

Gov. Bush readies for re-election

EL PASO, (AP) — Gov. George Bush launched his re-election campaign Wednesday with a message his focus will be on Texas and not on the possibility of a White House run in 2000.

As he embarked on a six-day, city campaign blitz, Bush said he does not know yet whether a presidential race is in his future. "I do know that my head and heart are here in Texas, and I intend to run a positive campaign and I intend to win," Bush said during a press briefing at El Paso Community College.

"Two years is a lifetime in politics," he said, "and it's a lifetime when you come to 16-year-old twin daughters, and I'm deeply concerned about what any national race would mean for my family. So it's impossible for me to debate... as to whether I will or will not seek the presidency." Regardless, talk of a presidential bid is expected to underlie Bush's attempt to become the first Republican to be re-elected governor since Dolph Briscoe in 1974 and the first ever to win back-to-back four-year terms.

Bush began his bid early Wednesday in Midland, where he said he would not take any voter grants despite being a heavy favorite in opinion polls over Democratic challenger Gary Mauro. He also offered a broad range of proposals — from increased reading training for teachers to exempting 176,000 small businesses from the state franchise tax.

Later, Bush said during a speech at the El Paso college he had laid a foundation for an improved Texas during his first term "and now it's time to build." A crowd of about 500, nearly half of which was made up of young children, reacted enthusiastically.

"The choices we make today will determine whether or not tomorrow will promise an opportunity for every single one of our citizens," Bush said. "The times are important. They call for a forward-thinking leader who will make a bold call, who will challenge the status quo, and who will stand up and say follow me. I am that leader." Mauro issued a statement challenging the effectiveness of some of Bush's actions and arguing that Bush won't give families a real tax cut or the constitutional right to choose their own doctors.

"The difference between Governor Bush and me is that I have a plan — Texas Families First — that will abolish the sales tax on cars, trucks and sports utility vehicles, give Texas the right to pick their own doctors, build new schools to end overcrowded classrooms, and make our neighborhoods safer," Mauro said in the release.

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Regents to consider Kyle Field bids

BY COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents will consider proposals for renovations to Sbisas Dining Hall, cooling tower replacements and Kyle Field expansion bids today. Sbisas renovations are estimated to cost \$6.6 million. The main entrance will be re-established at its original location, facing Military Walk, kitchen equipment will be

upgraded and the dining and kitchen areas will be renovated.

Gen. Wesley Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said the main entrance to Sbisas will be the first change made. "Sbisas was a gorgeous building," he said. "We want to restore its original style."

Peel said the agenda to be decided on today documents the process to select an architect-engineer to design the project.

He said the work will be done during the next three summers.

Peel said the cooling tower replacement will complete a 15-year project to replace the wooden cooling tower cells with ceramic-filled concrete towers.

"The system is designed to air condition a large part of main campus," he said. "These last four towers are rotted and at the end of their useful life."

The third phase of the Kyle Field

expansion project will be evaluated to determine if it can be redesigned and rebid to fit the budget or increase the budget if necessary.

Wally Groff, Texas A&M athletic director, said all the bids for the Kyle Field expansion project will be rejected because the bids are \$10 million dollars more than the established budget.

"The good news on increasing the budget is that no state, university or student money is being

used," he said. "All of the money for the project has been gifts to the University."

The Board also will consider the initiation of a geology bachelor of arts program and a master of public health program.

If the Board approves the proposals, they will go to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval before they are implemented.

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Visiting his roots

Lyle Lovett meets with students to discuss media, celebrities

BY ERICA ROY
City editor

Country singer Lyle Lovett, Class of '79, said Wednesday that his experiences at Texas A&M and working for *The Battalion* help him when he is interviewed.

"It was very productive for me," he said, "and it does help me now doing interviews."

Lovett, a former *Battalion* section editor who has a journalism degree, talked with A&M journalism majors Wednesday afternoon in 110 Koldus.

Dr. Charles C. Self, head of the Department of Journalism, said Lovett wanted to discuss the way journalists cover celebrity stories with the students because as a music star and journalism major he has seen both sides of the field.

"He was anxious to come back and talk to students," Self said. "He feels that what's happening in journalism is important."

Lovett said he chooses to interview with publications he respects, and he has never interviewed with a tabloid newspaper or television show.

"Most of my experience has been with newspapers and television to promote what I do — or avoiding tabloid publications," he said.

Lovett said celebrities are being harassed by the scrutiny and attention tabloid publications direct to them.

"It's creating a story that wouldn't exist without the presence of the tabloid reporter or tabloid," he said.

He said much of the news today is focused on entertainment and celebrities because of the consumer demand for it.

"It is a real comment on our society that we look to be entertained that much," he said. "It's an easy way to hook viewers and sell newspapers and magazines."

No subject is taboo for him, Lovett said, but he will not discuss subjects that would have

implications for a person not involved in the interview. He also said he discourages his press department from giving rights to journalists before an interview.

"I never mind somebody asking anything," he said.

Lovett said that when he worked for *The Battalion* he liked covering musicians and entertainment, rather than hard news, be-

"Most of my experience has been with newspapers and television to promote what I do — or avoiding tabloid publications."

LYLE LOVETT
COUNTRY SINGER, CLASS OF '79

cause he was interested in a music career.

"I enjoyed talking to people," he said. "I always had a hard time asking the hard questions. I always thought, 'It's none of my business.'"

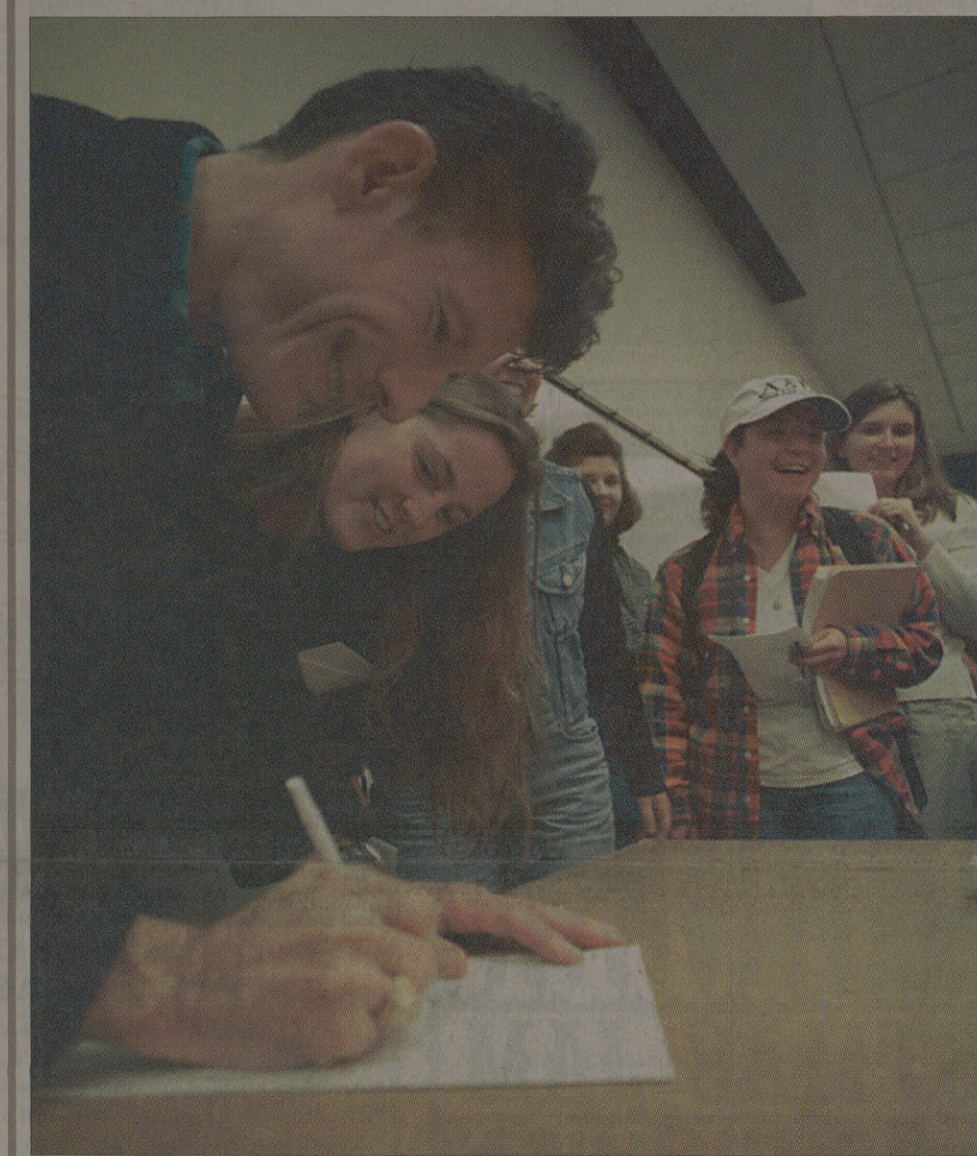
He said a successful interview is similar to a conversation, and journalists and celebrities should stay focused.

"Keep your objective in mind — no matter what side of the interview you're on."

Lovett said a conversational interview can be achieved if the reporter takes an interest in the celebrity by doing research before the interview and being honest.

Kristen Talley, president of the Society of Professional Journalists and a senior journalism major, said Lovett gave good advice for journalists and he provided insight into interviewing skills.

"It was my first time to talk with somebody who had been interviewed as extensively as he has," she said.



Lyle Lovett, country-music singer and Class of '79, signs autographs for journalism students after leading a discussion about the relationship between media organizations and celebrities.

AMY DUNLAP/THE BATTALION

Las Posadas procession symbolizes Mexican-American heritage, tradition

BY CHRIS HUFFINES
Radio editor

A piece of Latin-American tradition was played out Wednesday night as Las Posadas, the ceremonial recreation of Mary and Joseph's journey through Bethlehem looking for shelter, moved across the Texas A&M campus.

MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture (MSC CAMAC) sponsors Las Posadas every year.

Las Posadas formed at the All-Faiths Chapel, where candles were lit and programs of music were passed out.

The procession was led by Martha Aguilar, a sophomore biology major who played Mary, and Pedro Zepeda, a sophomore psychology major who played Joseph.

The procession moved to Sbisas Dining Center first. A song retelling the couple's need for shelter and the innkeeper's lack of room was sung at Sbisas. The procession moved to the steps of Leggett Hall.

The next stop was the Academic Building, where

Mary and Joseph were offered a stable in which to spend the night.

Las Posadas ended in the Academic Plaza with a short presentation on the history of the celebration and traditional food: tamales, beans, rice and cookies.

Anissa Silva, vice-chair of programs for CAMAC and a senior sociology major, said more people participated this year than in past years.

Carrie Marshall, a freshman early childhood education major, said the cultural aspect of Las Posadas was exciting.

"It's a wonderful cultural experience that broadens your horizons," she said.

Molly Mundi, a freshman political science major, said she enjoyed the event, but wished that the weather was warmer.

Silva said Las Posadas usually begins the ninth day before Christmas and lasts until Christmas Eve.

Silva also mentioned other, more elaborate celebrations of Las Posadas. In San Antonio, a procession forms down the Riverwalk, with luminaries, candles inside bags, lighting the way for two children playing Mary and Joseph.

A&M student hospitalized after being struck by car

BY ROBERT SMITH
Senior staff writer

A Texas A&M student was hospitalized Wednesday morning after being struck by a car on north Bizzell Street near the Wisenbaker Engineer Research Center, the University Police Department said.

UPD said that Bradley Lasowski, a sophomore construction science major, was walking in the pedestrian crosswalk on Bizzell Street when he was hit by a green 1995 Ford Mustang traveling north on Bizzell.

Lasowski suffered a broken left leg and a swollen face, UPD said. Police said the right front fender of the car struck Lasowski, causing him to flip over the hood of the car and on to the ground.

Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said

the UPD responded to a call at 11:27 a.m. Wednesday and arrived at the scene of the accident at 11:31 a.m.

UPD identified the driver of the car as Douglas Legrand, a freshman biomedical science major.

Wiatt said the accident occurred just after Legrand moved in front of another car while traveling on Bizzell.

"That's a bad intersection at Bizzell Street," Wiatt said. "Unless you're familiar with the intersection, it's hard to see someone who zips out in front of you."

UPD charged Legrand with failure to yield to the right of way of a pedestrian.

Lasowski was transported to Columbia Medical Center and was listed in stable condition Wednesday night.

CSPD expands enforcement of loud-party codes

BY ROBERT SMITH
Senior staff writer

The College Station Police Department is working to combat the source of one of the most common citizen complaints — loud parties.

The Loud Party Assignment program, which is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, aims to provide quicker and more comprehensive enforcement in response to complaints from citizens about loud parties.

Mason Newton, head of the program at the CSPD, said the program has been successful in responding to citizens' complaints.

"It's worked really well," Newton said. "The program has taken some burden off of our beat officers so that they don't have to worry

about responding to loud-party calls."

Newton said the CSPD usually has four officers assigned to the Loud Party Program on Thursday through Saturday.

Newton said the grant allowed the CSPD to start the program.

"With the city growing and the University growing, there was a pressing need for loud-party codes," Newton said.

Since the program went into effect Sept. 18, the CSPD has expended 694 hours on the program and has responded to 468 loud-party complaints.

Officers responding to loud party calls deal with a number of common violations, including noise, disorderly conduct and alcoholic-beverage code violations.

The CSPD has issued 121 citations and 192

warnings in relation to the loud-party calls.

Newton said not all of the complaints result in citations, and many complaints can be easily resolved.

"People just need to use a little common sense," Newton said. "If you want to study or watch TV or just have some peace and quiet, you should be able to do so."

Disorderly conduct fines are \$157 for the first offense, \$225 for the second offense and \$300 for the third offense.

The CSPD has issued 412 minor-in-possession citations and has made 32 criminal charges in relation to the calls.

Newton said he hopes the program will continue to effectively address the loud-party complaints.

"Some people may refer to it as party-

Disorderly Conduct Fines

1st Offense.....	\$157
2nd Offense.....	\$225
3rd Offense.....	\$300

Source: College Station Police Dept.

pooper patrol," Newton said. "We don't want to be party poopers, but we want to make sure everyone who wants peace and quiet can have it."