

Primary pits Bush against Mauro in 1998

JUSTIN (AP) — Tuesday's elections set up a gubernatorial race pitting possible presidential candidate George W. Bush, son of the current president, against the current president's son, who twice headed Presidential campaigns in Texas, in the Democratic primary.

Bush, who has raised more than \$1 million for his re-election bid, edged aside one token opponent, highway contractor R.C. Ford, in the GOP primary. Bush had 152,395 votes, 97

percent, to Crawford's 4,984.

Both parties were choosing nominees for other statewide offices, but few races excited voters. Only about 13.4 percent of the 11 million Texans registered were believed to have voted, said Secretary of State Al Gonzales.

With recent opinion polls showing him 40 percentage points ahead of Mauro, Bush is looking to become the first Texas governor elected to a second consecutive term since Democrat Dolph Briscoe won in 1974.

After that? The eldest son of the former president is widely viewed

as a leading GOP prospect for the White House in 2000. Bush insists he is focused only on re-election.

Just last week, he topped a presidential straw poll of the Southern Republican Leadership Conference, but he continues to say, "Honestly, I haven't made up my mind."

Mauro, who has served four terms as state land commissioner, hopes to capitalize on Bush's coyness. "I will promise here and now that I won't run for president in 2000," he said, laughing, in a recent interview.

Mauro also has been hitting Bush hard on the issue of doctor

choice. The Democrat favors a constitutional amendment to require health insurance plans and HMOs to offer Texans the option of choosing their own doctors.

"If you want to choose your own doctor, you're going to have to choose a new governor," the Democrat said Tuesday as he challenged Bush to a debate on the issue.

Incumbent Democrat Dan Morales, who won a \$15.3 billion settlement against the tobacco industry, is bowing out of politics after two terms as the state's top lawyer.

Former attorney general Jim Mattox had 68 percent of the early De-

mocratic primary vote as he bid to get the job back. Also seeking the nomination were Morris Overstreet, a Texas Court of Criminal Appeals judge, and perennial candidate Gene Kelly, a Universal City lawyer.

On the Republican side, Railroad Commissioner Barry Williamson led former state party chairperson Tom Pauken and former Texas Supreme Court justice John Cornyn.

State Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Benavides, was unopposed for his party's nomination to replace Mauro as land commissioner. In a three-way Republican race, Houston businessman David Dewhurst had 53 percent

of the early vote to 40 percent for state Sen. Jerry Patterson of Pasadena and 7 percent for Bastrop businessman Don Loucks.

Current Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry is the GOP nominee for lieutenant governor and Carole Keeton Rylander, now a railroad commissioner, won the party's comptroller's nomination.

Current Comptroller John Sharp, a Democrat, will seek to keep the lieutenant governor's chair in his party's hands, while the son of a former lieutenant governor, Paul Hobby, is the Democrat nominee for comptroller.

Past & Present

Women's History Month: Pondering advances in contraceptive measures

BY AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

A panel will discuss past and temporary methods of contraception in 308 Rudder today from 10 to 11 p.m. The discussion is moderated by Student Health Services, the Beutel Health Education Center and Aggie REACH as part of Women's History Month.

Terri Porter-Gross, a student assistant in the health center and senior community health major, said she hopes individuals can gain an appreciation for the advances made in contraception.

"We don't realize the plight of our foremothers when talking about the history of contraception."

Terri Porter-Gross
Senior community health major

cerning contraception following the panel discussion.

Margaret Griffith, a panelist and assistant health education coordinator, said she hopes individuals can gain an appreciation for the advances made in contraception.

"We have come along way in the options for contraception," Griffith said. "We are going to introduce some of these options available for women today and compare these to the options of their mothers and grandmothers."

Danny Ballard, a panelist and an associate health education professor, said individuals need to consider a number of options when considering a contraception method.

"I hope that when considering contraception methods, they consider the effectiveness, the reversibility, the ease of use and the cost of the method," Ballard said. "[The panel] will be available to hopefully answer some of the questions."

The panel will include Griffith, Ballard, Regan Brown, a nurse practitioner in Women's Health Clinic, Heather Clark, an HIV counselor from Planned Parenthood and Jaclyn Pruitt, a representative of Aggie REACH.

A bang-up job



Manda Hays, a senior agricultural development major, peers into the wreckage displayed in front of Rudder fountain Tuesday afternoon. The car is being displayed by Omega Delta Phi as part of their national B.A.D.D. campaign and in general promotion of alcohol awareness.

Computer bug taking bite in 2000

WASHINGTON (AP) — Problems as broad as a scarcity of skilled workers and as specific as the Year 2000 computer bug threaten to dampen the productivity growth enjoyed by American workers and businesses during the past two years.

Judged by recent standards, the productivity advances in 1997 and 1996, 1.7 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively, have been pretty good.

"The next surprise for productivity is down, not up," said economist

Everett M. Ehrlich of ESC Co. in Washington. "The tight labor market is bringing lower-skilled people into the labor force and placing important skills in short supply. ... And the millennium bug is a major distraction."

Like the Arab oil embargo before it, the Year 2000 problem is diverting talent and money from improving productivity. Rather than creating software to improve business efficiency, thousands of highly skilled programmers are scanning code to make sure

computers don't mistake the year "00" for 1900.

"We could have new and fancier ways to get stuff done on the Internet instead of just training computers to read four-digit dates instead of two-digit dates," said economist David Wyss of DRI-McGraw Hill of Lexington, Mass.

He estimated the cost of curing the problem at \$120 billion. Consequences of failure range from the trivial — the wrong date on a fax — to the

catastrophic — the breakdown of the payments system.

Ehrlich said the productivity trend in the next century is an open question and depends on the nation's schools.

"The economy depends on literacy, numeracy and problem-solving — the ability to work with data and information. That's true whether you're a truck dispatcher or an insurance claims adjuster," he said. "It's premature to be optimistic."

Highway Safety Day promotes safe driving over Spring Break

BY KATY LINEBERGER
Staff writer

Members of Texas Aggies Making Changes (TAMC) said they hope to prevent traffic fatalities this Spring Break through Highway Safety Day. TAMC Highway Safety Committee members will give away 200 T-shirts donated by the Department of Student Life, along with stickers and bumper stickers.

Committee members have posted flyers around campus and have spread an e-mail message with the campaign's theme, "Keep the spirit alive — Aggies don't let Aggies drink and drive."

"I'm hoping that we come out of Spring Break without any losses of Aggies to the ads," said Courtney Curtis, a TAMC Highway Safety Committee member and a freshman political science major. "Spring Break is a time when partying is at an all-time high and the chances of drunken driving are a lot greater. We want to remind people to arrive alive."

Curtis Bunker, a junior mechanical engineering major, said the organization aims to promote safety.

"We just want everyone to have aware-

ness," he said. "Everyone thinks they're invincible, but they're not."

Helen Gutierrez, coordinator of campus-wide alcohol education with the Department of Student Life, said the greatest number of traffic deaths are alcohol-related.

According to the most recent study conducted in October 1994 by the Harvard School of Public Health, 42 percent of Aggies said they had driven drunk at least once. The study, which included 140 colleges, said 26.5 percent of college students have driven drunk at least once.

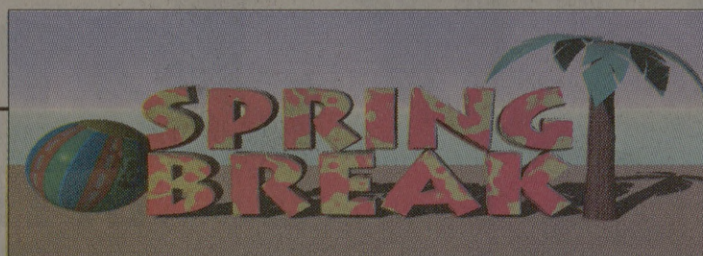
"In addition to preventing drinking and driving, we also want to remind people not to ride with someone who has been drinking," she said.

The same study found almost one-third of Aggies had ridden with a driver they knew was under the influence, compared to 18.4 percent nationally.

Gutierrez said safety is especially important over Spring Break, considering the increased amount of highway travel.

"I hope that people will take the message and apply it in their lives," Curtis said. "We want people to drive safely and to be careful."

The TAMC was formed last year.



Destinations unlimited for thrill-seeking Spring Breakers

BY STACEY BECKS
Staff writer

With the start of Spring Break Friday, Aggies will leave College Station for many different destinations from the snowy mountains of Breckenridge to the rainy streets of London.

Marge Jancek, manager of AggieLand Super Travel, said the hottest vacation spots for Aggies this spring are Cancun, South Padre and Breckenridge.

"Every once in a while there is a cancellation, but everything's pretty much booked in these places," she said. "Everyone wants to go skiing or to the sunshine."

The students going on the MSC London trip are not opting for sunshine. The weather will more than likely be cold and rainy when 23 students tour London next week.

Danny Feather, Corps commander and a senior economics major, said the weather will be a change from the climate of his usual Spring Break vacation spots, but the trip will be action-packed with intense sightseeing.

"It will be a blast," he said. "A lot of stu-

dent leaders are going. We're going to see 'Phantom of the Opera' and 'Les Miserables,' and we'll have one free day."

Other Aggies are choosing to rough it for Spring Break on Sports Rec trips to Big Bend and the Rocky Mountains.

Kevin Schiffer, a senior mechanical engineering major, said the three-day trip will take the group through Big Bend on horseback.

The students will learn about horsemanship, eat good food prepared by an on-trail cook and have a good time, he said.

Ten wildlife fishery science students were invited to compete in the Western Students Conclave Quiz Bowl next week.

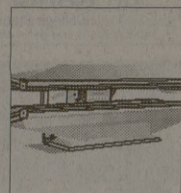
T.J. Williams, a senior ecology major who will compete in the quiz bowl, said the group is prepared for the competition.

"A&M came in second place at the Texas Chapter of Wildlife Society Quiz Bowl," he said. "We did well there, and we're as ready as we're going to be for the Conclave."

The group will compete for one day and will have the rest of the week open to visit timber industries and see spotted owls and marshes.

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