

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Tuesday • November 2, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 47 • 10 Pages

Texans urged to cast vote on propositions

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

Registered voters are encouraged to vote on 17 propositions, including two that will increase funding for Texas A&M University, at any of 45 polling booths in Brazos County, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today.

Mary Ann Ward, Brazos County clerk, said the State Legislature was in session from January to June discussing several state-wide topics, leaving 17 propositions to be voted on by the public.

Approximately 1,260 people voted early for this statewide election.

Polling sites include the Manor East Mall, the MSC, A&M United Methodist Church, Rock Prairie Elementary School, the Brazos County Courthouse and A&M Presbyterian Church.

Justin Strickland, student services chair and a junior political science major, said the Student Government Association has taken the necessary steps to create a strong student-voter turnout.

"I am impressed with the massive Student Government [Association] campaign's publicity for both Proposition 13 and Proposition 17," Strickland said.

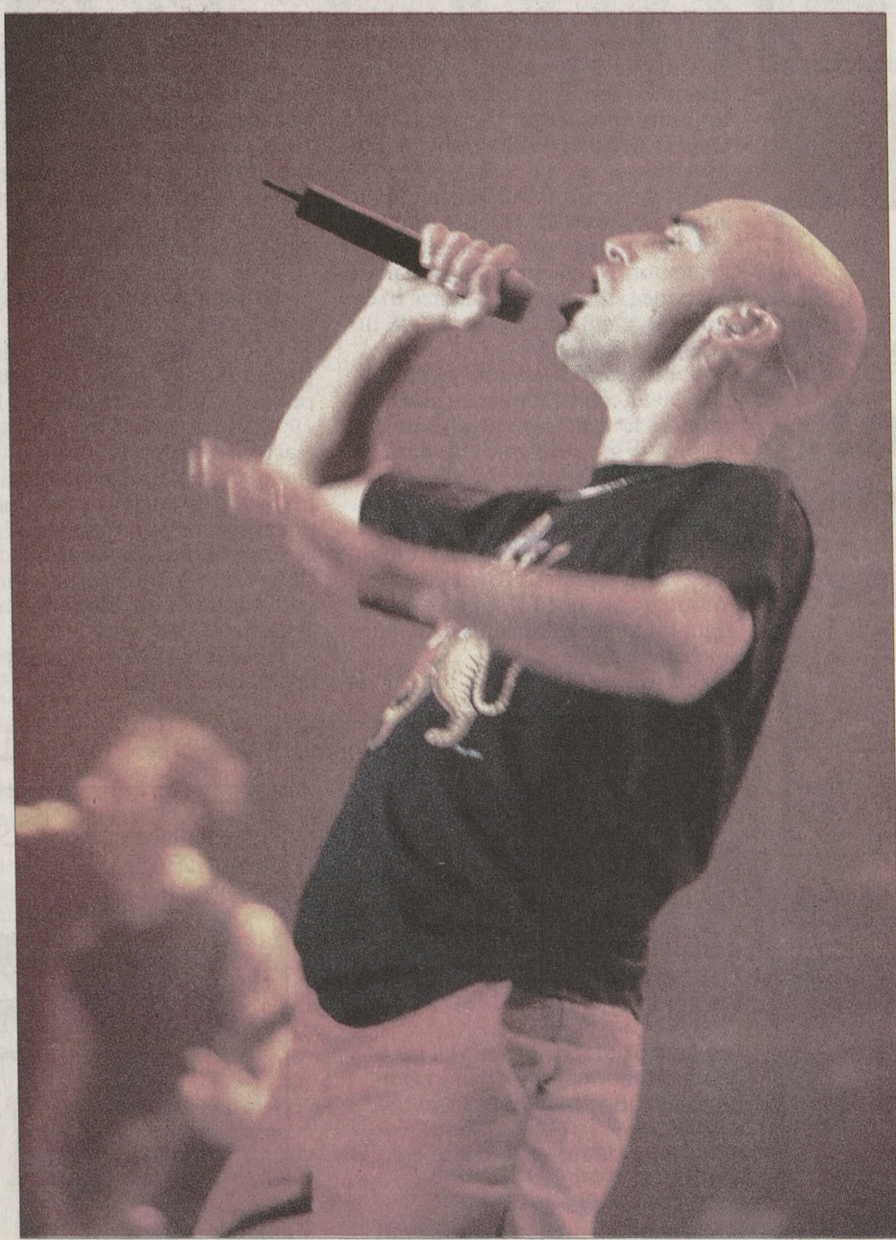
"I hope that all registered Aggies will come out to the polls and vote 'yes' for Proposition 13 and 17. Since this election offers several benefits to A&M students, I hope there will be many voters supporting Proposition 13 and 17."

Proposition 13 would authorize the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue and sell general-obligation bonds to finance educational loans to students.

Proposition 17 would make the Permanent University Fund (PUF) a total-return fund, which provides for a broader, more flexible investment strategy. It would provide new funds for higher education without increasing taxes.

Citizens must be registered to vote in Brazos County and must bring their blue registration cards to the voting polls, Ward said.

Live...live



Members of the band Live, Ed Kowalczyk (foreground), vocals, and Patrick Dahlheimer (background), bassist, perform Monday night at Rudder Auditorium as part of the band's The Distance to Here 1999-2000 Tour.

CAMAC hosts holiday event honoring dead

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

The MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture (CAMAC) will host a celebration for *El Dia de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead, tonight at 7.

Mario Lozano II, CAMAC chair and a senior construction science major, said the holiday is a celebration of life and honors loved ones who have passed away.

"It is not a sad memorial, but a time to remember all of the good things about those we have lost," he said.

The celebration will begin with a candlelight procession from the steps of the Academic Plaza to MSC 201. There, *ofrendas* or altars, will be set up where students can place items, including candles and *pan de muerto*, a kind of sweet bread, in remembrance of loved ones.

"You can put flowers or a picture of that person, or if they liked to draw you can put a pad of paper and a pencil," he said.

El Dia de los Muertos began when Aztecs and Spaniards merged their beliefs. The Aztecs believed in an afterlife and that life on earth was a short part of the journey. When the Spanish came to Mexico, the cultures merged their ideas of saints, gods and memorials into a celebration of life spent on earth.

This year CAMAC will celebrate the life of Americo Paredes, an author and folklorist who died last year. His works include *George Washington Gomez* and *With His Pistol in His Hand*. Last year, CAMAC honored poet Octavio Paz.



GABRIEL RUENES/THE BATTALION

Student leaders show support for ballot item

BY STASIA RAINES
The Battalion

Texas A&M student leaders gathered together yesterday to raise support for Proposition 17.

The Permanent University Fund was created in 1876 as an endowment that is funded by state-owned land and minerals, like oil and gas, and provides a perpetual source of support for certain public institutions affiliated with Texas A&M and The University of Texas systems.

The principal of this fund currently may not be spent, but Proposition 17 would not change that.

Student Body President Will Hurd stressed the importance of Proposition 17 to the future of education in Texas.

"A vote for Proposition 17 is an investment into the future of Texas," he said. "Proposition 17 means several more millions of dollars a year that will go to higher education in Texas

without increasing taxes."

Erin Blaney, Student Government Association public relations director and a junior political science major, said Proposition 17 would aid the University because it provides a way to increase the amount of money in the Permanent University Fund.

"Proposition 17 is going to modernize the investment plan of the Permanent University Fund, and, because of that there will be greater returns on our investment, which means more funding for

A&M," she said.

Hurd said Proposition 17 would allow state investors to take advantage of more flexible investment strategies to invest interest from the PUF.

"This means about 4 million dollars more for academic programs used at the discretion of the president of the universities," he said.

VOTING TODAY on 17 propositions

from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 45 polling sites including:

- Manor East Mall
- The MSC
- A&M United Methodist Church
- Rock Prairie Elementary School
- Brazos County Courthouse
- A&M Presbyterian Church

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Class councils undergo reorganization

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Texas A&M's class councils have regrouped and reorganized to overcome past problems of animosity and lack of cooperation between individual councils to better serve the A&M student population.

Katie Dufour, Elephant Walk director and a senior community health management major, said the reorganization came after a committee of class-council representatives met last spring.

"The committee's goal was to find out how we can better deal with some of the problems [facing class councils] by pulling together," she said. "Some things are working better than others, but this is just sort of a trial year that will lead to a better system next semester."

Katie Hanselka, Class of 2000 president and a senior agricultural development major, said the reorganization is designed to establish stronger lines of cooperation and communication between councils by requiring a meeting of all class-council representatives every two weeks and by more clearly defining each class officer's responsibilities.

"In the past, each class would work independently on their own projects," she said. "The seniors would work on Elephant Walk, and the juniors would do E-Walk," she said. "This would usually cause problems, because then we wouldn't have enough people for a lot of the activities."

CLASS COUNCILS RESTRUCTURING
establish a stronger line of cooperation and communication between councils
individual classes will help one another during projects
required meetings every two weeks of all class council representatives
a clear definition of class officer's responsibilities

JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Hanselka said under the new organization individual classes help each other on projects.

"This way, we have enough people for all the projects, and the underclassmen have an opportunity to learn from the upperclassmen," she said.

Dufour said the increased cooperation has already helped solve some problems, such as the rerouting of Elephant Walk between the Sterling C. Evans Library Annex and the Central Campus Parking Garage instead of down Nagle Street, where the construction could be a hindrance.

"It wasn't a big problem," she said. "We just got together with some [Bonfire] pots and yell leaders, and the problem was solved."

Dufour said a new point system has been developed which requires each class council representative to accumulate a certain number of points by participating in activities, such as selling T-shirts or working on organizing Maroon Out.

Peggy Holzweiss, class council's adviser, said she is optimistic the change will continue to bring bigger and better improvements in class council activities.

"I have never seen the classes working together as well and as much as they are now," Holzweiss said. "It took a lot of courage for the students to break with the traditions of the past, but now they have an even better system that will just continue to get better as time goes on."

INSIDE Sports

- Comeback kid: Andrea Bookout returns after stint in Arizona. Page 7
- AggieLife
- Don't worry, etc.: Part 2 of 5 in the 'How to do Stuff Better Series' deals with finding ways to be happy. Page 3
- Opinion: Let them work to eat cake: New York Mayor Giuliani has plan to employ homeless for shelter. Page 9
- Batt Radio: Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on a special Bryan City Council meeting.

Jordan Institute extends deadline for foreign-internship applications

BY MATT LOFTIS
The Battalion

The MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, which offers Texas A&M students an opportunity to work abroad, has extended the deadline for applying for foreign internships from tomorrow to noon Friday.

Colleen Crenwelge, Institute chair and a sophomore political science and economics major, said she participated in the program last summer. She said it was something she could use to plan for a future career.

Crenwelge worked with Price-WaterhouseCoopers in London on her trip and had the opportunity to travel throughout England. "I got work experience and saw what life was like in the corporate environment," she said. "I encourage anyone who hasn't been abroad before to go on this program."

John Troy, Germany director for the Institute and a sophomore

business administration major, said the Institute sent students to London, England; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and Tubingen, Germany.

"I ... saw what life was like in the corporate environment."

— Colleen Crenwelge
Jordan Institute chair

The trip to Santo Domingo costs \$1,500, London \$2,200 and Tubingen \$2,500, Troy said. He said the institute partly subsidizes the trips to keep costs down.

Troy said the application process begins with low-level ability tests for applicants to non-English-speaking coun-

tries. Once accepted, students attend informational and social meetings throughout the spring semester.

Optional weekly meetings also are held to practice foreign languages. He said each country has in-country coordinators who meet with students while they visit the country.

"International travel broadens your perspectives, making you a more well-rounded individual," Troy said. "Our program will expose you to new ideas and beliefs, both in the workplace and general society, that you have never experienced before."

He said the Institute finds an appropriate internship for students according to their majors.

Kim Nguyen, England director for the Institute for and a senior biomedical science and philosophy major, said study abroad is an excellent opportunity

SEE JORDAN ON PAGE 2.

Tracking down memory lane

Train ride to game rekindles Ag tradition, recollections

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

The train depot is no longer there, but that did not stop the Houston A&M Club Express from pulling up beside Kyle Field Saturday afternoon.

Organized by the Former Students Club of Houston, the passenger train — 11 cars and two locomotives — carried more than 200 Aggie fans from Houston to the football game against Oklahoma State University Saturday.

Though it has been decades since the railroad was College Station's main transportation artery, the event rekindled memories of an old game-day tradition.

Pete Stanley, Class of '46, said when he was an A&M student trains were a popular way to travel to football games.

"Back in the early 1950s, trains were the way to go," he said. "It was a lot of fun then, and we'll have a lot of fun this time."

Judy Franklin, Houston A&M Club president and Class of '68, said the

Union Pacific Railroad Company offered use of its passenger train for free to the A&M Association of Former Students, which directed the company to the Houston A&M Club.

"I think it was a community-good-will type of thing, and who better to hook up with than the largest A&M club in the world?" she said.

Though Houston is only 90 miles away, and most people drive to the game, Franklin said the train got an enthusiastic response from club members. She said the club hopes to make the trip an annual event.

"One of our older members who doesn't drive said taking the train would allow him to go to the game," Franklin said.

"It's also a fun and unique way to travel and a great way to promote the A&M club."

The train parked alongside Wellborn Road across from Kyle Field. A private reception was held in one of its dining cars after the game for dignitaries and guests before the train headed back to Houston, Franklin said.