

Texas A&M *The Battalion*

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State governor race stirs debate among Aggies

By Nicole Cloutier
The Battalion

As the race for Texas governor heats up, Texas A&M students examined each candidate's platform at a debate Tuesday night to help them in their voting decision.

The debate, which was between members of Aggies for Ann Richards and Aggies for George W. Bush, focused on various issues of concern to Texas citizens.

Suzanne Chase, executive chair and member of Aggies for Richards, said the debate was undeniably a success because attendees left more informed and aware of the issues.

"I think that the people who came knew what issues were important to them and they left knowing more about them," Chase said, "and the diversity of not only the issues,

but the candidate's beliefs on things such as education and welfare, things that affect us directly."

Chase, a junior political science major, praised the accomplishments of Richards as governor, saying she could lead the state through another four-year term.

Caleb Rackley, a member of Aggies for Bush and a freshman political science major, said the attendees should look at the changes Richards has not made and the promises she has not kept as governor.

"Are you happy with the way things are?" he asked.

Eric Gruetznier, a member of Aggies for Richards and a senior political science major, praised Richards for the expansion of the Texas corrections facilities and her attempts to keep convicted felons from returning to the streets.

Bradley Schumaker, a member of Aggies for Bush who is working on his master's, said making more prison beds available was not the solution to the problem that has led Texas to be identified as the third most dangerous state in the nation.

"People do not feel safe anymore," Schumaker said. "And building more prisons is not the real solution. What does building more prisons do? What about the criminals who are never caught?"

Schumaker said there are 6,000 empty prison beds in Texas at this time, and Bush plans to tackle the crime problem at its roots by preventing criminals from ever reaching prisons.

But Gruetznier said Richards' goal was to keep convicted felons behind bars and out of trouble.

"Ninety-six percent of the con-

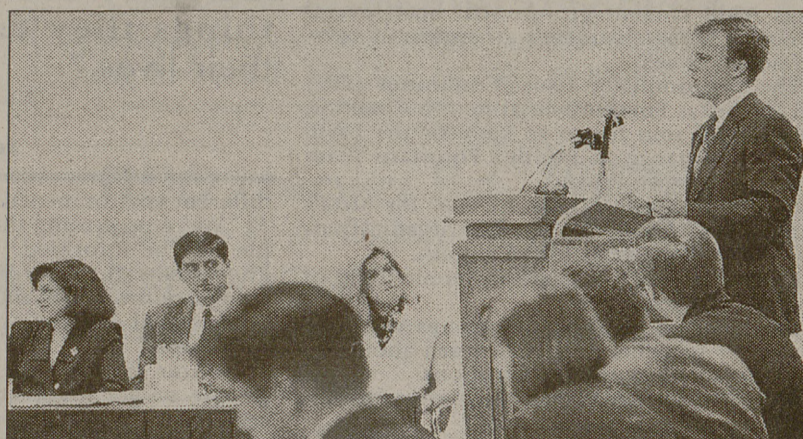
victs will go free in the next three years because we can't keep them in," Gruetznier said.

Another issue that arose during the debate was gun control.

Jason Herrick, a member of Aggies for Bush and an industrial distribution major, said he did not want officials in Austin to rape Texans of their constitutional right to bear arms.

"They continue to fight the conceal and carry laws that allow us to protect ourselves... for fear that they might lead to shoot-outs over fender benders or some sort of wild west lawlessness," Herrick said.

Patrick Gendron, a member of Aggies for Richards and a senior political science major, said people do not need high-powered rifles on the streets for protection.



Alex Olsen/Special to The Battalion

During a debate between George W. Bush supporters and supporters of Gov. Ann Richards Tuesday night, Bradley Schumaker addresses how Bush plans to deal with the problem of crime.

The unsung heroes

Rescuers in Holocaust risked lives to safeguard Jews, professor says

By James Bernsen
The Battalion

Rescuers who saved Jews from the Holocaust are a reminder that goodness can even be found in mankind's darkest hour, Arnold Krammer, a professor of history at Texas A&M, said in a lecture Tuesday night.

The rescuers are people who risked everything to conceal and safeguard Jews during the Holocaust.

See Related Story/Page 8

"When faced with an awesome choice, they chose to do the right thing," he said. They risked a lot. They could have been shot on the spot."

Krammer said thousands of Christians were shot or deported to the gas chambers for attempting to help the Jews.

"The Nazis even killed entire families of those people who were rescuers," he said.

Krammer said there were rescuers in every country the Germans occupied.

"Rampant anti-Semitism in Europe at the time would have made any effort on the part of Jews suicide," he said. "Yet against all odds, some people did."

Krammer said researchers in Israel have identified 9,295 rescuers.

"That's really a small number," he said. That's less than the number of Hungarian Jews killed in Auschwitz on a single day dur-

ing the height of the Holocaust.

Many more may never be identified or may have died at the hands of the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police, he said.

Krammer said research to determine what motivated rescuers to risk their lives has determined several reasons, including religious conviction, hatred for the Nazis and personal gain.

Krammer said Oscar Schindler, the rescuer portrayed in Steven Spielberg's recent movie, "Schindler's List," was only a war profiteer at first.

"His widow says even today that his righteousness developed much later, if at all," he said.

Krammer said most rescuers had a sense of independence, a strong model in their minds of the difference between good and evil and the ability to disregard the negative attributes of the victims.

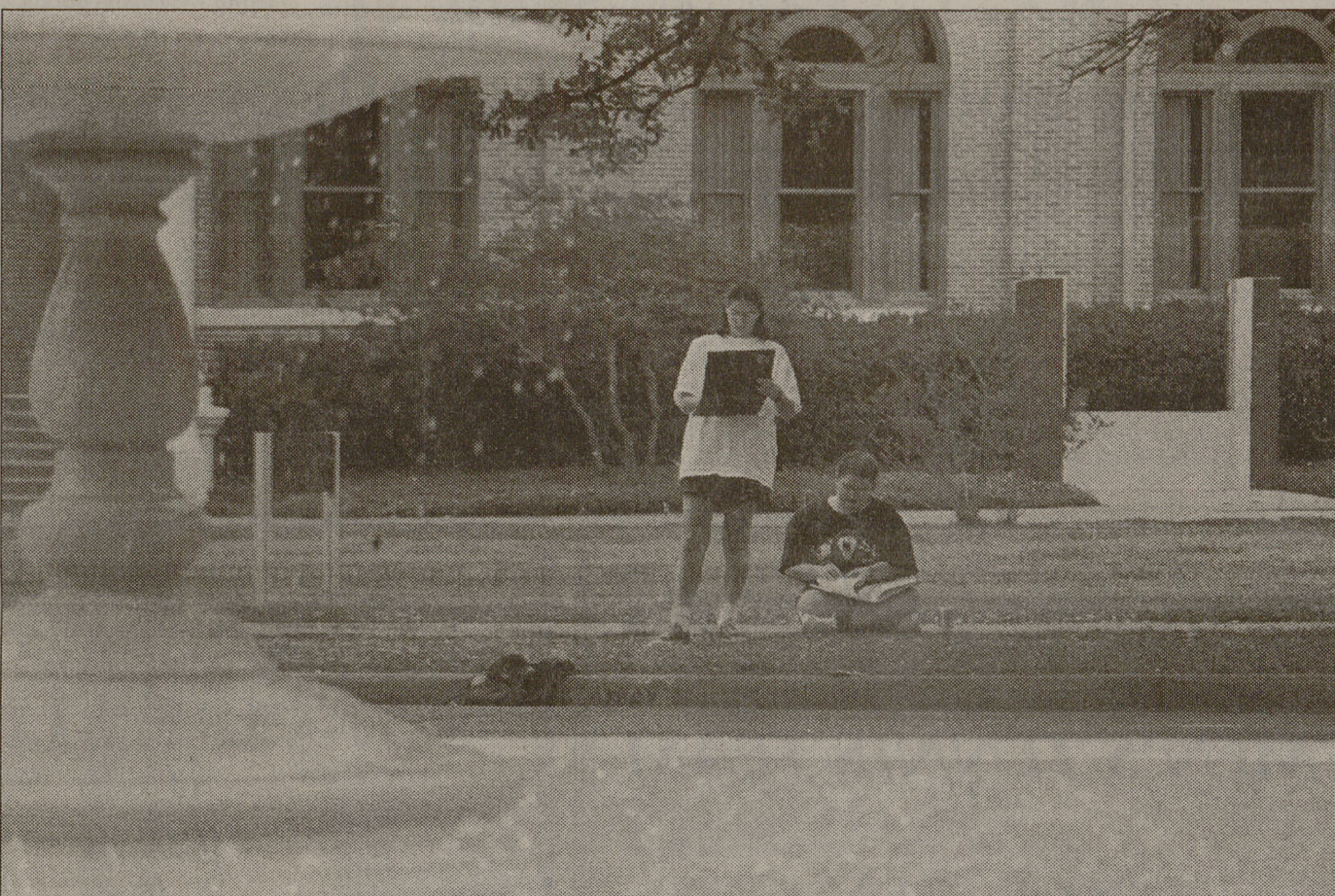
He said almost all the rescuers decided to help on impulse and most saw nothing extraordinary in their actions.

"The rescuers, almost entirely, generally believed that they did anything that should or could be done," he said. "Good people do good things."

Some rescuers took in Jews to convert them, many were motivated by the face of a child and some, who hated Jews, took them in anyway out of belief in Christian principles.

See Holocaust/Page 8

Young artists at work



David Birch/The Battalion

Heather Meredith (left), a freshman environmental design major, sketches a picture of Fish Pond in front of Sbis Dining Hall Tuesday afternoon. Cindy Schiffer (right), a freshman biochemistry and genetics major, helps her friend Heather finish a journal for an ENDS 110 class.

Closed-circuit telecast available for Muster

By Traci Travis
The Battalion

Organizers of the Texas A&M Muster have made some changes in this year's ceremony after several thousand spectators were turned away from G. Rollie White Coliseum last year.

A closed-circuit telecast of Muster will be available in Rudder Auditorium for up to 3,000 people during the ceremony. G. Rollie White Coliseum, which can only seat 8,000 people, was not able to accommodate everyone wanting to attend last year's Muster.

Greg Johnson, Muster committee member, said the live telecast will eliminate a repeat of last year's overflow of people into the MSC flagroom.

"People will get the same big auditorium effect without actually being at the ceremony," he said.

Johnson said last year's turn away of several thousand spectators was primarily for safety reasons.

"By fire marshal standards, we had no choice but to turn people away," he said.

In addition to the goal of accommodating more people, this year's Muster committee is trying to reach out to a more diverse crowd, Johnson said.

An international student reception will be held for the first time immediately after the ceremony in the MSC. Members of the Traditions Council and the MSC Hospitality Committee will be available for international students who have questions about Muster.

The actual Muster ceremony consists of songs, poems and a keynote speaker. The close of every Muster includes a roll call for the absent in which names of the deceased Aggies are read and friends answer "here" in their place. A candle is lit as the name is read, and this is followed by a 21-gun salute.

"Even though they are not here in body, they are here in spirit," Johnson said.

Johnson said every student should attend Muster.

"Even if you never go to a Muster, you are still going to go to one," he said. "It's going to be the one right after you die."

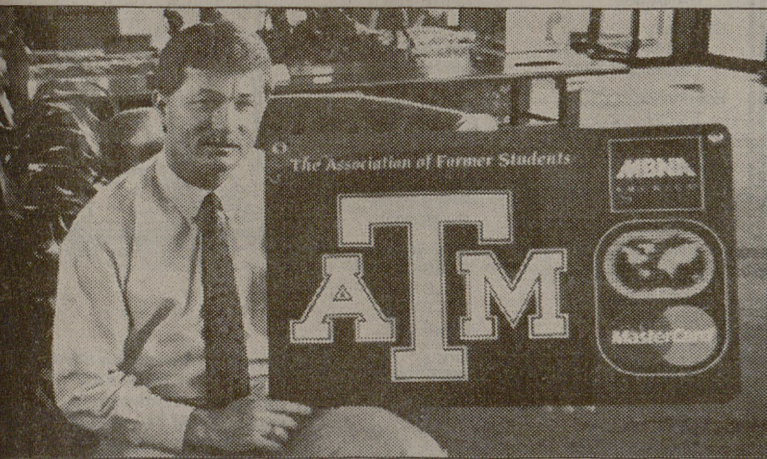
This year's Muster will honor the Class of '44 who will be celebrating their 50-year graduation anniversary.

Muster begins Thursday with a "Muster Camaraderie" barbecue from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the Academic Building. Entertainment will include the Aggie Wranglers, the Logan Brothers and Robert Earl Keen Jr.

The keynote speaker at the ceremony will be Dr. Andres Tijerina, Class of '67 and assistant professor of U.S. and Texas history at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Tijerina flew 150 combat missions with the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam and his war memoirs were published as the final volume of the Time-Life Books series concerning the war.

Tijerina was selected from 200 nominees because of a speech he gave at a Muster last year, Johnson said.

More than 300 apply for Aggie Mastercards



Blake Griggs/The Battalion

Jim Jeter, associate executive director of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students, holds an enlarged replica of the Aggie Mastercard.

By Stephanie Dube
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Association of Former Students recently signed a five-year contract with MBNA to issue Aggie Mastercards to supporters of the University, and more than 300 people have applied for the card since the program began last week.

Jim Jeter, associate executive director of the Association, said organizers of the program hope to have 30,000 to 40,000 cards issued within the next five years.

"The Aggie Mastercard is primarily aimed at graduates, but it is available to anyone who considers themselves a part of the Aggie family," Jeter said.

Tod Weaver, senior vice president for MBNA, said the Aggie Mastercard offers many benefits to the user

and to the University.

Weaver said card holders receive travel accident insurance, lost luggage insurance, collision damage waiver insurance and twenty-four hour customer service if they use their card to charge their plane ticket.

Jeter said the Aggie Mastercard also benefits the University.

"The Association will receive a small royalty whenever the card is used, which could mean money for academic projects," Jeter said.

Jeter said these academic projects would include scholarships, student loans, faculty programs and awards.

Weaver said this type of program has been tried successfully at other universities.

See Card/Page 4

More inside . . .

Earth Day International	pg. 2	Opinion What's Up	pg. 9
	pg. 7		pg. 4

B-CS faces recent increase in car thefts, officials say

By Nicole Cloutier
The Battalion

Many police department officials and car alarm dealers in the Bryan-College Station area are reporting an increase in automobile theft this year.

Lt. A.W. Onstott of the College Station Police Department, said there has been a 25 percent increase in automobile thefts in the past three months.

Onstott said many people are not aware that burglaries exist in this area.

"It's hard to believe, but a lot of people just do not lock their doors," he said.

But University Police Department officials and Bryan Police Department officials are reporting little or no increase in car burglaries.

UPD Lt. Burt Kretschmar said UPD records do not indicate a significant increase in vehicle burglaries on campus.

Sgt. Dale Cuthbertson, of the Bryan Police Department, said the automobile burglary rate in Bryan is down slightly from last year.

Local businesses specializing in the sale and installation of car alarm systems have also noticed the increase in car burglaries. Many dealers are reporting an increase in sales.

Bruce Lamphier of Soundwaves, a home and car electronics dealer, said more people are

"It's hard to believe, but a lot of people just do not lock their doors."

- Lt. A.W. Onstott, College Station Police Department

coming in for insurance estimates and quotes on car alarms.

"We have had about a 25 percent increase in the last few months," Lamphier said.

Although many people are concerned about the success of installed alarm systems, Lamphier said a professional installer can help keep burglars away.

Wayne Griggs of Aggie Audio said they also have noticed a particularly good year because of the increase in car vandalism.

"It is rampant in this town," Griggs said.

Bryan and College Station police officers encourage car owners to hide their valuables and lock their cars to combat the increase in auto burglaries in the area.

Cuthbertson said many people leave their car windows open and their valuables in plain view, and he urged motorists to put their valuables in the trunk.

"Women go to clubs and they

See Thefts/Page 10