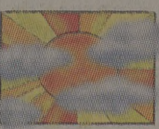


# BATTALION

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COLLEGE STATION • TX

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## Bush lecture focuses on responsible Texans

By Sarah Goldston  
Staff writer

Governor George W. Bush said Monday Texans should be more responsible for their actions.

"Each and everyone of us are responsible for ourselves, our neighbors and children that we bring into this world," he said.

Bush said Texans must step up to the challenge of tackling social problems.

"We've got something to say," said Bush. "That will be our legacy? Today's challenges lie not outside our borders but in our souls."

Bush spoke at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum as part of the Twanna M. Powell Lecture Series. The Powell Lecture Series is a program that brings leaders and experts on public issues about or related to Texas to

the campus.

Bush was chosen as the first speaker for the lecture series.

Bush related his parents' Cold War-era generation to the audience and said a new challenge faces the present generation.

"Our parents worked to establish dignity," he said. "The difference in the generations speaks volumes.

Children are no longer afraid of an unseen enemy, but they are afraid of being shot by their classmates."

Bush also addressed the topic of juvenile justice laws. He said juveniles should be held accountable for their actions.

"These are Texas' and America's problems that touch everyone from every ethnicity and culture," he said. "Cultures change one act of compassion at a time. The legacy of our sons and daughters is one of renewal and hope."

Bush also emphasized his belief in

small government.

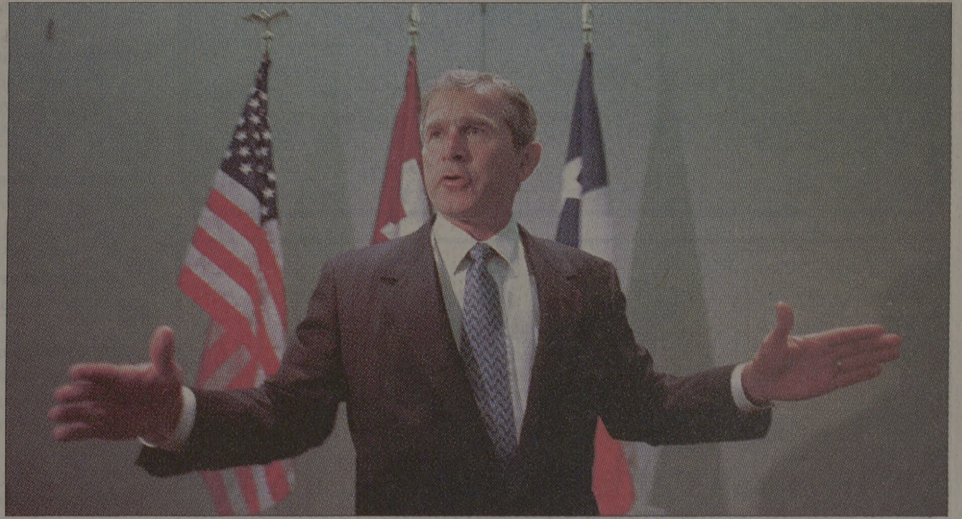
"Part of our legacy should be to restore government to its proper role and scope: smaller government and individual rights guiding the philosophy of our nation," he said.

A&M President Ray M. Bowen said it was an honor to have Bush on campus.

"The governor is special to all Aggies," he said. "In his speech, he addressed important issues to Texas."

Dannah Wheeler, a sophomore speech communications and political science major, said she was proud to see a leader committed to making change in society.

"It was motivating to hear Governor Bush speak," she said. "It is important for future leaders to have the opportunity to see such a genuine, responsible and moral leader speak about the changes he has in mind for our society."



Gov. George W. Bush speaks at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Working lot closed to overuse

Working in Rudder Circle will be affected by the end of this week, according to PTTS director Tom Williams.

Working, Traffic, Transportation Services (PTTS) will post signs at the end of this week to alert people of the change. Rudder Circle parking will be designated as a passenger loading/unloading zone. Unattended vehicles may be ticketed.

Williams said the circle has been a "no man's land" due to the parking in front of the Rudder entrance caused by overuse of the parking area.

Handicapped parking currently in Rudder Circle will be relocated to the Center Parking garage behind the Koldus building.

#### Applications for MEDALS available

Minority Enrichment and Development through Academic and Leadership Skills (MEDALS) is accepting applications for the 1999 Future Staff.

MEDALS is an annual conference for high-school students, counselors and parents. Attendees of the conference participate in a two-day program which includes workshops, interaction with college leaders, guest speakers and entertainment geared to encourage college attendance.

Applications can be picked up at the Department of Multicultural Services located in MSC 137. The deadline is Monday, April 13 and interviews will be held April 13-17.

For further information, contact Taylor at 847-2170 or via e-mail at howling@tamu.edu.

### INSIDE

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http://battalion.tamu.edu

Pick up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.

## Debate to showcase platforms

By Rachel Dawley  
Staff writer

Student body president runoff candidates Joe Forman and Laurie Nickel will discuss campus issues in a debate tonight at 8:30 in 292B MSC. Runoff elections will be held Wednesday and Thursday.

Nickel, a senior business analysis major, and Forman, a senior economics major, qualified for the runoff elections last Thursday night, earning the two largest percentages of votes among the six student body president candidates.

The candidates will discuss several topics and answer questions from the audience during the debate, which is sponsored by MSC Political Forum and the Student Government Association Election Commission.

Aaron Bigbee, director of special programs for Political Forum and a sophomore mathematics major, said the debate will allow students to hear each candidate's ideas and stances on issues.

"Primarily, the goal of the debate is to increase the student body's awareness of the candidates for president," Bigbee said. "It will be an opportunity to learn about the policy issues affecting the University and some of the work the Student Government Association is currently doing."

Joy Brennan, a member of Political Forum and a sophomore political science major, said, "The debate is a way for students to differentiate between the platforms of candidates," Brennan said. "It is an opportunity to see a more objective view of each candidate, rather than their normal campaign literature."

This week's runoff elections will decide the student body president, one senior yell leader position, both junior yell leaders, the Class of '99 vice president, the Class of '00 social secretary and the Class of '01 vice president.

Murray Van Eman, the election commissioner and a senior animal science major, said students should vote in the runoff elections because they are electing their leaders.

"In the past, there has been a lower turnout for runoff elections," Van Eman said. "The debate is an opportunity to compare candidates."

There are 10 polling locations for the runoff election. Students can vote at the Commons, Zachry, Sterling C. Evans Library, Blocker, the MSC, Wehner, Kleberg, the Student Recreation Center, Sbis Dining Hall and Duncan Dining Hall.

### Every student's dream



Dr. Carl Maxson, a professor of mathematics, gets a pie in the face from April Ray, a senior mathematics major, Monday afternoon in front of Blocker. The "Pie A Prof" event was held to raise money for the mathematics society.

## Juvenile crime targeted in bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Children as young as 11 could be sentenced to death for capital murder under a proposal by a state lawmaker whose own son is just that age.

"I hope my child is a Beaver Cleaver. ... I think there are 11-year-olds out there that would be capable of premeditated murder," said Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, pointing to the recent school yard shootings in Arkansas.

Pitts outlined his proposals to increase penalties available against juveniles who commit violent crimes Monday, the same day death-penalty opponents including Amnesty International USA announced new efforts to restrict Texas executions.

"This idea of killing 11-year-olds, or having them charged as adults, does not answer

a principal issue in this society: How do we get the best out of our human resources?"

"It certainly won't be to kill the young," said Samuel Jordan, director of the Program to Abolish the Death Penalty of Amnesty International USA. "I don't think it has a great deal of chances for success if the people of Texas urge their representatives to enact laws that have morality," he added.

Pitts, who plans to introduce the juvenile crime package when lawmakers meet in regular session in January, said his proposals would give greater leeway to local district attorneys and courts.

"I am not saying that every 11-year-old who commits a crime should be tried as an adult. I want to give an option to a district

attorney, if they feel like they have enough evidence and the right kid," Pitts said.

His proposals include lowering from 17 to 11 the age at which a youngster is eligible to be charged with capital murder, and lowering from 14 to 10 the age at which a child can be certified and tried in the adult criminal justice system.

Under the proposal, someone as young as 11 who is convicted of capital murder could face either life without parole or the death penalty. Pitts' aide, Rusty Ballard, said life without parole also would be an option in non-capital murders, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Capital murders have an enhancing factor, such as being committed during a robbery.

## Century of Silver Taps

Tonight's ceremony marks tradition's 100th anniversary, memorializes deaths of two students

By Kelly Hackworth  
Staff writer

Tonight's Silver Taps ceremony marks 100 years of the Texas A&M tradition which honors deceased students.

Tonight's ceremony will honor Deborah A. Goodall and John L. Keeler.

Goodall, of College Station, served as a research assistant in veterinary anatomy and was enrolled as a nutritional sciences graduate student.

Keeler, a senior accounting major from Austin, died while interning in Dallas.

Patrick Williams, Class of '92 and campus programs director for the Association of Former Students, said the first Silver Taps honored Lawrence Sullivan Ross, who

served eight years as president of Texas A&M, then called the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

"The tradition allows me to speak about the ceremony freely and comfortably."

Kristin Sayre  
Associate director of student life

Ross, a former Texas governor, led A&M College through some of its turbulent early years, Williams said.

Early ceremonies took

place the day of the deceased students' funeral or as close to that day as possible. The day was changed in the mid-1980s due to the large increase in students, Williams said.

Another change occurred in 1984 with the dedication of the Albritton Tower, a 49-bell carillon, donated by Ford D. Albritton, Class of '42.

Kristin Sayre, Associate Director of Student Life, is responsible for preparing for the ceremony by contacting the families, and ensuring that all campus flags are lowered on the day of Silver Taps. Sayre also meets with the families before the ceremony to ensure they understand the Silver Taps tradition.

## UT reports recruits finding better deals at other schools

AUSTIN (AP) — In the high-stakes competition to attract the country's smartest graduate students, the University of Texas is losing to top public and private schools that offer bigger financial awards and free tuition, according to a newspaper report.

"It's killing us," Larry Gilbert, chairman of UT's zoology department, told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "The overall deal that graduate students get elsewhere is so much better."

UT science faculty said half to two-thirds of the graduate students they tried to recruit this year turned them down.

Campuswide, nearly 60 percent of the graduate students who were offered premier scholarships went elsewhere, a problem so worrisome that incoming President Larry Faulkner says it is one of his highest priorities.

Faulkner, who takes office April 13, said the issue goes beyond compensating graduate students.

"I see UT as having major problems with compensation for staff, faculty and (graduate) students," he said. "I think this will be the most important issue I will be addressing in the early stages of my tenure."

Although graduate students get little public notice, a research university can't function without them.

They help teach undergraduates, grade papers, proctor exams, do research and lure bright faculty. The better they are, the better the school, faculty and deans said.

Teresa Sullivan, vice president and dean of graduate studies, said, "Without good graduate students you don't have good research and you don't have a good faculty."

Until 1995, about 60 percent of the top graduate students who were offered premier UT scholarships, or fellowships, enrolled, said John Dollard, associate dean of graduate studies.

That dropped to 50 percent in 1995 and 1996 and then plunged to 41 percent this school year — UT's worst.

UT still attracts many high-caliber graduate students, Sullivan said, but she and others said the typical UT graduate student is finding it increasingly difficult to cover the minimum \$2,460 in-state tuition and fees while buying groceries and paying rent on the salaries they earn as teaching assistants, research assistants and assistant instructors.

PLEASE SEE TAPS ON PAGE 2.