



Lady Ags
take to the court

Exhibition gives A&M
a look at '90-91 team

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Sulfuric acid leaks into ground, air

By JULIE HEDDERMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

An undetermined amount of sulfuric acid leaked Monday into the ground near Texas A&M's Physical Plant and Sbis Dining Hall, forcing people in the area to evacuate for several hours.

The acid leaked into the ground and atmosphere from its holding tank by the water tower near the intersection of Asbury and Hogg streets.

University officials detected the leak at 7:30 Monday morning when a Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services officer reported an odor given off by the acid, the director of the University Police Department says.

Bob Wiatt says the tank, which holds about 2,000 gallons of sulfuric acid, had a hole the size of a pencil in its side.

Officials estimate over 200 gallons of the acid leaked out of the tank, but exact amounts are not known.

Officials with the Texas Engineering Extension Service Hazardous Chemical Specialists said the leak was stopped with a special puddy and an inflated balloon-like bag which put pressure on the hole.

Wiatt says all occupants and pedestrians were cleared from the area because sulfuric acid can burn skin, eyes and lungs.

Joe Estill, associate director for utilities, says the tank was scheduled for replacement Jan. 7.

He says the replacement tank has been sitting nearby.

Estill says a company from Houston removed the remaining sulfuric acid from the old tank. The acid was placed into another tank until the old one can be replaced.

Sulfuric acid is used for water treatment, Estill says.



MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

Texas Engineering Extension Service hazardous chemical specialist Lane Krumrey puts on a rubber glove before he attempts to contain a sulfuric acid leak near the Physical Plant Building.

Perry calls diversity A&M's greatest goal

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

More diversity in Texas A&M's faculty is the greatest challenge and goal for the University in coming years, the associate provost and dean of faculties said Monday to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. William Perry said A&M must hire more minorities and women to faculty positions to attract more minority and female students to the profession.

"The faculty of the future are our students today," Perry said. "Most of us chose faculty careers because of the influence of a college teacher. Now we furnish the role model."

Perry also said a diverse faculty will allow more creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

A&M's faculty now is comprised of only 16 percent women, with only one female department head, and less than 5 percent minorities.

"We have a long way to go in achieving a diverse faculty," Perry added.

Perry said the long-term goal of the University's Strategic Plan is to have faculty, staff and student body reflect the general population of Texas.

Perry, who assumed the associate provost and dean of faculties position Sept. 1, said searching for a common ground with every person at A&M is difficult and time-consuming, but the effort must be made.

"We must fight to prevent the loss of individuality of our faculty, students and staff," he said. "It is too easy to treat faculty, students and staff in groups, to stereotype and deal with problems of the institution in a wholesale manner. But we must avoid those temptations."

Perry said as chief liaison between the administration and faculty, he

will work to implement plans to maximize student and faculty individuality.

Faculty-leave development, equitable treatment of faculty, advocacy for minority faculty and creation of an ombudsperson council are his major priorities.

Salary inequities are becoming too large a problem and grievances will become more common if the issue is not resolved, he said. He also said he wants professor reviews to partially determine faculty salaries.

To encourage minority faculty members to come to A&M, Perry said he will conduct interviews with all minority tenure-track job candidates and interview minority professors at the end of their first year at A&M.

He also said he hopes to visit a departmental or college meeting once a week to keep in touch with the 2,200 A&M faculty members.

Following Perry's speech, the Faculty Senate approved several undergraduate and graduate course changes, and approved a bachelor of science degree in scientific nutrition.

During Committee of the Whole, Dr. Patricia Alexander asked the Executive Committee to look into why the administration has not acted on a resolution requesting money be set aside for the recruitment of women faculty members.

Also during the committee, a resolution was passed asking the Executive Committee to extend an invitation to Governor-elect Ann Richards to speak to the Senate about her plans for higher education.

Committee of the Whole is when the entire Senate acts as a single committee and brings up issues for discussion unrelated to the day's business. Resolutions passed during this time only are requests to the Executive Committee for action.

Election satisfies parties; Strategist: Troops add to Bush's options

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Victories by Democrat Jim Turner and Republican Steve Ogden have satisfied both parties in Brazos County, but some campaign supporters wonder if confusion about voter registration cards affected Texas A&M students' support of candidates.

Mike Hachtman, campaign manager for Republican Richard Smith, says although Smith's campaign workers are pleased with A&M students' support, they think student turnout was low because many were confused about voter registration cards.

Smith's campaign for the District 5 state senate seat proved unsuccessful.

"I think more A&M students would have turned out to vote had they not been forced to vote by affidavit," Hachtman says.

The confusion began when students registered to vote earlier this semester. Many students listed their parents' addresses in the permanent address section of the voter registration card. Students didn't know permanent address information was used to determine registration site.

To alleviate the problem, students were allowed to vote in Brazos County if they signed affidavits at polling sites swearing Brazos County was their original intention.

"Tuesday, I'm sure the word around campus was if you voted by affidavit, you wouldn't get a secret ballot," Hachtman says. "That's ludicrous. It's an obvious infringement on the students' ability to obtain a secret ballot."

The Battalion reported Tuesday that attorney John Paschal ordered election judges to mark ballots of those voting by affidavit.

Paschal said unless a race is contested, affidavits will remain sealed.

The Battalion reported Wednesday that election judge Jon Beeler said people didn't seem upset about voting by affidavit. Approximately 50 percent of voters registered in Brazos County voted in the election.

"Somebody will be pursuing this issue," Hachtman says. "This is a dangerous precedent to set. It's happened in previous elections and will continue to happen."

Meanwhile, Turner says it's hard to tell if the voter registration incident affected support he received from A&M students. Turner, from Crockett, was Smith's opponent for the District 5 state senate seat.

"I've been told the results (the distribution of Democrat and Republican votes) looked much like they did

in prior elections," he says. "It's hard to assess."

Turner, who won the state senate seat with 50 percent of the vote, says he will try to resolve the issue.

"I pledge to look into the issue," he says. "I would like to see the problem cleared up before the next election."

Rob Giesecke, campaign manager for Ogden, says Ogden's campaign workers are pleased with support they received from A&M students.

Ogden beat Democrat Jim James by 6 percent in the race for the District 14 state representative seat.

"The race wasn't close enough to tell whether the voter registration problem affected the support Ogden received," Giesecke says. "But I think it will affect races in the future unless it's resolved."

James' campaign manager says the campaign for District 14 was clean.

"We were expecting a little bit more support from A&M students," Stephen Medvic says. "We knew students would have the tendency to vote straight ticket for Republicans."

Medvic agrees with Giesecke and says it's difficult to tell how the registration problem affected voters.

"It's hard to tell if it offset our votes or not," he says. "I think in the long run it helped campaigners because people who were angry at the incident made sure they voted."

All candidates and their managers agree they are happy elections are over.

Hachtman says Smith will return to his real estate business.

"Smith knew it was going to be a win-win situation," he says. "He would either win and begin a new career as state senator or lose and begin to spend more time with his family and business."

Hachtman says Smith and his staff accomplished a lot of their goals.

"We just came up a little short," he says. "It was a close race. We lost by approximately 8,500 votes. We won in quite a few counties that even President Bush couldn't win."

Giesecke says Ogden has a lot of work ahead of him.

"We're trying to shift gears," he says. "We're packing everything up from the campaign headquarters and preparing for the move to Austin."

James has returned to his job as an attorney.

Turner, the mayor of Crockett until January, says he plans to visit A&M next week.

"I'm looking forward to my visit," he says. "It will give me the opportunity to sit down and speak with A&M students about their concerns."

By SEAN FRERKING
Of The Battalion Staff

President George Bush's decision to increase U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia has changed the country's strategic position in the Middle East and given the president more options in dealing with Iraq, a military strategist and a professor at A&M agreed Monday.

Dr. Frank Vandiver, director of the Mosher Institute for Defense Studies, and Dr. Anthony Gadzey, an assistant professor of political science, said they believe Bush made his decision in response to pressure from allies and Saddam Hussein's refusal to submit to international sanctions.

On Nov. 8, Bush ordered more than 200,000 new troops into the area. Because of this order, more than 430,000 troops will be stationed in Saudi Arabia.

The buildup is the largest active U.S. military venture since the Vietnam war.

Vandiver, a former A&M president, said he believes Bush is making a strong statement to the Iraqi dictator and the international community with his actions.

"He's trying to increase his options in this conflict and present a potentially offensive military force

to Hussein," Vandiver said. "In my opinion, it's not an aggressive force. With these reinforcements and modern weapons, however, he (Bush) has the option of a limited offense in the region."

Although the new forces will not be battle-ready for about 60-90 days, Vandiver said he believes Bush's decision already has altered the situation in Saudi Arabia.

"With a force that large, Bush is making a clear statement that the United States wants to restore the proper government in Kuwait," he said. "This move also says Bush is willing to protect American lives and interests in the area."

Gadzey said he believes the president has increased U.S. rhetoric toward Iraq because Bush wanted to dispel the notion that the United States has not been prepared for the situation.

"In my opinion, Bush wanted to correct what has been seen as a mistake by the United States," Gadzey said. "With the increase, he has prepared American forces and made the statement to Saddam Hussein that the United States is resolved to act against aggression."

Gadzey also said he believes Bush made his decision after considering the apparent failures of other methods to get Iraq out of Kuwait.

'Success is failure turned inside out'

Controversial educator preaches hard work

By KEVIN M. HAMM
Of The Battalion Staff

A controversial educator, known for carrying a baseball bat through high school halls, urged his audience Monday night to tackle life with tenacity and determination.

"Whatever you do in this life, don't ever quit, don't ever give up," Joe Clark told a standing-room-only crowd in Rudder Theater. "Success is failure turned inside out."

The program, "From Disgrace to Amazing Grace," was sponsored by the MSC Black Awareness Committee.

Clark earned national recognition for his tough, controversial discipline methods while a principal in Paterson, New Jersey's Eastside High in 1982. To keep students in line and in school, he patrolled the halls with a bullhorn and a Louisville Slugger.

He also was portrayed in a 1989 movie, "Lean on Me," based on his career at Eastside High.

In the beginning of his address,

Clark told the audience "you'll either love me or you'll hate me."

"I assure you, I won't bore you tonight. You've had enough of that today," he said in line with his view that the educational system today is in shambles.

He blamed the system's problems on bureaucrats and politicians, saying they are full of "bovine balderdash."

"Today's school system needs a 'good dose of accountability,'" he said.

Clark applauded the efforts of teachers and principals, and said the only way to get the system in working order again is to empower them so they can do their jobs.

"Teachers by and large are dedicated, committed, underpaid and overworked," he said.

Clark also said African-Americans, mostly in inner-city schools, do not receive an education that is close to the quality of others.

"The education they get from these rotten schools isn't equal to

"Bush is sending a signal to Iraq with the new forces because so many other diplomatic ploys have failed," he said. "He has acted to say the United States will do what is necessary to insure Hussein's removal from Kuwait."

Although some people may think an increase in military forces might cause a war, Gadzey said he believes the military buildup has helped reduce the chances for a violent conflict.

"For the first time, I see some hope for a peaceful solution," he said. "These actions have seemingly made Hussein willing to negotiate."

However, Gadzey said the United States still has several obstacles to overcome before the more than four-month-old standoff is resolved.

"The United States does not have the full endorsement of many of its allies, especially Arab allies," he said. "Many countries would like to see the world community use a peaceful solution for this conflict."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Nov. 7 he thought diplomatic solutions should be pursued for at least 2 or 3 months before any military action should be considered.

Also the commanders of Egyptian and Syrian forces said their troops will be used only in a defensive manner and will not enter into Iraq.

Vandiver agreed with Gadzey and said war is not likely in the near future because U.S. forces will not be prepared for an attack for more than 60 days.

The United States also is not willing to risk the lives of its soldiers, he said. Military experts have predicted more than 20,000 casualties during the first week of attack.

Vandiver and Gadzey agreed the United States would not gain anything if it attacked Iraq. Such an offensive attack may have serious repercussions, Gadzey said.

"If the United States attacked, the variables in this situation would change dramatically," he said. "The consequences would damage U.S. foreign policy and create further problems in the Middle East."

Vandiver said he does not believe the public has given Bush a mandate to launch an offensive. Attacking Iraq also might reduce public support for Operation Desert Shield, he said.

"I think the country is willing to support the president as long as the issues remain clear," Vandiver said. "Certainly, we would rather be in a defensive posture than have our people shot at."

that of whites and Asians," he said. With hard work, however, these students can close the gap.

"It's about getting into those classrooms and showing you can compete," Clark said. "If you can memorize Public Enemy, then you can learn your times tables."

The Louisville Slugger is not just a symbol of discipline, he explained.

"The baseball bat means, 'Kids, it's your turn at bat. What are you going to do, strike out or hit a homerun?'"

Clark also said the bureaucracy should provide alternative educational avenues for those students who can't learn in traditional schools, he said. Parents should also be able to choose how and where to educate their children, he said.

The former principal also slashed out at affirmative action. He said it is "divisive, antagonistic" and destined to fail.

"You can't take from this person and give to that person," Clark said. "Black people want equal access to the door of opportunity as everyone else."

"You can't do for people what people should do for themselves," he said. "That's affirmative action—doing for yourself."

His views on affirmative action echoed a theme he touched on throughout the address.

"If you end up being nothing, shame on yourself," Clark said. "Because that's what you wanted to be—a damned nothing. Whatever you do as you cross this land, don't try to oppress other individuals. Don't ever give in to a system that's rotten to the core."

"Whatever you do in this life, don't become a ventriloquist's dummy—think for yourself."

In the program for the address, Clark said:

"Fight one more round. You have to be tough. People are selfish, irresponsible and self-centered, but love them anyway. All the things that took a lifetime to build will be torn down, but build anyway."

"When you've given the best you have to the world, you are kicked in the teeth, but give your best anyway."