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Candidate drops out of run-off election Kimmel disagrees with the yell leader run-off referendum's interpretation

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

A difference in the interpretation of the leader run-off referendum caused junior yell leader candidate Robert Kimmel to drop out of the election.

The referendum states that four junior yell leader candidates should go to the run-off. If a candidate receives a majority of the vote, they will assume office immediately. The part of the referendum in question states, "The number of run-off candidates will be decreased proportionally."

It is the student body president's job to interpret referendums passed by the students.

Carl Baggett, student body president and a senior accounting major, interpreted the referendum to mean the number of candidates should be reduced proportionally from the total number of candidates. Therefore, four candidates should proceed to the run-off if one candidate is elected by a majority of the vote.

In this year's election, Brandon Neff, a sophomore business administration major, was elected as a junior yell leader by a majority of the vote.

Sam Bluntzer, a sophomore accounting major; Chad Henke, a sophomore biomedical science major; Gregg Nichols, a sophomore agricultural business major; and Kimmel, a sophomore mechanical engineering

"The purpose of run-offs is to have better representation of our student body."

Robert Kimmel
former junior yell leader candidate

major, are the four run-off candidates. Kimmel dropped out of the election because he thought the referendum meant a proportional reduction in run-off candidates instead of the total number of candidates. Therefore, he thought there should be two

candidates competing for one position.

Baggett said vague wording in the referendum allowed for various interpretations.

"The referendum is very vague," Baggett said. "There are no numbers stating specifically what to reduce or any course of action I should take. With the information given, there are multiple alternatives to take and I interpreted it a certain way."

Kimmel said it surprised him when four run-off candidates were announced, because he thought it was clear in the referendum that "decreased proportionally" meant a reduction from four candidates for two positions to two candidates for one position.

"The purpose of run-offs is to have bet-

ter representation of our student body," Kimmel said. "That's very difficult to do when you have four people running in a run-off. When there's one slot, there should only be two people competing for it. I can hardly see it any more clearly."

Baggett outlined the actions that should be taken in different election scenarios in a March 17 memorandum, but additions were made to the memo on March 27. The scenario of one junior yell leader candidate winning the majority and having a run-off for the remaining position was outlined in the revised memo.

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Olsen Road to close

► PTTs Director Tom Williams said the road's closing will not affect parking on West Campus.

By GRAHAM HARVEY
THE BATTALION

Portions of Olsen Road on West Campus will be closed for redesign within the next 30 days.

Joe J. Estill Jr., manager of the Construction Division for Facilities Planning and Construction, said the stretch of Olsen Road near the Heep Center and the West Campus Library is currently a bottleneck, hindering the steady flow of traffic.

The plan is to tear down the old nearby greenhouse to facilitate the reshaping of Olsen into a boulevard, Estill said.

"We're not shutting down the whole of Olsen," he said. "The area from Old Main Drive to George Bush Drive will

be open. The section from Old Main to the Food Protein (Research and Development) Center will be open, and the area from Raymond Stotzer Parkway into the medical library will be open, but that section will only be accessible from Raymond Stotzer."

The Board of Regents recently awarded a contract for the project, and construction will begin following the completion of routine paperwork, insurance procedures and a preconstruction conference. The project should be complete in about four months, Estill said.

"This will throw a kink into traffic and bus operations, but it will be much better once it's all over," Estill said.

Gary Jackson, manager of Bus Operations, said buses will continue to run near Olsen Road.

"We will have to reroute the buses," Jackson said. "It would be a minor transportation setback, but we would try to provide service somehow."

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services, said the bus stop in that area will be temporarily moved to the other side of the Heep Center.

"Parking will not be affected," Williams said.

Today marks end of Q-drop period for spring semester

A&M allows students to use three Q-drops during their college careers

By BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

The deadline to Q-drop a class is today, making it the last chance for Texas A&M students to drop a class this semester.

Students are normally allowed three Q-drops during their tenure at A&M, but may petition their dean for additional Q-drops, which are granted in the event of unusual circumstances.

In Fall 1995, there were 6,505 total undergraduate Q-drops. Compared to the previous fall, that semester saw a decrease of 905 in the total number of Q-drops.

Don Carter, registrar, said the College of Engineering traditionally has the most students using Q-drops, but that is because they have more students than any other college.

Carter said students who Q-drop a class lose the money they pay to take the class, and the class loses a potential student who could have received credit for it.

"If a student Q-drops a high-demand class, and there are people wanting to take the class, then there's unmet need," Carter said.

Dr. John Fleming, an undergraduate adviser for the electrical engineering department, said most seniors in the electrical engineering department have used zero or one Q-drop when they graduate. The electrical engineering department does not grant extra Q-drops.

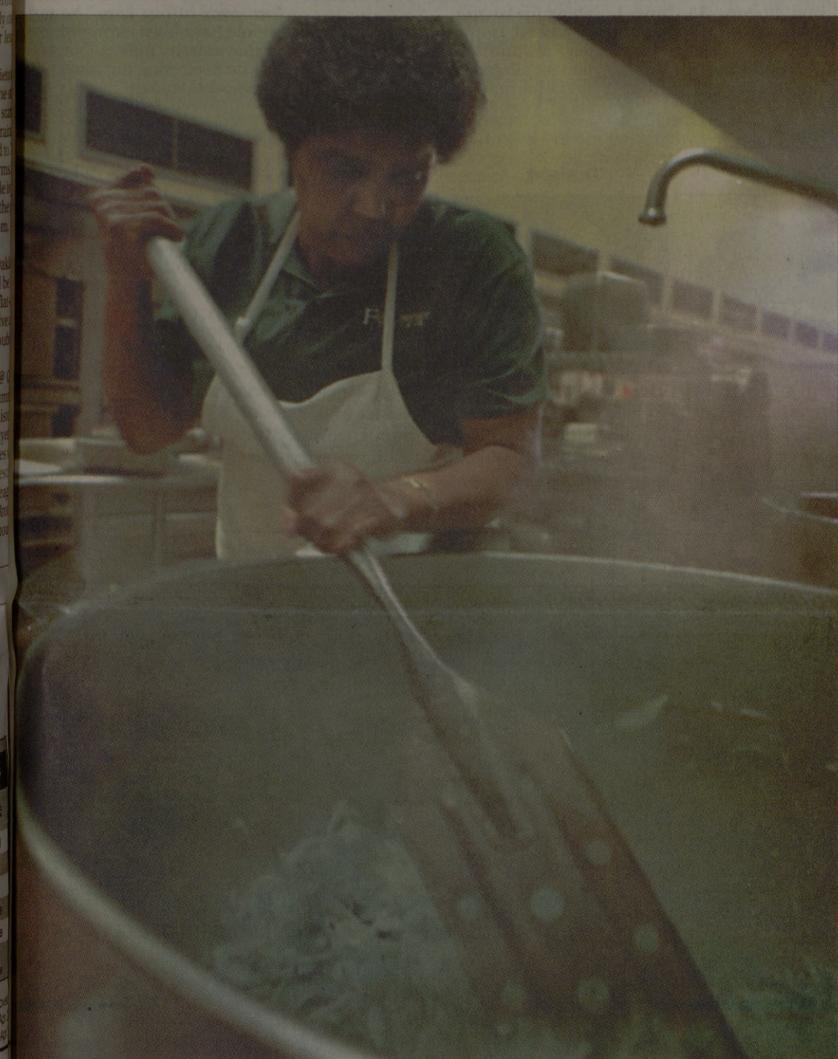
Dr. Joseph Ross, who teaches Physics 201, said about 10 percent of the students who take Physics 201 Q-drop the class. Ross said students drop the class because they want to lighten their course load, rearrange their schedule or because they are failing.

"Physics 201 is a difficult class," Ross said. Dan Arnett, a junior industrial distribution major, Q-dropped Physics 201 this semester.

"I probably had a 10 (as a grade)," Arnett said.



Brad Graeber, THE BATTALION



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Strange Brew

Rudell Wilson, a Department of Food Services worker, stirs an onion and green pepper soup in Sbis Dining Hall Monday.

Lawyers question potential jurors about death penalty

DENVER (AP) — In a courtroom packed by barricades and armed guards, Oklahoma City bombing defendant Timothy McVeigh gazed intently at potential jurors Monday as revealed strong emotions and willingness to recommend execution for the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

McVeigh, wearing a buzz haircut, open-collared blue shirt and

khakis, smiled and shook his attorney's hand as he was brought into the courtroom from a basement holding cell for the start of jury selection. He nodded and mouthed "Good morning" through a grin when the judge introduced him to potential jurors.

But during detailed and excruciatingly slow questioning, McVeigh's stare tightened over his folded hands as prospective jurors discussed how

they could recommend execution if he is convicted in the April 19, 1995, blast that killed 168 people and injured hundreds more.

All but one of the six jury prospects who were questioned said they would be willing to recommend the death penalty — and several spoke in even stronger terms.

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Silver Taps

The Silver Taps ceremony will be held in front of the Academic Building tonight at 10:30 in memory of two A&M students who died last month.

The students are Mary Jane Malone, a junior English major, and Jack Brandon "J.B." Prater, a sophomore agronomy major.

The Department of Student Life requests all lights on campus be turned off from 10:20 p.m. until 10:50 p.m.

Dow continues to decline, inflation likely to grow

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government report showing Americans earning and spending at a robust pace wrenched an already-frazzled Wall Street on Monday. Stocks plunged for a second session on fears of more interest-rate increases from a Federal Reserve intent on keeping the economy from overheating.

Americans' personal incomes surged 0.9 percent in February, the largest gain in eight months and more than double January's 0.4 percent advance, the Commerce Department said.

Spending growth — 0.3 percent — was relatively modest but came after a

large 1 percent increase in January, the best in 11 months.

Economists said February's broad-based income gain — with advances in every category except farm income — will help provide consumers with the wherewithal for strong spending through midyear. About four-fifths of the advance came in wages and salaries of private-sector jobs.

"People spend that money; they don't save it," said economist Sandra Shaber of the WEFA Group in Eddystone, Pa. "More jobs and more paychecks certainly equal growth in spending in the months ahead.

That kind of thinking jarred the stock market into the second day of its worst two-session point drop since the 1987 crash. It implies that last week's quarter-point increase in short-term interest rates will not be enough to keep economic growth at or below the pace likely to produce accelerating inflation.

The Dow Jones average of industrial stocks fell 157.11 points to close at 6,584.23. That came on top of a 140-point decline last Thursday on news that existing home sales in February posted the biggest increase in more than a decade. Markets were closed on Good Friday.

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INFELDERS: Sean Heaney and Brian Benefield protect second and third base.

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