

THE BATTALION

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Moving one

Freshman female enrollment climbs

By CARLA RENE MARSH
THE BATTALION

The women in the Class of '00 outnumber their male classmates, marking the first time in Texas A&M's history that men are in the minority.

Fall figures reveal there are 2,243 freshman women and 1,144 freshman men enrolled at A&M.

Gary Engelgau, executive director of admissions and records, said the freshman female enrollment has slowly increased since women were first admitted to A&M in Fall 1963.

"Another milestone has been passed," Engelgau said.

Anna Bell Harvey, Class of '67, was one of the first 11 women admitted to A&M.

Harvey said the women were required to sign a contract stating they would withdraw from the University if A&M reversed their decision to admit women.

"I didn't realize the impact it had back then," Harvey said.

Harvey said women were either loved or hated by the staff and students, but she has no regrets.

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mountain at a time

Graduates find 'glass ceiling' in some career fields

By COURTNEY WALKER
THE BATTALION

More women are entering careers traditionally dominated by men, but some feel they face a glass ceiling that limits their progress.

The George H. Gallup International Institute polled 1,000 seniors from 88 national colleges and universities. The survey, commissioned by the Graduate Management Admission Council, found men and women perceive their opportunities in the workplace differently.

Kristin Cotrell, a junior psychology major, said men have more career opportunities available to them.

"Men get the higher salaries and have more opportunities, but women want it more and work harder, which is why they get so frustrated with the glass ceiling issues," Cotrell said.

"It's like women are second best and if a man can't get the job or promotion, then the women can have it."

But Teresa Williams, a senior marketing major, said women can overcome the glass ceiling if they have the right mind set.

"I am entering a field,

myself, that is mostly men dealing with other men," Williams said. "Whether I like the situation or not I have to accept and deal with it. I don't go into a situation with a mind set that I have to act different or prove myself. I just treat everyone equally whether they're male or female."

Michael Haack, an engineering graduate student, said the glass ceiling is fading. In his two internships with engineering firms, Haack said, 25 to 30 percent of his superiors were women.

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Freshmen pick leaders

By MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

The Class of '00 went to the polls Tuesday to determine which candidates will lead the freshmen through their first year at Texas A&M.

Jason Jaynes, election commissioner and a junior computer science major, said elections are a stepping stone for freshmen.

"It's a footstep in the door for their future at A&M," Jaynes said.

The elections brought eight days of campaigning by 85 candidates to a close.

Candidates visited residence halls and distributed fliers across campus. Some candidates even wore T-shirts to promote their campaign.

Sarah Vanya, a freshman general studies major, said the more she knew about the candidates, the more likely they were to receive her vote. Fliers with candidates' pictures on them were ineffective, Vanya said, although others may not agree.

"I would want to know the per-

son," Vanya said. "I don't think the picture is going to tell you enough about someone."

Craig Reynolds, a freshman presidential candidate and a mechanical engineering major, said freshmen are enthusiastic about elections but this is no indication of voter turnout.

"Freshmen are pretty excited about electing officers," Reynolds said. "But I don't know if people are excited about the idea of voting."

Reynolds said running for office at A&M is different than in high school.

A&M's large student body, Reynolds said, makes it important for candidates to increase their visibility.

"As freshmen, the name of the game is recognition," Reynolds said.

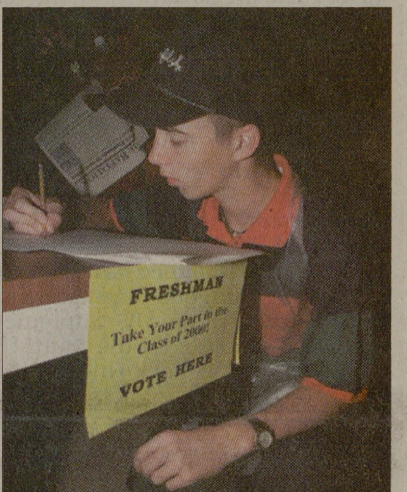
Jaynes said reaching the large constituency in only eight days of campaigning is challenging.

Election results were announced at 7:30 a.m. in front of the Sul Ross statue.

Victory in each office was awarded to the candidate that won

with a majority of the votes. A runoff election will be held if there was no majority vote.

Voting for run-off elections will take place Oct. 8 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the same polling locations.



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Steve Farnham, a freshman petroleum engineering major, votes in the Underground.

Mideast talks to resume

Israel rejects firm date on pullback suggested by U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid tensions and suspicion inflamed by Mideast violence, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shook hands at a White House summit Tuesday and held lengthy face-to-face talks.

After three hours, the discussions recessed on a cordial note, the White House said. The crisis-shrouded meeting helped dispel a mood of mistrust but did not resolve major differences, officials said. The talks will resume Wednesday.

"We've come a long way in the last three years," President Clinton said as he sought to

build on a 1993 peace accord between the two sides. "No one wants to turn back."

Netanyahu said they had come together "to try to put the peace process back on track," after last week's violence left 76 people dead. He said he was absolutely committed to the 1993 agreements, which include the promised redeployment of Israeli troops away from Arabs in the West Bank town of Hebron.

However, Natan Sharansky, an Israeli cabinet officer, said Israel had rejected, as impossible, an American request for a specific date for the troop pullback.

"We say to commit oneself to

a date is to create a built-in possibility of the talks breaking down," Sharansky said.

Further, Sharansky said Israel would not reverse Netanyahu's opening last week of a second entrance to a tunnel that winds around the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, which has shrines sacred to Muslims and Jews. The opening triggered the worst gun battles between Palestinians and Israelis since the 1967 Mideast war.

The White House said the Netanyahu-Arafat talks went "a long way towards re-establishing that notion of trust that must exist between the parties."



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Anna Rodriguez, a senior elementary education major, shows off her pet walking stick. Students in Dr. Gold's entomology class raise a bug for 30 days while observing their daily behaviors. After the project is completed, the bugs are released into the wild.

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What If?

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People blindly follow traditions at University and around the world. Opinion, Page 9

Ross Street construction options under consideration

By WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

Ross Street is caving in and Texas A&M University officials have blocked part of it off to investigate reconstruction possibilities.

The westbound lane of the street, which runs from Northgate to the Administration Building, is closed from the corner of the Sid Richardson Building to the Bus Stop Snack Bar.

Tom Williams, Parking, Traffic and Transportation director, said the westbound lane was blocked because of safety concerns.

"We felt it was not safe to drive on that side," he said. "There were chunks of concrete coming up. We closed it and we put the barriers up."

Dick Williams, associate director of facilities for the Physical Plant, said the first issue is student safety.

"The next step is hiring an architectural engineering firm to tell us what the best options are," he said.

Dick Williams said the University is faced with three options for the street. It could be left the way it is, repaired minimally or fixed completely.

"Each of those considerations has a cost," he said. The decision will have to weigh the benefit of each action against the cost of proceeding, he said.

David Godbey, assistant director of engineering and design services for the Physical Plant, said plant officials have outlined a plan for the project.

"Our next step is to sit down and make up a short list of engineering firms to consider for the job," he said.

Godbey said a Houston company has studied the street using ground-penetrating radar.

The radar detected "numerous anomalies," which Godbey said are areas of erosion from 3 to 12 inches deep.

Godbey said the erosion was probably caused by rain water and faulty utility lines under and around the street.

"[But] what caused it is not

as relevant as what we have to deal with," he said.

Tom Williams said PTTS has considered closing the street permanently.

"We've done a traffic study and a traffic plan and we know that Ross Street isn't needed in our [transportation] system," he said. "The buses actually work better the way we have them now (routed around Ross Street)."

He said an increase in pedestrian traffic around Sbsa Dining Hall and the Bus Stop Snack Bar make closing Ross Street an option that could improve campus safety.

The area could be made into a "pedestrian only" area, Tom Williams said.

But Dick Williams said restricting vehicles would solve only part of the problem.

"No matter what we did on top, there would still have to be something done underneath," he said. "Whatever caused the failing now apparently would still have to be addressed."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

The westbound lane of Ross Street is closed from the Sid Richardson Building to the Bus Stop Snack Bar.