

THE BATTALION

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Freshmen elect leaders in runoffs

By MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

A "disappointing" number of freshmen cast their votes Tuesday to elect this year's leaders of the Class of '00. The winners of the six freshman class council positions were decided by the 88 freshmen who voted in Tuesday's runoff election. The results were announced Tuesday night at the Academic Plaza. Jason Jaynes, election commissioner and a junior

computer science major, said he is pleased with the runoff elections and thinks the candidates were elected fairly.

Jaynes said the new leaders will play an important role on campus and need to meet the goals they set for themselves and the class.

"I would just say to keep the same motivation and enthusiasm that they used in order to gain their office," Jaynes said.

Lauren Gordon, the newly elected social secretary and a freshman sports

management major, said she was confident and excited throughout the runoff campaign.

"I didn't give up," Gordon said. "I just thought good thoughts."

Mike Lemonds, a freshman political science major who was elected president, said the encouragement he received in his campaign was surprising.

"You wouldn't believe the amount of support I got from friends and even people in my classes that I didn't even know well,"

Lemonds said.

Lemonds said he campaigned with the newly elected vice president, Jeremy Poland, to take a friendly approach to their campaigns. He said this made the two-man team more personable.

"I think Jeremy and I work well together and campaign well," Lemonds said. "Hopefully we'll make everybody proud."

Amea Penner, a freshman business major, said everyone has a responsibility to vote.

"It is our responsibility as a class to vote for our officers because they are leaders," Penner said.

Lemonds said he was surprised at how few people were aware of the runoff election.

Kelly McMillan, a freshman agribusiness major, said the election commission should improve its election publicity by reaching out to students who do not live on campus.

"They could get off-campus students involved more," McMillan said. "They

only way I knew about it was from The Batt."

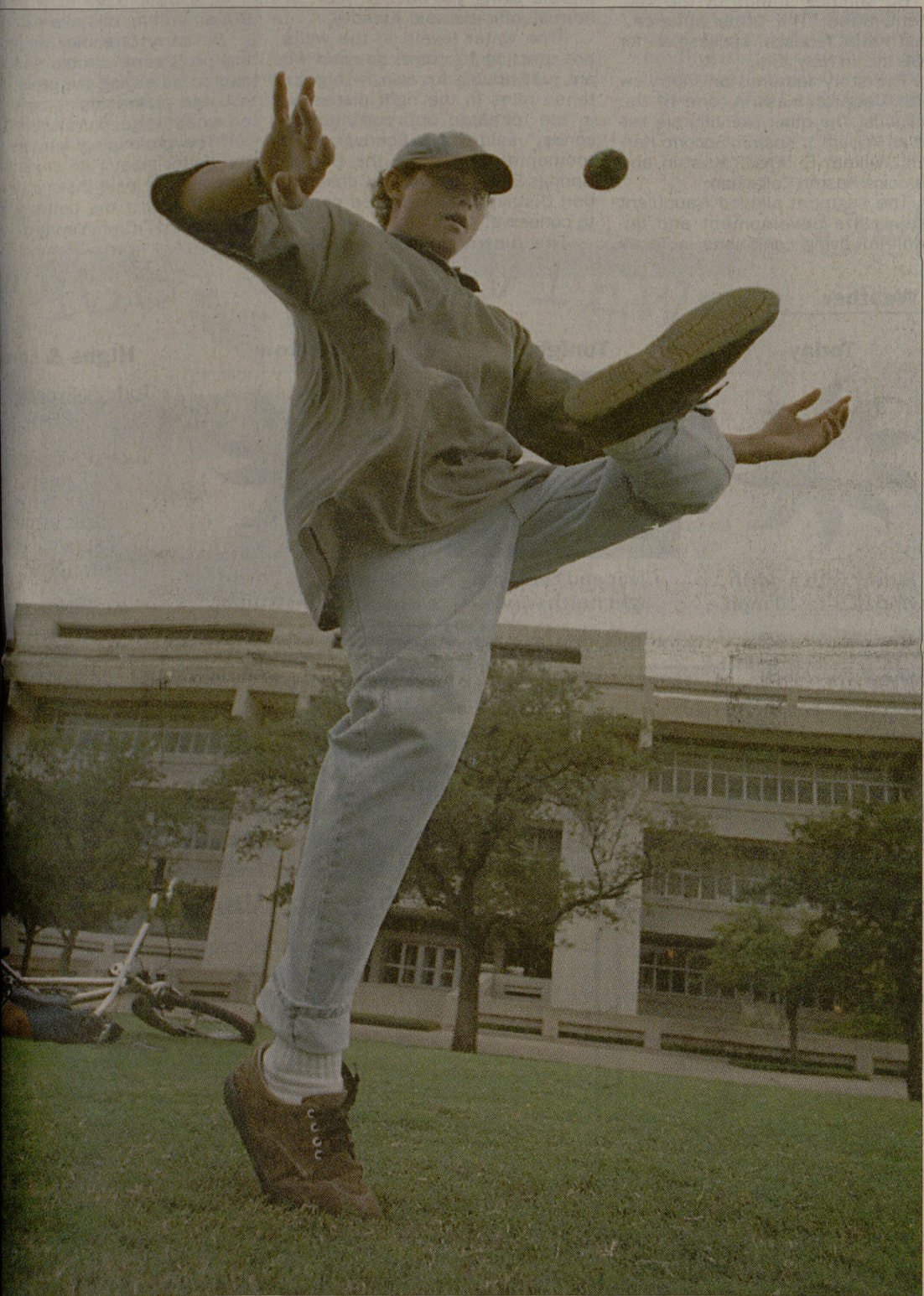
Lemonds said low voter turnout at the general election prompted candidates to focus their campaigns on encouraging freshmen to vote.

"All throughout, I think all the candidates encouraged people to vote no matter who they voted for," Lemonds said.

In runoff elections, the winner must receive the plurality of the vote, which is one vote more than the opponent.

Class of '00 Runoff Results

President
Mike Lemmonds
Vice President
Jeremy Poland
Secretary
Brandy Stockton
Social Secretary
Lauren Gordon
Treasurer
Heather Johnson
Historian
Sally Turner



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Air Ball | Billy Conlee, a senior environmental design major, takes time between classes to play hacky sack Tuesday.

► Coming Out Week

Gays, lesbians unite in groups

By WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

Coming Out Week began Monday with programs sponsored by Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Aggies (GLBA), and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

T. Bradley, GLBA president and a junior political science major, said the group was established 10 years ago following a 10-year court battle for recognition at Texas A&M.

"Our underlying reason is to be a support network for gay, lesbian and bisexual Aggies," Bradley said.

Bradley said about 50 people attended GLBA's first meeting and total membership ranges from 50 to 75 people. The organization is not composed of just homosexuals, she said.

"A lot of people will come because they have friends who are gay," Bradley said.

Grace Latour, a freshman at Southwest Texas State University, is a member of OutYouth Austin, an organization for homosexuals ages 22 and under.

Latour told her "coming out" story to GLBA members at a forum Monday night. She said coming out begins within.

"I asked myself every day if I was

gay," Latour said. "It was always no. It was the summer before my sophomore year (at Austin High) that I came out to myself."

Latour said the process would have been easier if she knew other homosexuals shared the same coming out fears.

Schoolmates harassed and abused her because of her sexual orientation, she said.

"I lost my friends for awhile just because they weren't comfortable with it," Latour said.

Renee Buck, Latour's mother, said her immediate reaction was to alleviate the anxiety her daughter felt about the decision.

"When she first came out to me my first thought was, 'There's probably a group for that,'" Buck said.

But Buck said efforts to organize a support group within the high school were met with opposition by the principal.

"I think he was appalled that we even asked," she said.

Buck said she eventually went to the school board and public interest led to an appearance by Latour on the *Phil Donahue Show*.

Buck said her efforts were successful because the organization was formed.

"We got what we wanted," she

said. "We got a support group."

Ken Burchett, GLBA vice president and a civil engineering graduate student, said the experiences shared show the bravery of those who had come out.

"You need to know the courage that's being shown here," he said.

Coming Out Week Events:

• ALLIES, an A&M organization supporting the homosexual community, will present the movie, *"Private Journeys, Public Stands: Heterosexual Allies Take a Stand For Gay Rights."* Wednesday, 12 p.m., Koldus Governance room.

• Former student and member of the Corps of Cadets Phyllis Frye will discuss "Transgender Issues." Wednesday, 7-8:15 p.m., 401 Rudder.

• Dottie Currie of Planned Parenthood will discuss "No-Fault Homophobia." Thursday, 7-8:15, Koldus Governance.

• Lara Linett, an Austin musician, will perform at the Brazos Valley Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship Church, 305 Wellborn Road, which will be set up as a coffee house to benefit coming out week events. Friday, 8 p.m., \$4 at the door, coffee and pastries provided.

Bone marrow donors sought

By ANN MARIE HAUSER
THE BATTALION

Students may register to be bone-marrow donors on campus today from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the lobby of the Joe Reynolds Medical Building.

The drive is sponsored by the Scott & White Marrow Donor Program and Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine.

Debbie Mabry, coordinator of the Scott & White marrow donor program, said giving blood has a significant impact on donors and recipients.

"It's a life-changing event because they (donors) were able to give a gift to someone in the world that no one else could give them," Mabry said.

People ages 18 to 55 can register to be marrow donors.

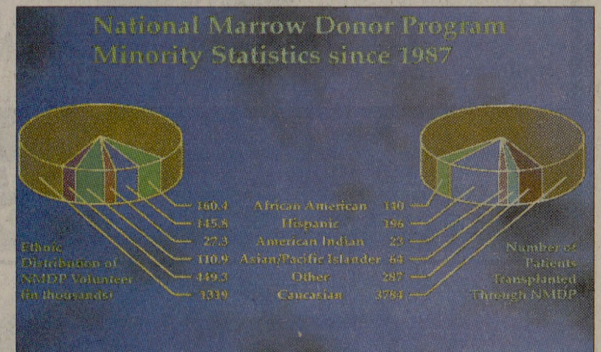
Registering to be a donor involves giving two vials of blood. One vial is tested for the first level of antigens and the results are entered in the computerized registry at the national headquarters in Minneapolis.

The second vial is stored for future testing if a match is found.

Patients with blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma search the registry for a tissue match.

Katosha Belvin of the National Marrow Donor Program in Minneapolis said the on-campus drive is a convenient way for students to donate. Minority donations are currently a top priority, she said.

See **MARROW**, Page 10



THE BATTALION TODAY

Fast Call

Jan Natarajan says goodbye to Ageland, his home for seven years. Aggiewife, Page 3

Ready to Roll

Charged Aggies ready for new challenge this weekend in Troy Davis and Iowa State. Sports, Page 7

Put the Bull

Miller: Aggies are obsessed with designing everything as good or bad bull. Opinion, Page 11

A&M women take '97 Class Council by storm

By MICHAEL LANDAUER
THE BATTALION

For the first time in Texas A&M history, the senior class council is composed solely of women.

Courtney Lyons, class vice president and a senior English major, said voters did not purposefully choose an all-women council.

"I don't know if people were consciously choosing women as much as they were looking for a change from the norm," Lyons said. "People, I think, were looking for a new type of leadership, and they found it in us."

K.C. Allan, class president and a senior accounting major, said the members pay little attention to the milestone despite the council's unique make up.

"A great deal of attention has been directed toward our accomplishment, especially by alumni, but it is not even an issue on '97 Class Council," Allan said. "Initially, we were excited about it. Now, we are charging ahead with our goals."

"We want our legacy to be the first class council to raise \$97,000 or the most motivated class council in history," not the first all-female senior class council." Jenny Martin, class secretary and a senior agricultural economics major, said the members of the council are too busy to think about the fact that they are making A&M history.

"When we first got elected it was a big deal, but now we're too busy to worry about it," Martin said. "I don't think any of

us see it as being all girls — we're just trying to get the job done."

Lyons said the council is conducted in a manner reflecting the members' dedication to it.

"We are a little more emotionally attached to what we are doing," Lyons said. "To us, it is not just a job, it is something that we care about very deeply. I think that is evident by the way we run our council."

The council was elected last spring and will hold its second general meeting tonight in 401 Rudder Tower at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Ring Dance, Elephant Walk and the class gift are only a few of the senior class council's responsibilities.

"These objectives com- See **WOMEN**, Page 10

Bring in the clowns Dole delivers Clinton criticism

LYNDHURST, N.J. (AP) — Under stormy skies, Bob Dole sharpened his criticism of President Clinton on Tuesday and promised to hit harder on the administration's ethical controversies in their next debate. "Bozo's on his way out," Dole said of his rival.

Dole targeted Clinton's integrity in two fiery speeches before rains from storm Josephine cut short his New Jersey bus tour and chased the GOP nominee back to his Washington campaign headquarters.

"His word's no good. My word is good and I'll keep my promises to the American people," Dole said, telling voters not to believe Clinton's line that the GOP ticket would cut Medicare to pay for tax cuts.

"Who is this guy? What does he know about it? What does he know about benefits? What does he know about Medicare," Dole demanded at a misty early-morning rally.

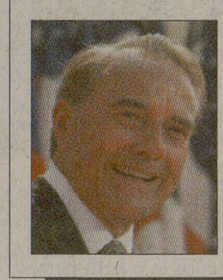
One man in the crowd shouted to Dole as he shook hands, "Please get Bozo out of the White House."

Dole called back, "Bozo's on his way out!" Dole spokesman Nelson Warfield sought to play down the offhand remark as a "light moment along the ropeline." But it recalled the final weeks of President Bush's 1992 losing campaign when Bush referred to Clinton

and Al Gore as "two bozos" who had less foreign policy expertise than a dog.

Clinton deputy campaign manager Ann Lewis took note of Sunday's civil debate between the presidential rivals and added, "I guess this means the era of civility lasted a day and a half."

She said Dole's remark was "particularly glaring" given that the GOP nominee had



"Bozo's on his way out!"

Bob Dole
Presidential candidate

chided Clinton on Sunday for referring to Bush during the 1992 debates as "Mr. Bush" rather than "Mr. President."

White House spokesman Mike McCurry added, "It's not hard to imagine that Senator Dole might be feeling a little desperate at this point."