

GHOSTLY GHOULS

Kappa Sigma whips up frights, charitable donations with annual presentation of Wicked Woods. AGGIELIFE, PAGE 3



THE HEAT IS ON

Global warming poses legitimate ecological threat; should not be taken lightly. OPINION, PAGE 11



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The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Bush targets better education

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Gov. George W. Bush asked members of the Texas A&M community Wednesday for their votes.

The main reason to send me back to Austin is because I have more to do for the great state of Texas," Bush said to a crowd of students and community members. "I want your vote. Candidates can't win unless their fellow citizens stand along side of them and fight for what is right for the state of Texas."

Aggies for Bush invited Bush and other Republican candidates to their final meeting before the Nov. 3 elections. Bush said he appreciated the support of the TAMU College Republicans and Aggies for Bush during the campaign but said there is more to do.

"We cannot win without your help," Bush said. "That is why I am traveling the state of Texas. I see a better Texas, and I want your help to achieve that dream."

Bush said one of his contin-

uing priorities will be improving education in Texas.

"My priority has, is, and will be the education of the children of the great state of Texas," Bush said. "There are some children who get shuffled through the system. Last year, 40,000 students couldn't pass the third-grade reading test, couldn't pass a simple, comprehensive reading test. Guess what happened to them — they got moved to the fourth grade."

Bush said he wants to help students who need special assistance.

"I have got a plan that says that any child that needs extra help, the state of Texas will make sure he or she gets it, so that no child in the state of Texas ever gets left behind," Bush said. "I have got a plan to make sure that our teachers get paid fairly and the classrooms meet the growing demands of Texas students. I have got a plan that privatizes Texas education."

In a press conference after the event, Bush said he supports returning more control to school districts and removing some of the power the state government possesses.

Bush said he hopes to continue efforts to reduce juvenile crime by increasing the number of officers patrolling the streets in high-crime areas.

"We have the lowest parole rate in recorded history," he said. "I see a safer, more prosperous, educated state, and I want to help achieve that dream."

Bush said he wants to implement a \$2.7 billion property tax cut for Texas residents and moving Texans off of welfare will allow greater returns to the taxpayers.

"We have moved nearly 300,000 folks from welfare to work," Bush said. "But there is more to do. Government can write the check, but it can't put optimism in the hearts of Texans."

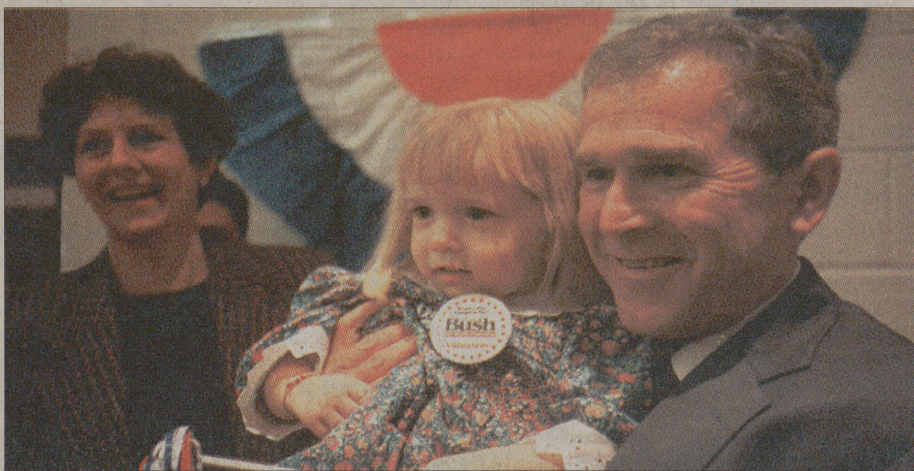
Other Republican candidates in attendance included Susan Combs who is running for Agricultural Commissioner, Sen. Steve Ogden, Representative-elect Fred Brown and C.B. Jones, who is running for state representative for District 13.

Photos by

ERIC NEWNAM

Right: Gov. George W. Bush fields questions from the press after his speech Wednesday.

Below: Bush poses with Hannah Hardy, a young supporter, at his campaign rally.



Bowen to dedicate Computing Center

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

The dedication of the Student Computing Center today at 11:30 a.m. marks the end of two years of construction.

The event will take place outside of the computing center, which is adjacent to Sterling C. Evans Library. In the case of rain, the ceremony will be moved to the second floor of the computing center.

Events will include a brief opening ceremony, where Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen will be present for the official dedication. Dr. John J. Dinkel, former associate provost, will speak. Student Body President Laurie Nickel and Graduate Student Council President Anneliese Reinemeyer will also provide opening remarks.

Rose Sauser, special events coordinator for University Relations, said the ceremony will be followed by tours of the building and a live on-site broadcast of "Gigabytes."

"Gigabytes" is a radio program broadcast every Thursday at noon which deals with various aspects of computing as well as current news," Sauser said.

The idea for a new computing center was conceived in October 1990 by Edward Munoz, Thomas Taffinder and Steven Weber, who were special assistants to the student government association.

Thomas Putnam, director of Computing Information Services, said these students wanted a 24-hour facility which would also be able to accommodate a larger number of students. "The center currently has 540 of the newest computers on campus available for student use," Putnam said.

Putnam said construction of the center began in 1996, which was about the same time construction began on the Library Annex and the Central parking garage.

SEE COMPUTING ON PAGE 2.

Panel readies for student questions

BY MELISSA JORDAN
The Battalion

Students and faculty will present questions and concerns to Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and the University's executive team tonight on the television program "Ask the President."



BOWEN

A panel of University administrators including Bowen and University vice presidents Dr. Ronald Douglas, Dr. Jerry Gaston, William Krumm and Dr. J. Malon Southerland will answer questions from students, faculty and community members. Rick Rigsby, a senior lecturer in the Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts will serve as moderator for the program.

Tara King, media communications specialist for University Relations, said the program is an opportunity for students to ask questions of the University president.

"A lot of times students may have questions they aren't exactly sure who can answer," King said. "Ask the President" gives them the opportunity to go straight to top University administrators to find answers to their questions."

Bowen said the question-and-answer program gives administrators and students a rare opportunity to share concerns at such a large university.

"We just really like to find out what's on people's minds," Bowen said. Southerland said the program gives students the opportunity to have direct contact with top University officials.

"It's an impact mechanism to hear what people are talking about and thinking about," Southerland said.

King said the program gives students and faculty the chance to get acquainted with the University president and vice presidents.

"This is a good opportunity for everyone to get to know the [University] president and his administrative staff," King said. "I think it's a real effort on the part of the University administrators to communicate with students, faculty and staff."

Bowen said the session will be opened to questions from the live audience as well as those telephoned in from the television audience.

"Ask the President" will be televised from 7 to 8 p.m. on KAMU-TV. Callers may also present questions after the program has gone off the air and leave their phone numbers or e-mail addresses so they can receive responses to their questions.

Rape survivor addresses sexual assault awareness

BY DRUNAY COLLINS
AND JENNIFER JONES
The Battalion

Gender Issues Education Services, MSC Great Issues Society and Aggies Working for a Rape-free Environment will present "He Said/She Said," a sexual assault awareness and prevention program tonight at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

Keynote speaker Katie Koestner, who was raped while an undergraduate at the College of William and Mary, will speak about her experience and how she survived date rape.

Becki Elkins-Nesheim, coordinator of GIES, said Koestner's speech is particularly relevant to college students.

"Her story really relates to college students because she was sexually assaulted as a freshman," she said. "She is one of the few people willing to come out and talk about it."

Tricia Draughn, a graduate assistant in GIES, said the program is important for both men and women. She said sexual violence is a serious issue for many college students, especially women, because one out of every four women become victims of rape.

Draughn said the program is geared toward both women and men because both are affected by sexual assault.

After the keynote address, co-presenter Attorney Brett A. Sokolow will direct a discussion on sexual assault from a male perspective, including aspects of the law and things men can do to prevent sexual assault.

Audience members will then break into separate groups of men and women. In workshops, participants will analyze scenarios, and discuss the responsibilities involved when dating and examine how men and women should address the issue of date and acquaintance rape.

Elkins-Nesheim said the purpose of separating the audience into groups is to allow for a free expression of perspectives about rape.

"We break up into smaller groups to create a safer environment without having to worry about members of the opposite sex's reaction [to ideas expressed]," she said.

Draughn said freshmen are particularly encouraged to attend the presentation because they can be especially vulnerable to sexual assault.

"The first semester of college can be the time of most risks for women," she said.

Elkins-Nesheim said the program will make people aware that sexual assault is not limited to stranger-rape scenarios.

"I think it will help raise the awareness level that date and acquaintance rape are as big a problem at Texas A&M as at any university," she said.

RHA examines student feeling with substance-free housing survey

BY AMANDA STIRPE
The Battalion

Residence Hall Association members dressed in costume at Wednesday's meeting to promote "RHA-lloveen," which will be Saturday for children in the Bryan-College Station area.

RHA-lloveen will start at 5 p.m. with various game tables hosted by Leggett, McFadden, Lechner, Spence/Briggs, McInnis, Mosher and Moses halls along with Freshman Leaders in Progress and the National Residence Hall Honorary.

RHA is looking for escorts to lead groups of children to the halls involved in trick-or-treating. Volunteers should arrive at 5:45 p.m. in front of Rudder Fountain.

The first 50 escorts who volunteer will receive a T-shirt. The children will visit the residence halls from 6 to 8 p.m.

Underwood, Haas, Krueger, Mosher, Rudder, Spence/Briggs, Clements, Davis-Gary, FHK complex, Lechner, Leggett, McFadden, McInnis, Moore, Neeley and Hobby halls will receive trick-or-treaters.

A substance-free housing survey will be distributed by RHA to the residence halls, because of the increased underage drinking problems on campus and because only 1,000 of the 8,000 students living on-campus are over 21 years old. The survey will determine if A&M students would support a substance-free campus, which includes options for substance-free housing that would prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco,

illegal drugs or illegal use of prescription drugs, or a dry campus. A proposal will follow when the information is compiled.



A report on alcohol use at A&M written by the University's Alcohol Task Force said, "Forty-four percent of students at

A&M binge drink as compared to 38 percent nationally. Forty percent of A&M students say they get behind the wheel of a car and drive compared to 33 percent nationally. Seventy-five percent of A&M students say they believe that the atmosphere on campus promotes alcohol use."

The report also said, "During the '97-'98 academic year, the following cases were reported: 196 cases of MIP (Minors in Possession), public intoxication, and DUIs (Driving Under the Influence), and 44 cases of alcohol-related disorderly conduct and property destruction, not including those occurring in the residence halls. The assumption is that there were many more that were not reported."

SEE RHA ON PAGE 2.

Display represents students views

BY JOE SCHUMACHER
The Battalion

Aggies Working for a Rape-free Environment and Gender Issues Education Services are presenting the Clothesline Project, a visual display to raise awareness about domestic violence, Thursday and Friday in the MSC Flagroom.

The display consists of T-shirts designed by students and staff expressing views about relationship violence.

Isai Gopalakrishnan, president of AWARE and a junior biology major, said students and members of GIES have been working on the project all month, in coordination with other Domestic Violence Awareness Month activi-

ties. Supplies for the T-shirts were donated by various businesses throughout the Bryan-College Station area.

She said the display was designed to be a memorial to victims of domestic violence and raise awareness about violence against women.

Gopalakrishnan said the project was a great success, and 80 T-shirts will be displayed. She said the shirt she designed served as an emotional outlet for her feelings about domestic violence.

"Emotionally, it was a hard project to complete," Gopalakrishnan said. "Anger, confusion and fear were hard emotions to visually express."

Information from Phoebe's Home, The Bra-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Phillips continues support of Texas

Phillips Petroleum Company has continued its long-term support of Texas A&M with a recent \$55,000 award to the Dwight Look College of Engineering.

Presenting the check on behalf of Phillips Petroleum was Tom Morris, Class of '62 and senior vice president and chief financial officer for the company.

In all, Phillips has contributed more than \$2.65 million to Texas A&M since 1965, marking 33 consecutive years of educational funding.

The recent gift was part of an

overall \$77,000 gift to A&M that brought Phillips' contributions to the University to \$153,285 for the 1997-98 academic year.

Department honors outstanding faculty

The Department of Mechanical Engineering has honored four faculty and staff members for outstanding service.

Associate professors Dr. Reza Langari and Dr. Luis San Andres were honored for teaching, as was graduate student Steven Tillman. Senior academic advisor Cathy Sperry was recognized with the Outstanding Support Staff Award.