

Childers wins SBP run-off election

Sam Bluntzer was elected junior yell leader.

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

Curtis Childers, a junior agricultural development major, will be next year's student body president after defeating Elliot Kerlin, a senior finance major, by 71 votes in the student body president run-off election. This year 6,745 students voted in the run-off elections, compared to last year's turnout of about 6,000 students.

Sam Bluntzer, a sophomore accounting major, was elected junior yell leader in the run-off by 51 percent of the vote.

The results of the run-off elections were announced in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue at 10 p.m. Thursday.

Childers said winning the election was humbling. He said the close vote meant that students liked Kerlin's platform ideas. He said he plans to incorporate all of the candidates' ideas in his administration.

Childers said he wants to have an open door policy so students can voice their concerns to him.

"Unless I'm aware of what's going on," Childers said, "I can't work with the administration so we can solve problems."

Childers said he wanted to thank God, his family and friends and his campaign staff.

"They (his campaign staff) believed in something and worked hard," Childers said.

Bluntzer said that the week of run-off elections was stressful, but the hard work was worth winning the junior yell leader election.

"I think we're going to work together," Bluntzer said. "We can represent everybody really well."

The new Residence Hall Association president will be Eric Williams, a junior biomedical science major. Williams won with 58 percent of the vote.

Mary Anne Symms, a sophomore general studies major, won the run-off for Class of '99 historian.

Kyle Valentine, a freshman biomedical science major, will be the new class of '00 vice president.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Curtis Childers won the run-off election by 71 votes.

National Gymnastics Championships

A&M team ready to take top honors

By APRIL TOWERLY
THE BATTALION

Two years ago, the Texas A&M Gymnastics Club took first place in the National Championships. This year, the Aggie gymnasts who will host the meet, hope to repeat history.

The meet, to be held Friday and Saturday in the Student Recreation Center, is the biggest gymnastics competition of the year and will include over 150 competitors. Junior club member Lori Blakley said the Aggies will be seeking revenge against the University of Miami, the school that captured the national title last year pushing A&M to second place.

"Our whole team is pretty motivated," she said. "Our whole focus this year has been the nationals."

Blakley and 12 other Aggie gymnasts will compete in the meet. Head Coach Steve Waples and his assistant, Jeremy Nelms, have been working with the gymnasts for up to three hours each day to prepare for the meet.

Senior club member John Sides said the bond the team members have formed this season sets them apart from other club teams.

"One of our strong points is our friendship, the closeness," he said. "There's not a lot of turmoil between club members. We have a lot of freshmen, so we've been able to provide some leadership for them."

Senior club member and men's team captain Shane Thomson agreed the club members have been working together to prepare for the meet.

"I think we're totally prepared mentally," he said. "We just want to go for it and get the team medal. We've gotten our act together and worked really hard. We're really starting to feel like a team."

Sides said although hosting the national championships has been stressful for club officers, it will be good for the club.

"It will give us a lot of notoriety and respect that we haven't had before," he said.

Both the women's and the men's teams earned first place in the state meet, which Sides said has given club members confidence about the upcoming nationals.

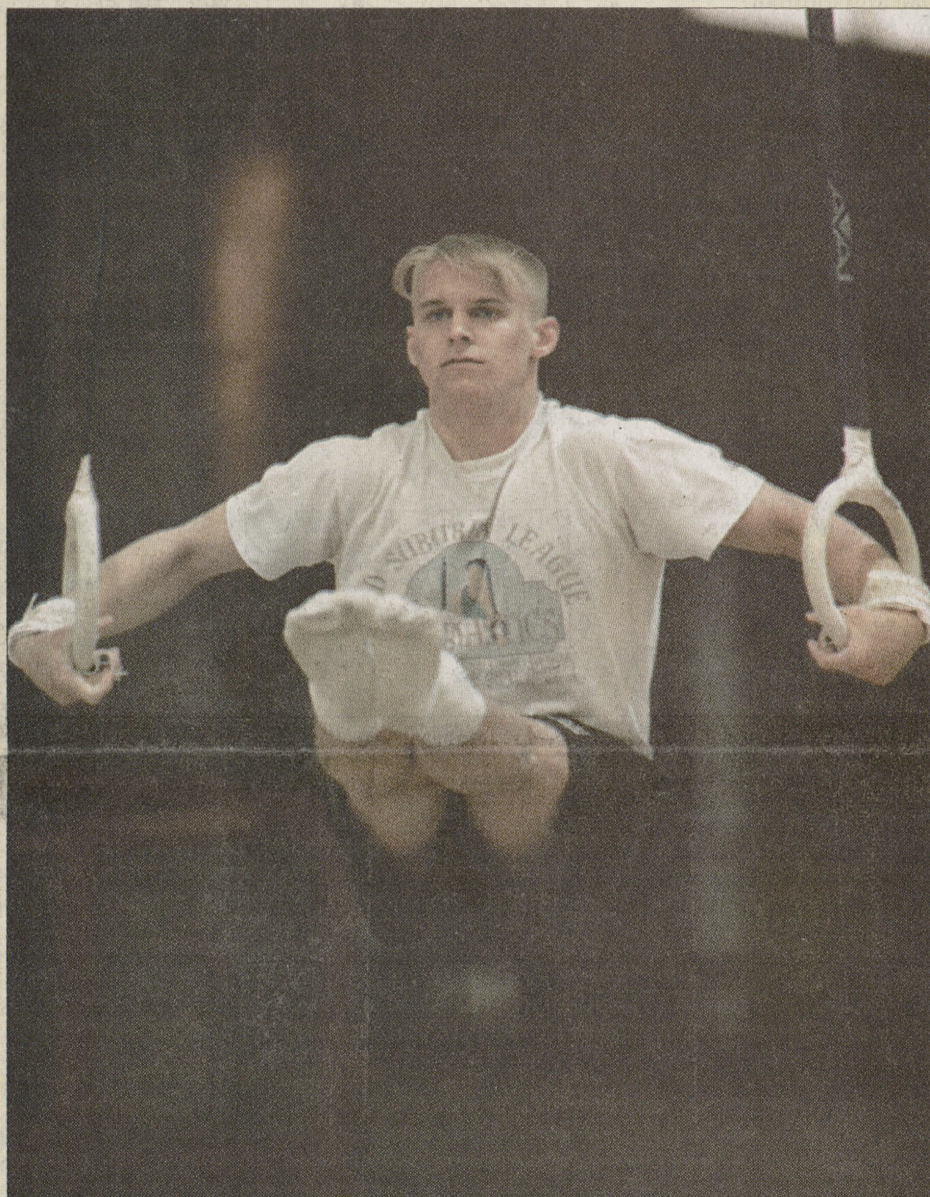
"I fully expect us to rank in the top three," he said. "We won state with three guys when the other teams had nine or 10 guys."

The Aggie club members share a confidence going into the meet that Thomson said nothing, including injuries, can take away. Thomson fractured his back earlier in the season and was out for a month.

"Almost everyone has gotten injured with an ankle or something," he said.

Blakley said injuries can be a blessing in disguise.

"Toward the end of the year, everyone gets really frustrated and tired, and everyone has injuries," she said. "Injuries may be our weak point, but that may also be a strong point because it brings us closer together."



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION

Kevin Barker, a gymnast from Miami University in Ohio, practices for the National Gymnastics Championships Thursday night.

Aggie Competitors

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Wendi Craft | Brittany Eck | Neal Mansfield |
| Shanna Wilkinson | Cyndi Coselli | John Sides |
| Lori Blakley | Kobi DelCastillo | Jeff Schmulen |
| Abby Lindemann | Shane Thomson | Dan Luellen |
| Melodee Hansel | | |

The competition will be held today and Saturday at the Student Recreation Center.

Friends of drowning victim help raise money

Anand Appala, a computer science graduate student, drowned in a swimming pool at the Casa Del Sol apartment complex Saturday. Appala did not have insurance to cover the cost of his remains being sent to his home in India. A group of his friends is working to raise the \$7,000 needed for the trip. Srinu Neralla, a friend of Appala and a soil microbiology graduate student, said the cause has gotten a good response. The students began raising money Wednesday and have raised more than half of the \$7,000. He said friends and faculty members of Indian origin have contributed money. Those who wish to help can drop off donations at the International Student Services office. Checks should be made out to the India Association.

Daylight-saving begins Sunday

By GRAHAM HARVEY
THE BATTALION

Prepare to lose an hour of sleep. Daylight-saving time is almost here.

Clocks should be set forward one hour Sunday at 2 a.m.

According to Volume 3 of The New Encyclopedia Britannica's 15th Edition, the time shift has a more than 200-year history. The general idea first came from a humorous 1784 essay by Benjamin Franklin, but it did not resurface until 1907, when the British House of Commons debated the need for a time change.

During World War I, the United States, along with other nations, adopted summertime daylight saving as it is generally known today, Britannica says. Adding an hour of daylight allowed soldiers to save fuel needed for artificial light.

Modern daylight-saving time in America is prescribed by federal law, Britannica says. A 1986 law set the summer time shift as beginning on the first Sunday in April and ending on the last Sunday in October.

Don Carter, registrar for admissions and records at Texas A&M, said the time shift should only minimally affect University operations.

"The only adjustments the University makes are setting the clocks and the computer sys-



James Palmer, THE BATTALION

tems," Carter said.

Omar Alrikabi, a senior English major, said he welcomes daylight-saving time.

"I love the time change," Alrikabi said. "I hate it when it gets dark around 5:30. With the extra hour of daylight, you have time to cram more in your day."

Student Senate elects new chairs

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate elected Alice Gonzalez, a sophomore agricultural development major, as speaker of the 50th session Wednesday night.

Nathan Bigbee, a sophomore political science major, was chosen as speaker pro tempore. Amy Magee, a junior computer science major, is the new Rules and Regulations committee chair.

Gonzalez said she wanted to work with the senators to provide better representation of the students' concerns.

"I am here to stand for what you stand for as a Senate," she said. "The goal of the Senate is to put students first. That's my goal as well."

Gonzalez said it is important for senators to develop themselves as leaders to effectively represent the students.

Erin Mozola, a senior applied mathematics major, said Gonzalez possesses the qualities needed to be a good speaker. She said a speaker needs to have character and integrity, be hard-working and willing to change.

"Integrity is nothing more than being counted on to be who you appear to be," Mozola said, "and that's what Alice Gonzalez is. That's the guide you need leading you through the woods."

Kendall Kelly, a sophomore psychology major, said Gonzalez will be a good speaker because of her knowledge of the Senate and its responsibilities to the student body.

"Alice (Gonzales) is about people, about being for people and working with people," Kelly said.

Bigbee said, as speaker pro tempore, he wants to strengthen the Senate caucuses to make senators more accountable to their constituencies. He said he also wants to enforce a stricter attendance policy for Senate and constituency meetings.

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"The goal of the Senate is to put students first. That's my goal as well."

Alice Gonzalez
New Student Senate Speaker

Big Event

Aggies volunteer services for project

Students say 'thanks' to B-CS community

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

The largest one-day student-run community service project in the world will bring thousands of students to the 16th annual Big Event Saturday morning.

Jobs ranging from trimming hedges and painting houses to washing Margaret Rudder's windows will be assigned to the 4,700 participants.

Debbie Emminger, the student involvement sub-chair of Big Event and a junior community health major, said residents of Bryan and College Station deserve thanks for enduring each year's nine-month student invasion of the area.

"Everyone puts up with us," she said. "It (Big Event) is our way to say 'thank you' to the entire Bryan-College Station community."

Emminger said although service provided by the Big Event is available to the entire community, the committee targets areas most in need.

Amy Magee, a junior computer science major, painted a house with Alpha Chi Omega last year and said the project brought the members of the sorority closer together.

"When people are working together to help other people," she said, "they tend to form a bond because of the spirit of the situation."

Toby Boeing, former student body president, will deliver the keynote address at the kick-off, which will begin at 9 a.m. in front of the Systems and Administration Building.

From there, students will move to Big Event headquarters near Bonfire site to be assigned to the approximately 500 jobs.

Emminger said organizations, groups of friends and individuals are still welcome to sign up for jobs at morning registration.

"If individuals sign up, we pair them with different individuals," she said. "We never turn away students who want to help."

Melissa Y. Ramirez, a sophomore general studies major, will participate with the Committee of Awareness for Mexican American Culture. She said she is looking forward to helping.

"I have always been curious to see what it (Big Event) is about," she said. "I think it will be fun to work in a group effort and give back to the community at the same time."

Emminger said she is impressed by how the event evolved from a six-man job to thousands lending a helping hand.

"Seeing all the students that really want to help is just amazing," she said.

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