

Ogden defeats Moore

By KATHLEEN STRICKLAND
THE BATTALION

In a special election Tuesday, voters chose two new leaders for Texas. In the 5th senatorial district, Republican Steve Ogden received 52 percent of the vote, defeating Democrat Mary Moore, who received 48 percent. Republican Dr. Bill Roman won the race for house district 14 with 52 percent of the vote, defeating Republican Richard Smith, who received 48 percent. This special election became necessary when Jim Turner resigned from his state Senate seat to accept his new position in the U.S. Congress in November. The vacancy left in the Texas Senate will now be filled by Ogden, who resigned from the Texas House, leaving his seat open. Roman will now

occupy that seat. Ogden braved the cold wind Tuesday afternoon as he visited with students at the A&M campus. He encouraged them to vote and shared his goals for his new office. "There's two things that I want to focus on," said Ogden. "I want to cut the property taxes in Texas permanently, and fully fund our colleges and universities." Ogden also discussed his change from the House to the Senate. "I'm going to miss being in the House, but I'm looking forward to being in the Senate," he said. "I have been thrilled to represent Bryan-College Station and the Texas A&M campus in the Texas House since 1990. Hopefully, I'll win and continue to do that in the Senate." Moore was pleased with how the election was progressing, but

expressed concern about getting enough voters to the polls. "The race has been really up-beat," she said. "It's been a really short campaign and everyone has had to work very hard. We just hope the voters turn out." Ensuring the children of today have education for tomorrow is paramount, Moore said. "I would like to see every three- and four-year-old be able to attend school," she said. "And make it to where they (students) will eventually be able to attend college or technical school." Moore said she is also concerned with student fees. "What I would look into is your (A&M students') fees and make sure that those are really fair," she said. "You need to know what your fees are going for."

Administrators request \$1.45 billion from state

By MELISSA NUNNERY
THE BATTALION

The Texas Legislature heard testimony this week on why the Texas A&M University System needs a \$1.45 billion budget for fiscal years 1998 and 1999. University President Ray M. Bowen said he wants to maintain A&M's high-quality education while using more money from the state, as opposed to more money from students. Bowen said the University's goal is to gain state funding for academic excellence. "A&M articulated a need for funding for the academic infrastruc-

ture," Bowen said. Library resources and faculty and staff salaries are areas which need improvement, he said. Kathy Harris, A&M System Communications Specialist, said administrators are testifying before the Legislature to explain how they are using the state's money now and how they plan to use it in the future. She said the \$1.45 billion budget is for the entire A&M System, not just Texas A&M University. The proposed budget would help support the system's 10 universities, eight state agencies and approxi-

mately 22,600 full-time employees, Harris said. System Chancellor Barry B. Thompson testified before the legislature about the need for the state to invest more money in higher education. "We proclaim ourselves to be one of the bellwether states, and yet we have 6.15 million people who are functionally illiterate and read at the sixth-grade level or less," Thompson said in an Associated Press story. See **STATE**, Page 6



Bowen

Echo Taps honors Challenger victims

Corps squadron holds memorial 11 years after tragedy

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

Corps of Cadets Squadron 17 honored the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion with an Echo Taps ceremony commemorating the 11th anniversary of the accident. The memorial began at 11 p.m. Tuesday on the Quadrangle. However, members of the squadron are reminded of the tragedy more than once a year. In 1992, two squadrons, Aggressor 17 and Challenger 7, combined to form Challenger 17, named after the space shuttle. Shawn Cones, commanding officer of Challenger 17 and a senior mechanical engineering major, said bearing the name of the shuttle is an honor. "We take a lot of pride in representing the Challenger astronauts," he said.

"We strive to be as good as they were." Cones said the brief ceremony was a symbolic expression of respect students could pay. "The whole reason it is done is to pay our respects," he said. "They gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give a little time out of our day to honor them." Andy Cuellar, executive officer of Challenger 17 and a senior health major, said the memory of the explosion is one most A&M students share. "I think almost every student was at least in elementary [school] when it happened," he said. "And I think this brings us together." The explosion took place after a fail-

ure in the joint between the two lower segments of the right solid rocket motor. Among the crew members killed was Christa McAuliffe, a school teacher chosen for the mission. Cuellar said the death of a teacher hit close to home for many. "I think it made it even more personal," he said. Thousands of students watched as the blaze from the explosion zoomed across the television screen. Cuellar said the vision is embedded in his mind. "I was in the library watching it with my classmates," he said. "It was horrifying to see an explosion." See **CHALLENGER**, Page 6

"We take a lot of pride in representing the Challenger astronauts."

Shawn Cones
Commanding officer,
Challenger 17



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Helping Hand Chris Hydak, a sophomore computer engineering major, hangs a banner for the MSC OPAS production of "Singing in the Rain," with the help of Rhandi Selde, a sophomore bioengineering major.

Artsfair aims to attract students

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society is sponsoring the second annual Artsfair today in the MSC main hallway from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Artsfair will showcase community arts organizations on campus and offer them the opportunity to reach out to Texas A&M students. Artsfair's purpose is to give organizations the opportunity to attract student involvement by advertising in the heart of campus. Approximately 17 community arts organizations, including the Brazos Valley Art League, Brazos Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Brazos Writers and Brazos Valley Chorale, will attend the fair. Other participants include Inkshed Press, the English Club, MSC OPAS, MSC Film Society, Imagination Station, A&M Women's Chorus and J. Wayne Stark Galleries. Students are invited to come and talk with the representatives of these and other organizations. Jeffrey Cranor, director of audience education and development for MSC OPAS and a senior journalism major and,

said the fair will be beneficial to the attending organizations. "Students are a part of the community just like the people who live here all year long," Cranor said. "They should be involved in, or at least aware of, the arts organizations and what they do for our community." Last year, the Artsfair brought over 200 students closer to community arts organizations, Cranor said. A major difference this year is the participation of more diverse organizations, ranging in focus from singing to creative writing. A new attraction this year is the Brazos Valley Jugglers. Cranor said he feels this adds to the variety of arts in the fair. "They are going to be really fun to watch," he said. "I think a lot of students are going to enjoy them." The Artsfair was held in the MSC Flagroom last year. It was moved to the MSC main hallway this year because the Artsfair committee thought the move would attract more students to the fair. Amanda Masino, co-manager of the Artsfair and a junior zoology major, said she hopes for a large student turnout. "Last year was pretty successful. We are trying to continue that this year," Masino said. "MSC OPAS would like to make Artsfair a tradition every year."

University Plus offers classes centered on creative activity

By BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

The Memorial Student Center University Plus program offers Texas A&M students the opportunity to broaden their education with non-curricular classes. Classes offered by University Plus include: craft, dance, language, first aid, guitar, pottery, self defense and defensive driving. No grades or examinations are taken. Classes usually meet for one hour in the evening. Dave "Poppy" Capehart, Class of '75 and MSC Program Manager, said University Plus provides students with an inexpensive opportunity to expand their creativity. "They can take a break from their normal

routine to learn something they wouldn't ordinarily learn and meet new people," Capehart said. Classes that fill up quickly include pottery, dance, woodworking, language and self defense. New classes this semester are billiards, bowling, Windows '95, combat Hapkido, black & white photography and web page design. Around 2,000 people per semester attend University Plus classes, Capehart said. The University Plus office has a woodworking facility that provides students with the opportunity to take classes and have access to lumber and instruction. "It's the only one of its kind [in Bryan-College Station]," Capehart said. Classes are available to everyone, although University Plus caters primarily to A&M students. "We cater to students," he said. "To their prices, their interest level, and their relational needs. They can get out and be a part of something other than classes." Most University Plus instructors work on a part-time basis. University Plus is in need of instructors to teach woodworking and pottery. Capehart said the program is also open to prospective instructors with ideas for new classes. In the future, he hopes to add a computer center and more computer and typing classes.

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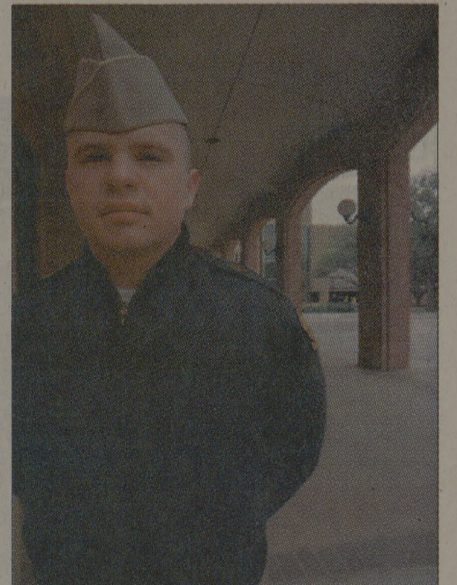
Cadet saves mom from drowning

Flooding waters swept Jacob Landry and his mom into a creek on New Year's Day.

By JOANNE WHITTEMORE
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M student started off his new year making sure someone else would be able to start hers. Jacob Landry, a junior animal science major, saved his mother from drowning on New Year's Day. Landry, a member of the Corps of Cadets Company D-1, was at his family's ranch near the Stillwater River in Columbus, Mont. when the incident occurred. The weather had been unusually warm three or four days prior to the incident, he said, causing snow to melt and flow into the river. "Basically, the rivers were flooding... the warm weather and all the water caused the ice jam to break, and it moved it down below our ranch," he said. "All the water that was trapped flooded our ranch." Landry said the water overran the riverbanks and ran into the creek next to his house. He and his mother, Jamie Landry, had been preparing to cross a bridge over the creek to feed animals in their barn, but before they could reach the bridge, the water reached them. "I looked up and saw this big wall of wa-

ter and ice coming at us," he said. Landry said his mother was swept into the water. He jumped in after her and grabbed her, but both were hit by blocks of ice, separating them. Landry rolled onto a wooden gate floating past, caught hold of his mother, and pulled her onto the wooden gate with him. Mother and son traveled 30 feet before being pushed into shallower waters. Landry said they started walking toward a corral area, but were constantly knocked down by ice floes. He said his mother was having trouble walking, so he helped her. "She was wearing insulated overalls and they got wet and heavy, so she couldn't walk or stand up," he said. "There was another wall of water coming at us and she couldn't get up, so I picked her up and dragged us both to the corrals." Landry said they had picked a lucky spot to wait because the corrals in the surrounding area had been torn down by the ice and water. His father, Clay Landry, Class of '69, had seen them floating on the wooden gate and called the sheriff. Three hours later, they were rescued. Tommy Templar, a senior agricultural development major and member of Company D-1, said Landry always puts other people's needs before his own. "Jake is a real outgoing guy," he said. "He's the kind of guy that would do anything for anybody." Landry was a member of Fish Drill



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Jacob Landry, a junior animal science major, rescued his mother at his family's ranch in Columbus, Mont. Team and the Equestrian Team, has made the Commandant's Honor Roll and is on Army contract. In high school, he played football and was a member of the drama team but, until New Year's Day, he had never saved a life, nor had his life saved. See **DROWNING**, Page 6

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