



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Mostly sunny
HIGH: 72 LOW: 46

A&M students, faculty discuss black politicians

By Mia B. Moody

Of The Battalion Staff

The elections of David Dinkins as New York's mayor and Douglas Wilder as Virginia's governor have A&M students and faculty members speculating on whether the roles of blacks in politics are improving or remaining the same.

"I believe the recent elections of Wilder, whose position is pending a vote recount, and Dinkins are indications that blacks in politics are headed in a positive direction," Dr. Bryan Jones, head of the political science department, said. "In the future as blacks begin to appeal to a larger variety of people we will see more blacks in office."

Tommy Burns, junior political science major from Waco said he believes the elections of Wilder and Dinkins are not an indication of how blacks in politics will fare in the future.

"I don't see an increase in the number of blacks elected to political positions because racist attitudes are increasing on college campuses nationwide and the students of today will decide the fate of the government tomorrow," he said.

Burns said black representation may even decrease as negative stereotypes of blacks due to the media continue to rise. He said blacks are always portrayed as drug dealers in newscasts and as pimps and prostitutes in movies.

Steve Miller, chair of the minority outreach committee of College Republicans, said he thinks the role of blacks in politics will increase because blacks now have good role models involved in politics.

"Black children will look at Wilder and Dinkins and know that they have a chance," Miller said. "But I believe the election of black candidates may have drawbacks because they may decide to fight only for the black cause and forget that whites also voted for them."

Scott Kibbe, president of College Republicans said, "I see blacks increasing in political offices in the future, but the key to this increase is for them to get involved in the Republican party."

Democrats win nation-wide; abortion issue plays key role

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats savored off-year election success in "everything, all over the country" Wednesday, while blacks and abortion rights groups celebrated L. Douglas Wilder's likely victory as governor of Virginia and David Dinkins' triumph as New York's new mayor.

"It's a very tough day for Republicans," conceded Rep. Newt Gingrich, the GOP whip in the House.

President Bush said, "Wait till next year."

Republican J. Marshall Coleman declared his intention to seek a recount in Virginia's close race, saying there must be public confidence in the election outcome "for the good of the new governor."

Coleman said Wilder, if victorious, would have his full support.

But Wilder — leader by 5,500 votes in complete, unofficial returns from Tuesday's balloting — wasn't waiting to stake his claim to history as the nation's first elected black governor.

"It starts coming home to you, something happened last night," he said.

Asked whether the color of his skin had mattered, he told a news conference, "I'm saying it is not and was not a factor in the results because I was elected."

Dinkins went to City Hall in New York where he will soon take office as the first black mayor of the nation's largest city.

"I got a pretty fair percentage of the white vote, and I think that's

very important," said the man who pledged to bring racial harmony to his city.

He said voters had spoken "with the voice of hope, here and in Virginia."

In New Jersey, Democratic Rep. James Florio celebrated his personal victory as governor after two previous campaign defeats. Democrats savored regaining the state's top job after eight years as well as two-house control in the state legislature, assuring them the upper hand when the state's congressional districts are reapportioned after the 1990 census.

The Republican post-mortem was in progress, even before the final precinct tallies were known.

Gingrich said his party must be "willing to rethink exactly what we're going to do in 1990 if we're going to have a successful year" when 34 Senate seats, 36 governorships and all 435 House seats are on the ballot.

Sen. Bob Packwood, of Oregon, a liberal Republican with a strong pro-choice voting record, said, "If we go in 1990 and abortion is the issue... we will lose on that issue."

Abortion rights groups read the returns the same way.

"This morning's election results are a wake up call for George Bush," an opponent of abortion, said Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League.

"To politicians everywhere, we say with conviction: If you're out of touch with the pro-choice majority, you're out of office."

Kibbe, a history major from Hondo said, "Black roles in the Republican party have already increased. In fact, Bush has appointed many blacks to posts including chief of staff and chair of health and human services."

J. Frank Hernandez, a junior English major from Dallas, said he believes the recent elections of Dinkins and Wilder are major steps politically and socially for blacks,

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Joke's on you



Twins Shanon (left) and Sharon Williams, both sophomore general studies from Houston and notorious for playing practical jokes on their Davis-Gary neighbors came home Wednesday to find their furniture had been moved outside the dorm.

Photo by Frederick D. Joe

Rival schools say A&M's spirit can border on hostility

By Holly Becka

Of The Battalion Staff

Recent athletic events involving Texas A&M seem to have brought out the fiercest rivalries and attitudes in fans from opposing teams.

Although friendly competition has positive results, numerous A&M leaders, students and faculty members from other schools generally agree that competition with A&M hasn't been all fun and games lately.

Two students from the University of Houston claim they were harassed by a group of A&M students at an A&M-UH volleyball match.

Most recently, students from Rice University and members of Rice's

PART 1 OF A 2 PART SERIES

Marching Owl Band say they were insulted and offended at Aggies' retaliatory behavior during the MOB's halftime performance. After the Rice Owl mascot (a person in a costume)

disrupted the beginning of the Aggie Band's performance by running onto the football field, Aggie fans had an impromptu yell practice, drowning out the MOB.

The Battalion has received numerous letters by students who have looked back and said what A&M fans did was wrong. In the minority are students who defend their behavior.

Several weeks ago at the A&M-UH volleyball match, Houston student Michael Danke brought to the event a flag he said is two-foot by four-foot mounted on a six-foot aluminum pole.

After his team won the first game, Danke said he took the flag and ran around the floor and bleachers of G. Rollie White Coliseum. In an interview, Danke said A&M yell leaders told him "not to run on our (A&M's) side."

"I didn't feel like they were threatening me," Danke, a junior market-

ing major from Columbus, Ohio, said. "They just had the offhand assumption that something bad was going to happen. They said that if something did happen, they couldn't help it."

Danke said a patrol officer at the game told him that there was a lot of tradition at A&M and if Danke blocked someone's view with the flag, he would take the flag.

Danke and his girlfriend decided to move to the top of the stands to

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Party chief replaces old guard in move to quell restlessness

BERLIN (AP) — Communist Party chief Egon Krenz on Wednesday ousted the old guard from the ruling Politburo and replaced them with reformers in a desperate move to quell widespread unrest and strengthen his 3-week-old leadership.

Thousands of East Germans disillusioned by 40 years of Communist rule and skeptical of promised reforms continued to flood from their homeland, with more than 50,000 reaching West Germany since Saturday. Pro-reform groups pleaded with their countrymen to stay and help "build a real democratic society."

Krenz hurled a stinging attack on his predecessor and long-time political patron Erich Honecker, and Communist authorities took the first steps toward registering New Forum, the nation's largest pro-democracy group.

And in another first, a top Communist held out the possibility of free elections, a major demand of those who have demonstrated for democracy.

"Our country is going through a tense and extremely difficult development," Krenz said in a speech to the Central Committee, which unanimously approved his proposal to dissolve the entire 21-member Politburo.

The Central Committee announced the election of a new 11-member Politburo and reaffirmed Krenz, 52, as the party's secretary general. Krenz and six other Politburo members were re-elected.

The committee elevated four new members to the Politburo, the nation's most powerful decision-making body. They included Hans Modrow, the 61-year-old Dresden party chief who is said to be a leading advocate for democratic reforms.

The Central Committee proposed Modrow for the post of premier, which has been empty since Tuesday's resignation of the entire Cabinet.

The presidium of the parliament was to meet Thursday to set a date for convening the full parliament to elect a new Cabinet.

In Washington, deputy White House press secretary Roman Popadiuk said the Bush administration hoped the shakeup "is a step on the road to stable and evolutionary reform."

The United States hopes East German leaders will use the changes as an opportunity to establish a dialogue with its own citizens "so the desire for peaceful change can be met," Popadiuk said.

All of the aging Politburo members dropped were closely associated with Honecker, whom Krenz replaced Oct. 18.

New state law changes fee installment plan

By Andrea Warrenburg

Of The Battalion Staff

A new law enacted by the Texas legislature will affect the more than 13,000 Texas A&M students who pay their fees in installments.

The statute, governing fee installments at all state institutions of higher education, will significantly increase the first installment amount that is due prior to the first day of classes.

"Part of the reason why the legislature enacted the law is because there is a high level of payment delinquency throughout the state," Thomas H. Taylor, A&M comptroller, said.

Effective in Spring 1990, the law eliminates two- and four-payment installment plans and replaces them with a new three-payment plan. Nondeferrable fees, such as parking and football tickets, and one-half of the deferrable fees, tuition and University fees, must be paid before the first day of classes.

Taylor said he thinks the new payment plan is of no particular benefit to students because they have to pay

more of their fees earlier, but that it will benefit the A&M administration in terms of pre-registration.

In the past, pre-registration was before the last installment payment was due. With the new plan, the last payment must be paid before pre-registration begins.

"It gives us a little more leverage," Taylor said. "Because if students don't pay, they can't pre-register."

The Texas legislature enacted the law to take effect this semester. But the A&M Board of Regents asked for a delay to allow time to inform students.

The Fiscal Department sent letters to students on the installment plan and published information about the change in the Spring 1990 class schedule book.

Taylor said A&M does not have a significant problem with students on the installment plan not paying their fees.

"The A&M student body just seems to be a little more responsible," Taylor said. "But it will help increase collections statewide."

For more information, contact the Fiscal Department at 845-8127.



Good for two

Tray Parks, a junior history major from Bryan slams two points in a quick game of basketball. Parks and a friend were enjoying the unusually warm November weather by playing on the Schumacher basketball courts late Tuesday evening.

Photo by Scott D. Weaver