

Student Senate debates campaign budgets

By AMANDA SMITH AND COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writers

Politics as usual could change for student body president candidates this year. In response to student complaints about excessive campaign spending in this year's elections, several solutions have been proposed to deter spending violations. Members of Student Senate may vote in the fall on a resolution to limit off campus and sandwich-board campaigning. Chris Chase, a senior history major, said he favors a proposal to lower campaign spending. "I don't know of anyone who has exceeded their limit in this election,"

Chase said. "We want to bring elections and campaigns back to the students and want students to know about the candidates and their platforms."

Student body president candidates are currently limited to \$1,000 budgets during preliminary elections. Runoff election candidates may increase spending by 33 percent to \$1,333.

Murray Van Eman, the elections commissioner and a senior animal science major, said the budget report submitted by the newly elected student body president, Laurie Nickel, did not indicate excessive spending.

Van Eman said the specific figures are confidential and cannot be released to the student body. He said none of the winning candidates ex-

"I think that the budget may be at a limit where some students can't afford to run."

**Murray Van Eman
Elections commissioner**

ceeded their budgets, according to budget reports submitted.

However, Nickel is the only student body president candidate to submit a budget report to the elec-

tion commissioner. She said she favors decreasing the allotted budgets of student body president candidates.

"I don't want anyone to think that they could not be president because of the money," Nickel said. "If you're smart, creative and don't wait until the last minute, you can do it."

With the help of her campaign staff, Nickel said she used a part of Spring Break to prepare for the start of campaigning the following week.

"We had a huge sweatshop of students painting signs during Spring Break," Nickel said. "We made every sandwich board ourselves."

Some members of the Student Senate favor moving elections to the week before spring break.

The decreased length of time to

prepare and promote campaigns would automatically decrease the amount spent by student body president candidates, according to some supporters of limited campaign budgets.

Van Eman said the current budget may exclude students from running for student body president.

"I think that the budget may be at a limit where some students can't afford to run," Van Eman said. "Maybe some students do not have \$1,000 to run, but they have the desire to run. In terms of student body president candidates, we see a lot more creative publicity. What they have done is print table tents instead of multiple brochures (and similar campaign techniques)."

Some supporters of increasing

campaign budgets argue that indirect campaign expenses like campaign staff parties are not always included in budget figures.

Van Eman said the reports he received seemed accurate but said he would not expect candidates to record campaign staff party expenditures.

"I couldn't expect two kegs of beer coming in on budget," Van Eman said. "That is more staff development than campaign expenditures. It has to be a declarable expense to be placed on budget."

Carolyn Adair, director of Student Activities, said the rules are always changing because election candidates find new ways to campaign.

PLEASE SEE CAMPAIGN ON PAGE 7.

Forum to address issue of women's leadership

By KATY LINEBERGER
Staff writer

Issues in female leadership will be the center stage tomorrow at the Aggie Women's Leadership Forum. The program and lunch, sponsored by the newly organized Aggie Leadership Programming Committee, will kick off at 12:30 p.m. at the George Bush Conference Center banquet room.

Dr. Sara Alpern, an associate professor of history, will be the keynote speaker. Committee chair Sara Baggett, a sophomore electrical engineering major, said she will discuss the history of women and their involvement at Texas A&M.

Forum director Kathy Schwit-

ters, a sophomore psychology major, said participants will also meet with former students to explore leadership topics.

"It's a good opportunity for former students to come back and help current student leaders by talking about leadership roles in the community," she said. "It's also a good way for Aggies to just come together and talk about leadership."

Rachel Allen, MSC vice president of leadership development and a junior speech communications major, attended the first forum last spring.

"I loved it," she said. "It was a wonderful experience to sit down and talk with other women about important issues in an informal setting."

Allen said there was good discussion at the individual tables with the

former students and female leaders as facilitators.

"It's a neat opportunity because the women that come are there to share and talk," she said.

Baggett said the forum was developed last spring to address the often overlooked topic of women's leadership.

"It was started as a way to incorporate women's programming into the diverse spread of programming in the MSC," she said.

Schwitters said that although the speakers will be women, men are also invited to come to the forum.

"That's a big misunderstanding we have," she said. "It's not just for women — everyone's invited."

The program and lunch are free to all participants.

Walk of Champions

Bricks to bear names of those honoring spirit of Aggieland

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

Students, staff and friends of Texas A&M now have an opportunity to make their names a permanent part of Aggieland.

The "Walk of Champions," created by the department of Recreational Sports, will allow participants a chance to have their name and/or affiliation engraved on a brick in the walkway of the Student Recreation Center.

Judy Cook, marketing director of the Department of Recreational Sports, said the walk is being created to honor those with Aggie spirit.

The Walk of Champions will honor everyone's dedication to leadership, fair play, honesty and integrity," Cook said.

Cook said the walkway will be a reminder of the contributions many people make at A&M. She said the bricks will be laid in the front walkway of the center and in the landscaped grass area of the circle drive at the building.

"The center is here for the stu-

dents and we thought it was a perfect place to put the Walk of Champions," Cook said.

Cook said the response to the brick campaign so far has been outstanding.

"We can put in thousands and

"This is being done for the students, to go back to the students."

**Angela Stanton
Department of
Recreational Sports**

thousands of bricks," she said.

Angela Stanton, graphic designer for the Department of Recreational Sports, said that the campaign is targeted towards every student and staff member and is a great way for

graduating seniors to leave their mark on campus.

"This is being done for the students, to go back to the students," she said.

Current students and current or retired faculty and staff can add a 4-x-8 inch brick to the Walk of Champions for \$100 and a 8-x-8 inch brick for \$200. The smaller bricks are limited to one individual name except for a husband and wife; the larger bricks are for multiple names or team names. For former students and others, the cost is \$250 for the smaller brick and \$400 for the larger one.

Cook said the revenue will be used to develop an endowment fund that will support the Student Recreation Center.

"The support will allow us to continue to offer a world-class facility on campus," Cook said.

The Walk of Champions is the second brick program now under way on campus. The first campaign, which is in progress, involves the placement of bricks in the plaza area outside the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.

Students warned about date rape, abusive relationships

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

A representative of Phoebe's Home told an audience in Rudder Theatre last night how she was raped on page 17.

Ashley Peterson, the lead training specialist at Phoebe's Home, described her personal experience and how students can be affected by abusive relationships.

"One third of women will become victims," Peterson said. "This may never happen to you. It may be your sister or your best friend."

Alpha Chi Omega and Phoebe's Home sponsored the forum last night to promote awareness of the risks and consequences in un-

healthy dating relationships.

The increased awareness of violence in relationships drew members of Texas A&M sororities, fraternities and the Corps of Cadets to the forum last night. The response to the forum this year could result in a forum next semester opened to the entire student body, Peterson said.

"We wanted to target a big group, but not too big of a group," Peterson said. "Dating violence is much more common (than non-dating). We wanted a program to inform both victims and abusers because you just don't know. Making abusers aware (of the consequences) might deter them."

Christi Humphries, vice president of fraternity relations for Alpha Chi

Omega and a junior speech communications major, said she hopes the program educates students.

"We have found that college students are at high risk for being involved in abusive relationships," Humphries said. "We want to provide resources for those who are in unhealthy relationships."

Kim Novak, the judicial coordinator for Student Conflict and Resolutions Services, said the center can provide free legal advice and coordinate mediation services for students involved in abusive relationships on campus.

"Relationship violence does not always leave bruises," Novak said.

PLEASE SEE DATE ON PAGE 7.

Clamping down on finals



BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

Cody Henderson, a sophomore environmental design major, tightens clamps on a glued bedpost for his final project in Environmental Design 205.

College admissions arguments continue

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man whose lawsuit helped end the use of race in Texas university admissions was on Capitol Hill Tuesday to lobby for legislation that would prohibit the use of race-based admissions policies nationwide.

Also Tuesday, Texas Attorney General Dan Morales announced he would not appeal the ruling that ended affirmative action policies at Texas colleges, declining a request from University of Texas System Chancellor William Cunningham to do so.

After thorough review, Morales said, "My office has identified no sufficient grounds upon which to base an appeal seeking to reimpose race-based decision making at Texas institutions of higher education."

David Rogers, one of the four white plaintiffs who challenged the UT law school's admission policies after being denied admission in 1992, told a news conference that he "enthusiastically" supports legislation by Rep. Frank Riggs, R-Calif.

That measure, expected to be considered this week during debate of a broader higher education bill, would ban colleges or univer-

sities from using race, gender, ethnicity or national origin when making admissions decisions. Riggs stressed that the legislation wouldn't affect minority outreach or scholarship decisions.

"Affirmative action policies all too often discriminate against certain groups of Americans and lead to segregation rather than assimilation, and preferences rather than equal opportunity," said Riggs.

Texas ended its university affirmative action policies after a federal appeals court found that a UT law school policy meant to boost minority enrollment discriminated against whites. That ruling, named after Rogers' co-plaintiff Cheryl Hopwood, was allowed to stand in 1996 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Rogers said unequal admissions policies giving preference to minority students — who in some cases were admitted with significantly lower test scores — are "an outrage which ought not to be tolerated in America."

"The nation deserves for this law to pass," said Rogers, who plans to enter Texas Tech's law school in the fall.

INSIDE aggielife

Tap Dogs, the award-winning dance performance, pays a visit to Rudder Auditorium for two shows.

See Page 3

sports

Texas A&M point guard Brian Barone announces decision to transfer to Marquette.

See Page 8

opinion

Voss: Testosterone shown to be contributing factor of mental decay.

See Page 11

online

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

http://battalion.tamu.edu