

# 1995 STUDENT ELECTIONS

# VOTERS' GUIDE

THE BATTALION • Special Pullout Section

## A&M students set to pick 1995-96 leaders

Students can vote on class officers, student senators, student body president and a student referendum Wednesday and Thursday.

by Lisa Messer  
THE BATTALION

The goal of the Student Government's Election Commission is to increase voter turnout during the 1995-96 student body elections.

Chelsey Ferguson, election commissioner, said that 19 percent of the student body the most that has ever voted in an election.

She said that although that number is comparable to other large universities, she wants more students to turn out for elections this year.

"We've tried different publicity tactics to get people out to vote," Ferguson said. "It's get out and vote for so-and-so or get out and vote for this person, but just get out and vote."

Any registered A&M student may vote the elections Wednesday, March 29 or Thursday, March 30 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Polling sites will be located at the Memorial Student Center, Sterling C. Evans Library, Zachry Engineering Center and the West Gazebo, which is located on West Campus by Ag Cafe.

Voters should bring their current student I.D.s to the polling sites.

Students may vote for candidates for student body president, yell leaders, Class of '96, '97 and '98 class councils, Residence Hall Association, Off-campus Aggies and Student Senate.

Ferguson said students may vote for any position that affects their class. For example, a student who entered the University as a member of the Class of '96 may vote for any general election position and for Class of '96 council.

Ferguson said the ballots are checked by Measurement and Research Services to ensure students vote by their class. If a student in the Class of '96 voted for Class of '97 president, that vote would be invalidated.

Members of the Class of '95 may also vote for their class gift and class agents.

Ferguson said the Class of '95 agents is a new addition to the ballot.

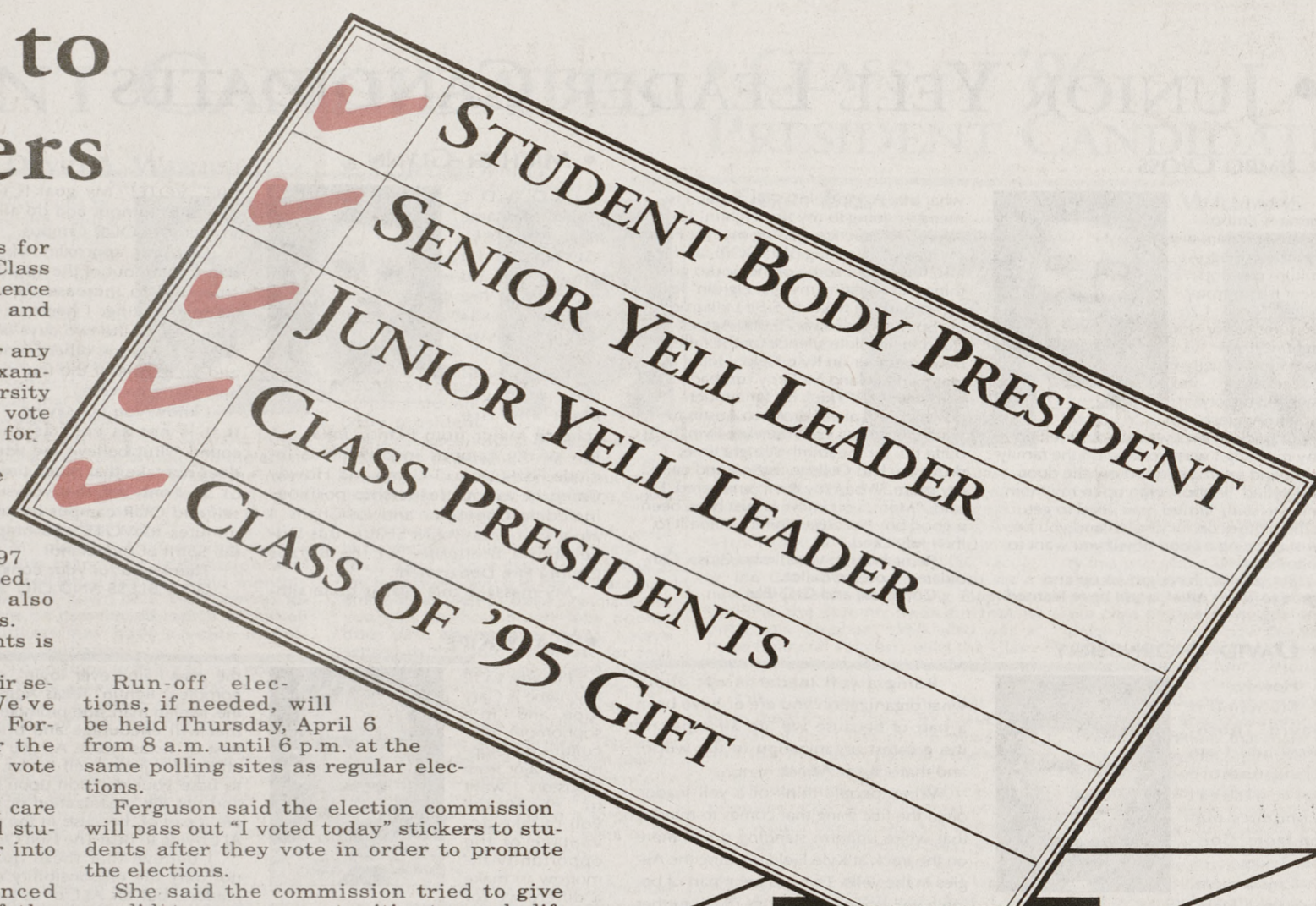
"They usually vote for agents at their senior banquet," Ferguson said. "We've worked a lot with the Association of Former Students to let them vote for the agents earlier than usual. Since they vote for the class gift, why not the agents?"

Students may also vote on a health care referendum that would consolidate all student fee funding for the health center into one fee.

Election results will be announced Thursday at midnight in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue.

Ferguson said she anticipates several run-off elections being needed because many offices, such as student body president and class council positions, must capture a majority of the votes instead of a plurality.

She said when five or six people run for the same office it is difficult to earn a majority without a run-off election.



Run-off elections, if needed, will be held Thursday, April 6 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the same polling sites as regular elections.

Ferguson said the election commission will pass out "I voted today" stickers to students after they vote in order to promote the elections.

She said the commission tried to give candidates more opportunities to reach different voters this year.

"I've been really impressed with the creativity of people's campaigns," Ferguson said. "But at the same time, they're staying within the rules. Not too many problems have come up."

"We haven't seen a lot of mudslinging this year. A lot of candidates have been working together because they realize one of them is going to be elected to the office."

## Class of '95 Gift

## Six proposals to go before voters

by Keryl Cryer  
THE BATTALION

Unlike other traditions that make Texas A&M unique, no one seems to know the tradition of class gifts upon graduation from the University originated.

However, the Class of '95 Gift Committee is continuing the tradition with the recent release of six choices that seniors will vote on during student body elections this Wednesday and Thursday.

Matt Upton, co-chair of the gift committee, said the committee had several goals in mind when selecting the six choices.

"One of our goals as the Class Gift Committee was to find a gift that benefited not only the University and the future students," Upton said.

Kristen Nevius, also a co-chair of the gift committee, said the committee plans to have the gift in place by their fifth-year reunion. They plan to spend approximately \$95,000 of the money that the class has used in its years at A&M.

"All the class balls, boot dance and everything - those were all going into this," Nevius said. "So basically, all along for four years, we've been working for this, to give a class gift."

### Class of '95 Scholarship

The first choice on the ballot will be the Class of '95 Scholarship. It would offer one-year scholarships worth \$1,000 to our members of each incoming freshman class.

"That goes into effect the day we graduate," Nevius said. "Scholarships and endowments go into effect that day."

### Texas A&M College Model

The second option is a model of Texas A&M College as it stood in 1910.

"The reason for doing this is because there are two buildings that are still present today on campus that were present at the time," Upton said.

The two remaining buildings - Nagel Hall and the Analytical Services Building and their 1910 counterparts may be placed in the Sanders Corps of Cadets Center, since the history of the school began with the Corps of Cadets.

### Endowment Package

The third choice is an endowment package that would provide funding to four foundations and organizations on campus, including a Diamond Century Club Membership package through the Association of Former Students.

"That's something a class has never done before," Nevius said. "It generates \$1,000 every year to help with the student organizations."

"There's a Muster endowment and a Sterling Evans Library endowment," Nevius said. "The Sterling Evans is used to purchase books and journals and it'll have the Class of '95 name on them in the book."

The Muster Endowment would help maintain that tradition. There is also a John J. Koldus Endowment that would assist students with emergency aid and provide funding.

"Basically with this package, what we were doing is instead of just giving one lump sum to one facet of the school, we were trying to create a package where we could give a little bit to all areas," Nevius said.

### Muster Endowment Package

The fourth choice would be a Muster package that would establish a monument, possibly on the mound near the Silver Taps Monument by the flag pole in the Academic Plaza. It would also provide funding for the continuance of the tradition.

"The reason we selected to do that was because eventually, not only will it benefit so many people through the years but it will benefit every Class of '95 member as we pass on from this life and as we go through that process of Muster," Upton said. "We chose it because it benefited everyone. We felt that that would go to the student body and eventually will touch so many people's lives," he said. Currently, the funding for Muster

comes from many student organizations. The endowment would cover the costs of setting up and cleaning G. Rollie White and may be used to bring in more family members for those honored at Muster. The final decisions regarding the use of funds will be at the discretion of the Muster Committee.

### Sterling C. Evans Library Endowment

The fifth option is a Sterling C. Evans Library Endowment that would provide for group study rooms in the West Campus Library. Evans Library would also have books, journals and bookshelves with the Class of '95 emblem, Nevius said.

### Student Leader Retreat Center

The final choice is the construction of a Student Leader Retreat Center on land adjacent to Easterwood Airport on West Campus.

"(The gift) will provide partial funding for a 4,000-square-foot multi-purpose enclosed building that will accommodate numerous leadership and things at the retreat center," Nevius said. "The building will be known as the Class of '95 Building and it will actually be the first structure implemented on the retreat site."

The only two choices that would require physical maintenance are the Muster Monument and the 1910 campus model. The maintenance costs or continuance of all of the gifts has been allotted in the prices of the choices.

"Some of the gifts don't cost the full amount," Nevius said. "What happens is the No. 1 gift, whatever the class decides on with the most votes, that's where the money will go. There might be excess money left over and that money will go down into the second gift chosen by the class, and it goes all the way down the line. You can almost have one or more of the choices."

Class of '95 President Cody Burke said the gift committee will know the results on Thursday night, but they will not be revealed to the rest of the student body until later.

"We will not announce those results until the senior banquet on April 22," he said.

## CLASS OF 1995 GIFT BALLOT

### 1. CLASS OF 1995 SCHOLARSHIPS

Establish four one-year \$1000 scholarships. The scholarships will be available by application to any new incoming student with a letter of recommendation from a member of the Class of '95.

### 2. 1910 MODEL OF CAMPUS

A museum quality 1910 model of the campus which will be on display as part of the history of Texas A&M.

Will include the only two present buildings - Nagle Hall and Analytical Services, the second Bonfire, the Interurban Trolley, Old Main, and many other historical buildings that were once a part of campus.

Location: To be determined, possibly in the Corps Center.

### 3. ENDOWMENT PACKAGE

• **Endowed Diamond Century Club Membership** - Through the Association of Former Students, it will be used to directly benefit student organizations and life.

• **John J. Koldus Endowment** - For the quality of student life, it will be used to provide loans or grants to students and assistance for student organizations in support of Texas A&M traditions.

• **Muster Endowment** - Used to aid Muster in operation and maintenance costs in order to help the committee become self-supporting.

• **Sterling C. Evans Library Endowment** - Used to purchase new books and journals with the Class of '95 name on them.

### 4. MUSTER MONUMENT AND ENDOWMENT

A monument depicting the symbolic lighting of candles to commemorate those Aggies that have gone before us. The endowment will be used to aid Muster in operation and maintenance costs in order to help the committee become self-supporting.

Location: To be determined, possibly near the Silver Taps monument.

### 5. STERLING C. EVANS LIBRARY ENDOWMENT

Establish an endowment for the renovation of a West Campus Library group study room which will bear the Class of '95 name. The Library will match the endowment.

In the Evans Library, a Book range / Book plate endowment will be established for the purchase of books and journals.

### 6. STUDENT LEADER RETREAT CENTER

Would provide partial funding for a 4,000-square-foot, multipurpose enclosed building that will accommodate the numerous leadership initiatives of students and student organizations. This activity center will be known as the Class of '95 building and would be the first structure implemented on the retreat site.

Location: University property adjacent to Easterwood Airport.

