

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT — VOTE!

FORECAST

Partly cloudy
Highs in the 60s

OPINION

Recent stunts pulled by members of the A&M Student Government serve as blatant examples of what is wrong in politics today
—Battalion editorial Page 11

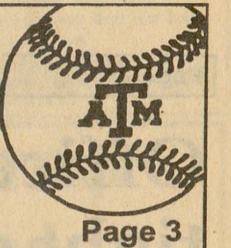
INSIDE

CAMAC CONFERENCE

Hispanic politics, business, education comprise agenda of fifth annual convention
Page 2

SPORTS

Aggies go wild against the UTA Mavericks



The Battalion

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Commission releases list of violators

67 campaign infractions total \$600; three presidential candidates cited

By Michael Sullivan
The Battalion

Early Wednesday morning the Student Government Election Commission released a list of all violations and fines issued to candidates in all races.

As of Tuesday the election commission issued 67 fines totalling over \$600. Of those 67 fines, 8 fines worth a total of \$75 have already been cancelled.

The commission warns that even though a candidate has a violation listed, that the candidate still has the right to appeal the violation. All appeals will be handled by the Student Government judicial board.

A candidate is responsible both for violations he/she commits and violations committed by those working for the campaign.

Article II, section 3 of the Election Regulation states, "Any candidate who willingly violates the election regulations or permits any violation on his behalf shall be subject to disqualification for that election. Any election commission action may be appealed to the judicial board."

Article I, section 2, letter H provides, "The election commissioner has the power to render punishment up to and including disqualification for any violation of these election regulations."

The following candidates who have outstanding fines are listed by campaign in alphabetical order. The number after the name refers to the total number of outstanding violations. The letter(s) refer to the violation and the amount is the total fine levied against the candidate.

See Election/Page 6

Board hears appeal; lifts Brooks' fine

By Michael Sullivan
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Student Government Judicial Board announced at 1:20 a.m. Tuesday that it lifted a \$25 fine issued to student body presidential candidate and Speaker of the Senate David Brooks.

The Student Government Election Commission levied the fine Sunday against Brooks for tampering with the mail of fellow senator and student body presidential candidate John Ansbach.

Brooks appealed the fine Monday. The judicial board reviews all appeals concerning rules infractions, including election proceedings.

Brooks said he was pleased with the board's decision. "I feel completely vindicated by the fact they overturned the fine," Brooks commented.

"I maintain — and I feel the Judicial Board says — I did nothing wrong. At the same time I would like to state that this incident makes it quite clear to what lengths candidates will go to avoid the issues."

However, Charles Phipps, Student Government judicial board chairman, said Brooks' appeal only concerned the

See Judicial/Page 6



RANDALL NICHOLS/The Battalion

Lindy Hardin delivers her campaign speech for the office of General Studies senator Tuesday night at the Senate Forum.

Candidates target communication

By Tanya Sasser
The Battalion

Many people think there is not enough communication between Texas A&M Student Senate representatives and their constituents, and many of this year's candidates voiced their desire to change that in a Student Senate forum Tuesday night.

Despite the low audience turnout, candidates for the Student Senate were given the opportunity to address concerns and to state their campaign plans to solve these concerns.

Stephanie Graham, organizer of the forum, said that it was ironic because although the forum was intended to discourage

voter apathy, very few people turned out to hear what the candidates had to say.

Graham urged the candidates not to be discouraged by the small audience and to help each other by educating voters by word of mouth.

"A very few people came out to see y'all so it's important that y'all help each other out," she said. "If you help somebody, chances are they're going to help you and you can spread the word about anyone that has made an impression on you tonight."

One issue that turned up frequently was that of poor communication between students and their representatives.

Troy Miller, an off-campus Student Senate candidate,

thinks lack of communication has become a big problem within the Senate.

"I think that there is such a thing as being 'too political,'" Miller said. "By that I mean that representatives lose touch with their constituency."

David Stone, a liberal arts candidate, agreed that the communication gap is often the fault of the representatives and not the students.

"We don't communicate well with our constituents as senators," he said.

Brian Walker, business Student Senate candidate, geared his speech toward this same issue.

"In the past, the Senate sometimes hasn't gone out and gotten enough information

from their constituents," Walker said.

Although the lack of communication between students and Senators was on almost every candidate's agenda, Brook Leslie, a current off-campus student senator running for reelection, said she hopes to improve organization within the Senate.

Leslie said she regretted not having the opportunity to experience formal training as a new Senator this year.

"A lot of the Senators have fantastic ideas about developing programs for students that are not on the Senate but I would like to concentrate within the Senate," she said. "I would like to see a program developed for the new senators."

A&M military official supports Perot's choice

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

A Texas A&M military expert says Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot could not have picked a better running mate in his maverick bid for the presidency.

Dr. Art Blair, deputy director for administration at the Mosher Institute for Defense Studies at A&M, said Admiral James Stockdale, a retired Navy combat pilot, is a wise choice. Perot announced Stockdale as his interim running mate Monday.

"He (Stockdale) is a really fine individual," Blair said. "He's a deeply philosophical and moral man with a lot of integrity."

Perot said he will run for president if he can get on the ballot in all 50 states as an independent candidate.

Twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia require independent candidates to select running mates. Perot's decision will allow the petition process to begin in these states.

Stockdale is presently a senior research fellow at Stanford Uni-

versity's Hoover Institution.

Before joining the A&M faculty, Blair worked for Stockdale at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. The Citadel is a military institution with 2,000 male students.

Stockdale was appointed president of The Citadel in 1979 while Blair was head of the English department. Stockdale was hired to reform the freshman cadet system and chose Blair as his assistant.

Blair said Stockdale resigned because his recommendations on how to improve the school were ignored by alumni.

"He had basically been denied the ability to do what he'd been hired to do," Blair said. "He's an extremely honest and thorough person."

Stockdale, 68, was a combat pilot in Vietnam. Captured in 1965, he remained a prisoner of war for 7 1/2 years.

Blair said Stockdale's experience as a prisoner made him the hard-nosed man he is today.

"Seven years of being a POW brings out the best of someone," Blair said. "It tempered Stock-

See Military/Page 5

ELECTION BEGINS TODAY

Student body elections will be held Wednesday and Thursday, April 1 and 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the following polling places:

**Blocker Building
Kleberg Center
Sterling C. Evans
Library
MSC foyer (between the Shop and Rudder Tower).**

Runoff elections will be held Tuesday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the same locations.

HOMOSEXUALITY AND RELIGION

Gays, lesbians examine relationship with God, church

By Julie Polston
The Battalion

Four clergymen from various denominations discussed including gays and lesbians in their churches through a variety of support services at a panel discussion Tuesday evening in Rudder Tower.

The Gay and Lesbian Student Services sponsored the lecture as part of Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week at Texas A&M University.

"There's a trend within Christianity over the centuries to guard and protect the truth," said Michael Dack, pastor of Friends United Church of Christ in College Station.

The truth is, gays and lesbians are involved in churches both as members of the congregation and in the clergy itself.

A common topic addressed was the acceptance of the marital union of homosexuals, which varies among denominations.

"There is wide controversy within the Church of Christ (concerning homosexual marriages),"

he said.

However, the Rev. Ron Grant with the Lambda Christian Fellowship said homosexual union is accepted in his denomination.

An important concern for the churches represented at the discussion is to provide acceptance and support for gays and lesbians.

"So much has happened in the last 20 years in mainline churches," Grant said. "There is enough support in these churches, so you don't have to live in San Francisco or Berkeley."

Doug Ensminger, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Houston, said stereotypes will persist until the heterosexual population accepts homosexuals as friends, co-workers and acquaintances.

"Stereotypes don't give up easily, they fight tooth and nail to stay alive," he said.

One's upbringing, fear of the unknown and society's "uptight" view of sexuality are all barriers preventing homosexuals from being accepted into society, Ensminger said.

The panel tried to stay clear of biblical interpretations. However,

Will Main of the Unitarian Fellowship in College Station, commented on homosexuality and religion.

"Christian churches say they follow Jesus, and Jesus never said anything about homosexuality," he said.

Dack said it will be a slow pro-

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Michael Dack, pastor of Friends United Church of Christ in College Station.

cess for the church to deal with and accept biblical texts regarding homosexuality.

"You can't avoid dealing with biblical texts," he said.

Continuing with Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week, the student organization will sponsor two more lectures Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.