

Board of Regents chair attends first College Republicans meeting

□ Mary Nan West encourages College Republicans to vote for good candidates, regardless of their party affiliates.

By Lynn Cook
THE BATTALION

Mary Nan West, chairman of the Texas A&M Board of Regents, spoke to the College Republicans Tuesday night about honesty, party politics and adverse publicity.

West said she is not a politician and does not plan to be one, but encourages students to look beyond party lines when making decisions about voting.

"I've always felt that students who use their heads a little bit will vote for the best person running, regardless of party," West said. "When the elected officials take office, they should all forget partisan politics and they should all go to work to do the job they were elected to do. They should always remember that because that's what we the people put them there to do."

West said she appreciates the people who hold difficult political jobs.

"I'm grateful to the people who will step into the political arena," West said. "They will take on what I consider to be a thankless job. I think those people do us a great service and we as voters should be very careful about who we do vote for."

West said she was surprised that she was invited to speak, not only because she is from most members' grandparent's generation, but also because she has been affiliated with "that other party."

"I have voted for Democrats and I have voted for Republicans," West said. "I'm an independent. I think you will find anyone that's a land owner is very conservative and very independent, and that's exactly what I am."

West said she is committed to the truth. She said the public will forgive an honest mistake if those mistakes are admitted.

The Board of Regents has been under scrutiny the past year for misuse of state funds, but have adopted an ethics policy to prevent further problems.

The College Republicans were also criticized last semester when an officer posted unapproved fliers that were considered to be racist.

With work, the Board of Regents will regain the trust of the public, she said. "We can be very positive about some of our past publicity," West said. "As long as

I'm chairman, we're going to operate in the sunshine. We're not going to operate behind closed doors. I think that this Board of Regents is absolutely committed to setting a good example for the employees of this University."

West said that instead of dwelling on the negative aspects of criticism, something should be learned from those mistakes.

"Many times we say 'That isn't fair.' But if you stop and think about it, we have a public trust, and that public trust is very important," West said. "Some people are going to dwell on the bad things and never the good, but there are good things going on at Texas A&M."

West was invited to give the opening speech for the College Republicans' meeting to promote good will between the organization and the University.

"We haven't had a member of the Board of Regents come to a meeting before and we wanted to have her come as a representative of the University," Dave Johnson, vice president for publicity for the College Republicans, said. "We want to show that we are willing to work with the University."

David Brown, vice president of programs, said West is the first member of the Board of Regents to attend a College Republicans meeting. "I think that shows that her priorities lie with the students," Brown said.



Mary Nan West gave the opening speech at the College Republicans' meeting Tuesday night.

COUNSELING TIPS

By Ronald Lutz
STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES

Hypnosis.
The word has many different associations to different people.

For some people the word hypnosis may conjure up an image of a fast-talking man in a dark pinstripe suit swinging a gold watch slowly back and forth as his subject falls helplessly under his complete control.

Others may have heard of hypnosis being used to make people do something embarrassing that they otherwise would not do, such as getting a big, muscular football player to "bark like a puppy."

Although some performers who entertain others using "hypnotic" tricks may sometimes still employ antics like this, the practice of clinical hypnosis is very different and far less mysterious.

Clinical hypnosis involves the use of hypnosis by a trained professional to treat emotional or physical difficulties.

Hypnosis is not a complete treatment by itself. Rather, it is an intervention or tool that a physician or psychologist may use to facilitate the healing process.

As with any tool, the safe and effective use of hypnosis requires an understanding of the nature and causes of the problem being treated, as well as the knowledge of how to best apply this powerful tool to promote change.

So what is hypnosis like and how does it help?

People experiencing hypnosis are not asleep and are not helplessly under the hypnotist's control.

They typically report feeling calm, relaxed and peaceful, while also being more aware of thoughts, feelings and images that may be suggested.

The relaxation and increased awareness enhance receptivity, thereby improving one's ability to understand and remember.

A doctor trained in the use of hypnosis will use the enhanced receptivity to help people learn to have more control over their experiences, both emotional and physical.

Used properly, hypnosis is a safe and often expedient form of treatment.

Although many people worry that they cannot be hypnotized, this is not typically a problem.

Clinical hypnosis is not something done to you, but something you learn to use for your benefit.

Some people respond to hypnosis more quickly and completely than others, but almost anyone who is serious about using hypnosis can learn to respond sufficiently to gain benefit.

There are many different conditions that can be improved with the help of hypnosis.

The only way to determine if hypnosis may be a useful treatment for you is to consult with a doctor who specializes in hypnosis.

And now . . . at the end of this sentence . . . you can return to your paper . . . enjoying the rest of your day!

Daycare: Gathering support

Continued from Page 1

greatly benefit from such a system," he said. "It would give the students who work odd hours a place to take their children while they're working or going to school."

Dr. Joan Dziezyk, associate professor of veterinary medicine, said it is not uncommon for veterinary students to be called in the middle of the night to take care of a sick animal.

"Students with children sometimes find it hard to find a baby sitter at such an hour,"

"The university is all in favor of it and really, it is just a question of money."

— Dr. Ray Bowen,
Texas A&M President

Dziezyk said. "This resolution will help alleviate the problem."

She said a survey done through the College of Veterinary Medicine found that University employees as well as students supported the idea of on-site child care.

"We had a lot of parents who said they would definitely use such a service and hope the University moves forward with the idea," Dziezyk said.

Gail Brooks, Texas A&M executive director of human resources, said there are other ideas to help faculty and students with child care problems. These would include a list of resources and names of child-care facilities around the area, as well as emotional support for parents, she said.

"It would work like a referral service for students and employees," Brooks said. "It would be someplace where parents could go when they had a question about finding a child care service."

Brooks said the program would be an extension of the employee-assistance program, which provides assistance for A&M employees with personal questions or problems. She said that while the Human Resource Department has made a proposal, it is on hold right now.

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, said he supports the idea of child care for students and faculty and is working on a budget for the development of such a service.

"The University is all in favor of it and really, it is just a question of money," Bowen said.

Bowen said Texas A&M officials and faculty senate members will meet Feb. 6 with University of Texas administrators in Austin to discuss and tour their on-campus child care facilities.

Japanese government offering aid to distressed citizens

Prime Minister Murayama asked to resign by New Frontier Party for failing to make timely decisions

KOBE, Japan (AP) — Faced with 307,000 homeless people, the largest number since World War II, the government announced tax breaks Tuesday and low interest loans to relieve suffering from Japan's catastrophic earthquake.

Opposition legislators denounced the government's performance in the wake of the Jan. 17 quake and called on Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama to resign.

One week after the quake, the death toll stood at 5,063 and 68 people were missing. Another 26,500 people were injured and more than 56,400 buildings were damaged or destroyed in the magnitude 7.2 quake.

Authorities must also care for more than 307,000 people now homeless in this once vibrant city of 1.4 million. The homeless are living in tents, makeshift shelters, schools and government buildings.

Plans call for building pre-fabricated, temporary housing, but construction will take weeks to complete.

Electricity has been largely restored, but more

than 633,000 households still lack water and nearly 856,000 have no natural gas. Water trucks roam the city, stopping periodically to allow people to fill containers.

"Our initial grasp of the extent of the disaster was insufficient."

— Kozo Igarashi,
Japanese chief Cabinet secretary

Banks and most supermarkets have reopened. Gasoline stations and about half the schools are operating again. Police were issuing free replacement drivers licenses to those who lost documents in the quake.

The government formally declared Kobe a disaster area, meaning the government will pay about 90 percent of costs for rebuilding roads,

schools and other infrastructure.

Local officials estimated the bill for infrastructure repair at \$58 billion, excluding the cost of restoring gas, power and water.

Survivors can receive low interest loans to rebuild homes and businesses as well as credits on their 1994 income taxes. Those whose property losses exceed their annual income after discounting insurance payments will pay no income tax at all, the Finance Ministry said.

The Health Ministry also relaxed restrictions on foreign doctors. The ministry said foreign volunteer physicians may treat quake victims without Japanese medical licenses.

"What were you thinking of?" opposition delegate Akira Kuroyanagi shouted at the prime minister in an emotional parliament session Tuesday. He demanded Murayama apologize to the nation "for the suffering of the people."

Murayama offered no apology but said his government will spare no effort to improve disaster preparedness.

Later Tuesday, 11 members of the opposition

New Frontier Party called on Murayama to step down. The crisis, they said in a statement, was made worse because "the prime minister's office was late in making decisions."

The Asahi Shimbun newspaper blamed the government's slow response on bureaucratic confusion and inadequate information on the extent of damage.

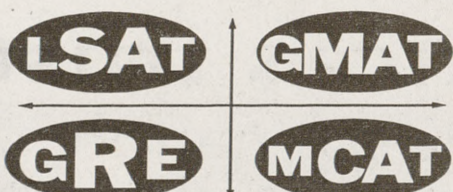
The newspaper said Murayama learned of the quake from a television broadcast about 20 minutes after it occurred. It took 90 minutes for him to receive the first official report.

Asahi said a legislator from the Kobe area, Yuichi Takami, rushed to the scene and telephoned the government's chief Cabinet secretary, Kozo Igarashi, urging him to tell Murayama to declare a state of emergency.

At that time, the death toll was officially reported at 200 and the recommendation was ignored, Asahi said.

"Our initial grasp of the extent of the disaster was insufficient," Igarashi said Monday. "It was a good lesson for future disasters."

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The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publication, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. E-mail: BATT@TAMU1.TAMU.EDU. Newsroom phone number is 845-3313. Fax: 845-2647.

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

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