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THE BATTALION

Vol. 102, No. 122 (12 pages)

Serving Texas A&M University Since 1893

Wednesday • April 3, 1996

Bush visits Aggieland

By Danielle Pontiff
THE BATTALION

Texas Gov. George Bush, son of former President George Bush, said in a speech at Texas A&M Tuesday night that he has learned a lot about the needs of Texans throughout the past two years.

In the speech, which was hosted by MSC Political Forum, Bush told 800 students and community members that he has enjoyed the work and continuous learning involved with being governor.

"I'm getting more educated in the capitol," Bush said. "You never stop learning in life. This is interesting work, and I have learned a lot."

Bush said governors of other states are impressed with how limited government works in Texas. The state constitution allows the legislature to meet for 140 days every two years.

"Other state governors can't believe it," Bush said. "Their legislatures meet almost every day. I've seen first hand that you can get a lot done in a limited time."

Bush told the audience that the best policies are those made by individuals at the local level who base their decisions on common principles.

"The government should trust local people to make decisions for schools and communities," Bush said. "It is important in Texas to put partisanship aside to make Texas a better place. Listen to other people's views."

The governor said he intends to increase the literacy rate for children in Texas public schools during his term in office.

"There are 310,000 students in Texas that failed the basic reading test," Bush said. "If you can't read, you can't learn. There is no more simple or profound goal other than every child in Texas must be able to read."

Bush said foreign policy with Mexico is another issue he has been concerned with as governor. He said he considers Mexico a nation with

promising economic and social growth, and he supports cooperation between the United States and the Mexican government.

"Problems are best solved with a spirit of friendship as opposed to a hostile environment," Bush said. "We want Mexico to succeed. I reject any isolationist rhetoric that would (separate) Texas (from) our neighbors in the south."

Bush also discussed the Hopwood vs. Texas decision with the audience. He said he agrees with the decision in the district court case, which makes it illegal for state universities to use ethnicity as a criteria for admissions and scholarships. He said that students who work the hardest are the ones who should be rewarded and that race should not be an issue.

"I don't think the university

should include people based upon race or exclude people based upon race," Bush said. "I really believe there's a decent way to not discriminate by race. Recruit the best students that work the hardest."

Bush urged students to get involved with the state government to make Texas a better place. He told audience members that they must work to improve the state and nation and that they must take responsibility for their actions.

"This great University understands the importance of the individual and the community," Bush said. "We must take control of our own destiny. I want a new day where each and every one of us becomes accountable for what we do or say."

Ryan Tucker, an MSC Political

See Bush, Page 5



Don Wilson, (right) Texas A&M executive director of the George Bush Presidential Library, looks at plans for the library with Gov. George Bush (center).

Sterling Hayman, THE BATTALION



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

RUBBER DUCKY, YOU'RE THE ONE

Laurie Alexis, a freshman accounting major, collects rubber ducks at the end of a rubber duck race in Rudder Fountain. The races were held by OPAS as a fund raiser.

Board includes A&M student

College Station City Council forms Northgate Revitalization board

By Kendra S. Rasmussen
THE BATTALION

The College Station City Council voted Thursday to approve the formation of a Northgate Revitalization Board to oversee Northgate projects and serve as a link between the City Council and Northgate merchants and property owners.

Todd McDaniel, Northgate project coordinator, said the board will consist of 12 members representing different parties interested in the revitalization efforts.

Two Texas A&M administrators, Dr. Jerry Gaston, vice president for administration, and Tom Williams, director of

Parking and Transit Services, have been selected to serve on the board.

Other members will include an architect, Julius Girbou of Texas A&M, two property owners, two merchants, two church representatives, and one real estate professional. One additional position has been filled, as well.

McDaniel said the board is seeking an A&M student to fill a vacancy on the board.

He said the student representative, who will be a voting member, will be included so that students' concerns are addressed.

"I welcome the opportunity of having someone from the student population represented," he said.

Applications will be available for the student position, which will be appointed by council and board members.

McDaniel said the board will serve four basic purposes — offering advice to city staff about Northgate revitalization efforts, communicating ongoing activities to others in the Northgate district, soliciting participation from Northgate merchants and property owners, and performing design reviews.

Richard Benning, board vice chairman and owner and manager of Dudley's Draw and Fitzwill's, said the revitalization board will work to carry out Northgate projects that will benefit the community.

"(The Board will serve as) a clearinghouse of ideas to help facilitate the revitalization propositions of Northgate," he said.

Gaston, board member and A&M vice president for administration, said the board will consider all viewpoints when making its decisions.

"Certainly the committee will want advice from all interested parties about the future of Northgate, but I don't believe each member is what I would call a single constituent representative," he said. "We are to look at the whole rather than one single part of it."

"I would like to see that the

See Board, Page 6

Child care site not supported by GSC

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

The Graduate Student Council approved a motion last night to support a child-care facility at Texas A&M; however, members did not support the center's proposed site.

The Granada Building, located in Research Park, needs major structural overhaul, including a new foundation slab. The council cited the Radiological Safety Office, a department in the Granada Building, as another concern because members fear the office could expose children to radiation.

So far, \$680,000 has been allocated to the Granada Building through coin-operated laundry machines and telephones. The money collected is insufficient to complete the renovation.

Because the Granada Building would accommodate 80 children, only about 25 graduate students would be able to take advantage of the center.

Council members said one possibility would be to purchase a \$300,000 building, which would allow for 100 children, and move it to a new site at the University-owned apartments.

See Site, Page 5

Speaker addresses rape prevention

By Erica Roy
THE BATTALION

Katie Koestner, a former student at the College of William and Mary, told Texas A&M students Tuesday night at the MSC about her rape as a college freshman.

Koestner, whose program was the result of

the efforts of several University organizations, spoke about the ordeals she faced after the rape and the problems she had with administrators when she sought disciplinary action.

Koestner's "No/Yes" program on date rape addressed the apathy of the administration at William and Mary, which convinced her to share her story with other students.

She said remaining silent would have been easy, but she feared that no one else would speak up if she did not.

Koestner outlined for the audience three ways to try to prevent rapes, citing communication, responsibility and respect as the key components to stopping date rape.

She said clear, verbal communication is necessary, and she advised men to ask women for consent because, "verbal consent is the safest consent."

Koestner said responsibility is important when alcohol is being consumed because 90 percent of all date rapes involve alcohol.

However, she said that an intoxicated person "deserves a hangover, not being raped."

Respect for rape survivors, Koestner said, is another way to prevent date rapes.

"As long as rape is a joke, it will not stop," Koestner said. "It takes a very brave man to say 'I didn't find it funny,' especially here at Texas A&M."

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Cory Willis, THE BATTALION

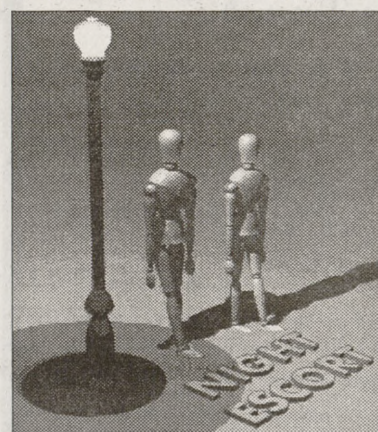
Katie Koestner, a rape survivor, tells students ways to prevent rapes.

Corps offers new library escorts

By Michelle Lyons
THE BATTALION

The Corps of Cadets and Sterling C. Evans Library are offering a special escort program for students who spend late nights at the library.

Students will now have access to the Guard Room from a special phone located at the entrance of the library to request an escort to accompany them from the library to their cars or residence halls.



The library escort program is part of the Guard Room Escort program, which the Corps has been providing for several years.

Colleen Cook, library associate dean, said that because the library has been undergoing some major transformations, parking near the library has become increasingly difficult and safety has become an issue.

Cook said the phone at the front desk will allow an almost immediate response from the Guard Room escorts.

In addition, the Corps escorts will carry hand-held radios so they can easily get in touch with the desk and will be able to help person after person, instead of having to check in with the Guard Room between assignments.

Col. Lee McCleskey, Commandant's Office Operations and Training chief, said the Corps was approached by library personnel who recognized that students might be exposed to dangerous situations late at night.

The construction area is not well-lit, Lee said, and chain-link fencing makes passage difficult. "Although the Guard Room Es-

corp policy is not new, this relationship with the Library is new," Lee said. "Working together to help the students is what this is all about."

Fred Heath, library dean, said in a press release that the program will benefit students who frequent the library during late-night hours.

"The safety of students coming and going from the library during the evening hours has long concerned us, and we are very pleased that Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling has offered to extend the Guard Room Escorts' duties to include assistance from the library," Heath said. "The stability, credibility and trust placed in the Corps Guard Room Escorts makes them ideal partners."

The Corps Guard Room operates 24 hours a day, and a senior cadet is in command at all times. This new service will not be available on holidays or in the summer when the Guard Room is not operating.

The library's new evening shuttle service will also provide students with assistance when traveling to parking lots 50 and 51.