappointed that only 1,000 people voted," Stallings says. He also said that national statistics show that one out of four families have children in public schools, and with the national uproar about public schools he is surprised that

more people didn't vote.

"I don't know if it would have changed the outcome, but I'm sure Dr. Bratton and myself would have received more gratification if more people had voted," Stallings said.

Of the 1,002 votes cast, 637, or 64 percent, went to Bratton while 365, or 36 percent, went to Stallings.

Stallings won only two of the 14 precincts. The two men split

the three Texas A&M precincts with a total of seven votes each.

In the April 7 general election, Stallings led the race with 40 percent of the votes. Bratton received 39 percent and Jim Luscombe received 21 percent.

Luscombe's endorsement of Bratton following the April 7 election may have been a factor in the change in the tide, Stallings said, and Bratton did more advertising before the run-off which also may have affected the outcome.

Bratton will be sworn into office during the school board meeting tonight.

Bratton said he plans to keep a low profile until he learns the people and the operations of the school board. One issue that Bratton hopes to look into, he said, is teacher pay raises.

# Death at hospital may be result of anesthesia

**United Press International**

**HOUSTON** — The president of Baylor College of Medicine — faced with at least two malpractice suits — has acknowledged that one death and two cases of brain damage to patients at Ben Taub Hospital last year may have resulted from anesthesia, a newspaper reported Sunday.

In a copyright story, the Houston Chronicle reported its investigation indicated that in at least one other case, a woman's death was told by doctors her death was anesthesia-related.

In both cases involving a patient, the Chronicle reported doctors obscured or denied anesthesia problems.

Ben Taub is operated by the Harris County Hospital District and serves mostly indigent patients who cannot afford care in private hospitals. Baylor provides physician services to Ben Taub, at a cost of \$20 million a year, and uses it for its primary teaching hospital.

In a letter dated April 11, Baylor President Dr. William T. Butler reported on an internal investigation to hospital district administrator Richard L. Butler.

The Chronicle reported Butler said the rate of fatal errors from anesthesia was within national norms, though Ben Taub administrator Mike Bullard said "One is too many."

Butler's investigation was in-

stiguated after accusations by a former Baylor anesthesia resident, Dr. Olufunso Ogunbase.

Ogunbase filed a \$10 million suit against the medical school in January, claiming he was denied certification because he criticized the anesthesia program at Ben Taub and said there had been numerous deaths from inadequacies there.

In his suit, Ogunbase cited 23 cases in which death or brain damage resulted from "anesthetic mishap."

Butler said the college's investigation of 22 of the cases determined one death and two cases of brain damage could be related to anesthesia. The 23rd case could not be identified, he said.

His letter gave no details on the cases, saying, "There is litigation concerning some of these patients, and the circumstances related to them are well documented."

In the one death acknowledged by Baylor, Patricia Lou Glass, 38, of Channelview died during surgery to set a broken leg. The Chronicle said the doctor who had access to all her medical records reported the cause of death as "blunt trauma to the chest."

The medical examiner, however, determined the cause of death as an improperly placed oxygen tube, which was inserted in her esophagus instead of her windpipe.

Butler said based on his

study, the rate of incidences involving anesthesia-related deaths or problems at Ben Taub fell within national norms.

"On the basis of these comparisons, it would be concluded that the allegations of serious problems with anesthesia at Ben Taub have been given more attention than they deserve," he said.

There are indications Baylor has taken steps to strengthen its anesthesia services at Ben Taub, the Chronicle reported.

Last July, operating rooms at Ben Taub had to be closed when two positions for anesthesiologists became vacant unexpectedly.

Two anesthesiologists have been hired since then, and two more have been recruited to start in July, Butler said in the letter.

Durbin has also requested stronger requirements for supervision in operating rooms and for the reporting of mistakes or accidents during surgery, the Chronicle reported.



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