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TOMORROW

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NEWS BRIEFS

Pradhan posts bail on two theft counts

Texas A&M University professor posted \$3,500 bail Monday on two counts of theft between \$20,000 and \$50,000. Pradhan, once the highest ranked A&M computer science professor, received a grand jury indictment last Thursday that accuses him of using state funds to pay for a personal patent. Pradhan received a separate indictment in late February on two counts of abuse related to two of his personal businesses. Officials from the National Science Foundation (NSF) presented evidence to a grand jury and accuse him of using travel expenses to a government agency and to Texas A&M. Texas A&M University officials accused Pradhan of using \$1,000 of University funds for personal gain.

Gramm to speak at Bush Library Friday

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm will speak at the Medicare Reform Conference at the George Bush Presidential Library on Friday. The conference will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gramm is scheduled to speak at 3:15 p.m. as part of a series of public policy forums sponsored by the Bush White House and the Department of Economics. He is the nation's leading economic policy expert in the health care area and will come together to present solutions to the problems associated with Medicare. Gramm is the chairman of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Health Care. He was recently named to a 17-member Medicare commission to pull the Medicare system out of bankruptcy.

Texas A&M web site gets new look, links

Texas A&M University's redesigned web page is now online. The site was adapted to make information more easily accessible to those unfamiliar with Texas A&M and increase its speed and efficiency. The new page uses 12 major directories in a drop down menu directory list as well as five new links for those seeking information concerning prospective students, current students, former students, faculty and staff and visitors. Another addition is a search box that searches the Texas A&M web site for a specified word or phrase in a link name or the actual URL. The new web site is designed using Netscape Navigator 3.03+ and Internet Explorer 3.01+. Download time has been reduced to 11.5 seconds. The URL for the Texas A&M web site remains the same: <http://www.tamu.edu>.

Student election signs evoke mixed reactions

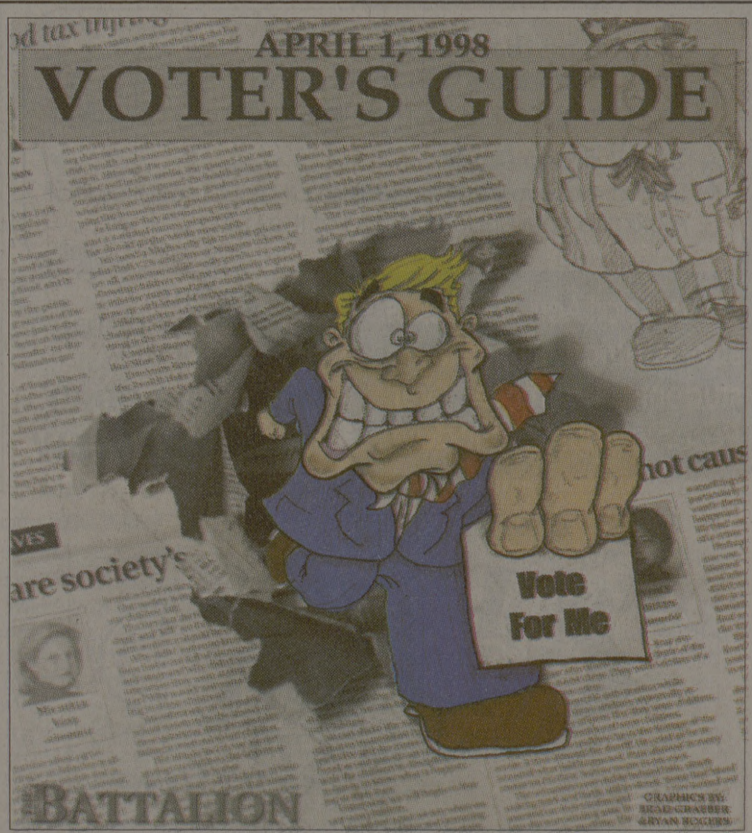
By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

With the recent theft of campaign signs Saturday, the importance of campaigning for student elections has come into question.

See Voter's Guide, Special Section

Murray Van Eman, student elections commissioner and a senior animal science major, said the signs are causing more trouble than they are worth. "This is making me want to speak to the student senate revisions committee to have big signs removed both on and off campus," he said. Van Eman said there is a limit on the number of signs allowed on campus and their location. The signs are also restricted to 16 square feet of advertised space per side. Student leader candidates are allowed to place signs in four locations: West Campus, Sbis Dining Hall, the Commons and the MSC. Many of the sign rules come from University regula-

tions, he said. Van Eman said his vote was never affected by the creativity of the campaign signs. Texas A&M students have expressed mixed reactions to campaigning. Corissa Remmert, a sophomore English major, said she looks at the campaign signs rather than the platform of the candidates. "I go more for their signs because that shows they really want the job and they're campaigning," she said. Kirby Atwood, a senior business analysis major, said the candidates' platforms are more important. "It's what they stand for that matters," he said. "It's not how pretty they make their signs." Wendi Statzer, a sophomore English major said the signs reflect effort on behalf of the candidates. "I think the signs affect my vote because putting more effort into how they campaign gives an idea of how they might treat their position," she said. The Student Senate has passed a bill that copyrighted or trademarked materials can not be used for campaigning beginning next year.



Pressing along



Steven Smith, associate professor and Special Collections librarian at the Cushing Memorial Library, demonstrates how Shakespearean books were printed on a replica printing press of that era. The demonstration was part of this week's 1998 Shakespeare Festival.

About face

Gov. Bush promotes new plan to further education

DALLAS (AP) — Many problems with public education could be fixed by employing a few simple business strategies — like holding schools accountable for students' failures — Gov. George W. Bush said Tuesday. Bush, addressing members of the National Center for Policy Analysis, reiterated his campaign promise to do away with "social promotion" in Texas schools. Bush said schools, like businesses, should be required to show results. "Proven management principles when applied to government can transform the public sector and help create sound public policy," Bush said to an audience of over 300 people. "The principles may seem pretty obvious to people in the business world ... But efficiencies and good practices that are second nature in business are often second-fiddle in government." Bush reiterated his proposal to eliminate social promotion by requiring third-graders to pass the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills reading exam before moving on to fourth grade. Fifth-graders would have to pass the reading and math TAAS, and eighth-graders would have to pass reading, math and writing. The plan would take effect beginning with students in the 1999 kindergarten class. Currently, the practice of promoting students regardless of performance is against the law, but there's a clause that allows students to be promoted if they "demonstrate proficiency of the subject matter."

Seniors take lead

Opportunities to experience real world abound for students on Leadership Trip

By SUZANNE RIGGS
Staff writer

Some of Texas A&M's top seniors will gain first-hand knowledge about life after college during the 36th Annual MSC Spring Leadership Trip (SLT) in Houston, April 1 to 4. "The trip is like Fish Camp for the real world," said Nichole Grice, SLT chair and a senior political science major. At the beginning of every spring semester, 42 seniors who have demonstrated leadership abilities at A&M are chosen for the SLT program. SLT was started in 1963 by former students J. Wayne Stark, Class of '39; James Ray, Class of '63; and John H. Lindsey, Class of '44. The three believed A&M students needed an opportunity to explore the challenges facing them after college and to enhance their cultural awareness. As a result, Grice said the trip has evolved into three days of personal enrichment. "We hope the students will have a good time and learn something from the people and things they are exposed to," she said. Among the list of SLT's featured speakers are Harris Pappas, founder of Pappaddeaux Seafood Kitchen restaurants and Class of '66; Michael T. Halbouty, oil businessman and Class of '30; and Anne Armstrong, member of the A&M System Board of Regents and a former U.S. ambassador to Great Britain. A first for this year's SLT trip is the career match-up program, which will give students the opportunity to spend a morning at work with former A&M students that are working in their field of interest. Cari Pope, SLT director of operations and a senior industrial engineering major, said this program will help students understand life in the workplace. "While most of these students probably have done an internship," she said, "the program will provide a different view that will open their eyes to the fact that not everything is like what their internships were like." Pope said the students will also get a taste of Houston's cultural scene. For example, they will attend a play at the Alley Theater, visit the Holocaust Museum, explore Space Center Houston and see the Native American Art collection of Bud Adams, owner of the Tennessee Oilers football team. The students will stay with former students during the first two nights of the trip. "Some of the students may be from a town of 500 and then they go to a big city like Houston and are afraid of the traffic," she said. "They can talk about what it is like to go to a city they have never been to."

Healing touch discredited

CHICAGO (AP) — A study conducted by a 9-year-old girl for a science project and published in a distinguished medical journal concludes that "therapeutic touch," in which a healer supposedly manipulates a patient's energy field, is bunk. Emily Rosa, the daughter of a registered nurse and an inventor, found that 21 experienced practitioners were unable to detect the field they supposedly manipulate to heal. Her study was published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association and immediately drew fire from supporters of the practice, who say it is respected worldwide. Therapeutic touch has been used to treat problems ranging from burns to cancer. The technique is practiced in at least 80 North American hospitals and taught in more than 100 colleges and universities in 75 countries, said the study, written by the Loveland, Colo., fourth-grader, her parents and a Pennsylvania doctor who works to uncover quackery. Those who practice the technique say an energy field emanates from every person and is detectable above the skin through a tingling sensation or a feeling of hot or cold. The healer moves his or her hands over the patient's body to modify the field. More than 100,000 people worldwide have been taught the technique, including at least 43,000 health-care professionals, the study said. Emily set up a cardboard screen through which practitioners put their hands. With their sight blocked, she asked them to identify which of their hands was near one of hers. The 21 practitioners chose the correct hand 44 percent of the time. That was slightly less than the 50 percent chance they would have had of choosing the correct hand by guessing, authors said. "To our knowledge, no other objective, quantitative study involving more than a few therapeutic touch practitioners has been published, and no well-designed study demonstrates any health benefit from therapeutic touch," the study concluded. "These facts, together with our experimental findings, suggest that therapeutic touch claims are groundless and that further use of therapeutic touch by health professionals is unjustified." The research was never intended to be published, Rosa said. But word spread, and the PBS show "Scientific American Frontiers" featured Emily's tests on Nov. 19. Dr. Stephen Barrett of Quackwatch Inc., based in Allentown, Pa., suggested submitting the findings to JAMA. Dolores Krieger, professor emerita of nursing science at New York University and co-founder of therapeutic touch in 1972, scoffed at Emily's findings and said she was "astounded" JAMA published the study. "It's poor in terms of design and methodology," she said. She said the designer of the study — Emily — should not have been the one to conduct it, and the 21 subjects were too few and unrepresentative. Dr. George D. Lundberg, editor of JAMA for 16 years, said he handled the editing of Emily's report and the research is sound. "I do not believe age should be a bar on anything, young or old," he said. "It's the quality of the science that matters." Patricia W. Abrams, 59, said therapeutic touch saved her life 17 years ago after conventional doctors had given up on treating her for agnogenic myeloid fibrosis, a fatal, incurable blood disorder. "I've never been healthier," said Abrams, co-owner of an educational publishing company in Washington, Conn. "It truly changed my life," Abrams said.

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Dr. George D. Lundberg
JAMA editor

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igned web page is now online.
site was adapted to make infor-
ation more easily accessible to
those unfamiliar with Texas A&M and
increase its speed and efficiency.
The new page uses 12 major
directories in a drop down menu
directory list as well as five new links
for those seeking information
concerning prospective students,
current students, former students,
faculty and staff and visitors. Another
addition is a search box that
searches the Texas A&M web site
for a specified word or phrase in
a link name or the actual URL.
The new web site is designed
using Netscape Navigator 3.03+
and Internet Explorer 3.01+. Down-
load time has been reduced to 11.5
seconds. The URL for the Texas A&M
web site remains the same
<http://www.tamu.edu>.

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INSIDE
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