THE BATTALION

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Fee increase to support study abroad program

BY DANA JAMUS The Battalion

Texas A&M's Vision 2020 mission ement declares the University's dere to diversify and globalize the Texas A&M community in order to allow its raduates to be adequately prepared not ly academically, but also culturally. According to A&M's Vision 2020 tement, "[The University should] ave 100 percent access to international cation for all students." A \$3 increase the International Education Fee (IEF) as been approved by the Student Sente and now awaits the approval of the adent body during the Spring 2000 stuent body elections.

This proposed fee increase would ise the IEF fee to \$4 per student to prode scholarships for A&M students to udy abroad.

Robert Stovall, student senator and mior biomedical science major, said egrowing globalization of the econny presents "the need for a truly bal education.

"If this referendum can pass, it will help to enhance the education of A&M's students as well as increase their marketability to prospective employers."

> - Robert Stovall student senator and a junior biomedical science major

"If this referendum can pass, it will help to enhance the education of A&M's students as well as increase their marketability to prospective employers," Stovall said

According to a nation-wide study on collegiate international exchange programs titled "Open Doors," A&M does not rank within the top 25 colleges who offer international exchange programs.

St. Olaf College came first with 94.3 percent of its students studying abroad while University of Texas-Austin came in 24th with 12 percent, said Leana Divine, vice president of academic affairs for the Student Government Association and a junior international studies and history major.

She said less than 2 percent of A&M students currently study abroad.

Divine said that if the bill is approved, it will go into effect Fall 2002. The bill states that the \$1 IEF origi-

nally proposed by Student Senate in Fall 1991 and approved by the student body in Spring 1992 is no longer enough money because of inflation and an increased. demand for these scholarships.

Stovall said that in 1998, the study abroad office reported that 17,400 students

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SGA offers online voting Students can use internet for Spring 2000 elections

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON The Battalion

Doug Keegan's only real interests in life are computers and math, but for months he has worked endlessly to make online voting, a "virtual reality" for Texas A&M students. Keegan, vice president for technology for the Student fovernment Association (SGA) and a senior applied mathenatics major, was one of many SGA representatives who worked for almost a year to make online voting possible for the A&M campus. Ashlea Jenkins, student body election ommissioner and a junior political science major, approved line voting for the Spring 2000 elections Monday.

For

users

This means beginning March 29 at a.m., students will be able to cast their ballots 24 hours a day via the Internet accessing

http://Vote.tamu.edu http://vote.tamu.edu. The site will stop accepting votes at 5 p.m. on March 30.

he same time that the on-campus polls will close. Only those students connected through the A&M network will be able to access the Web page to register their ote, said Keegan. "This means that students outside the firewall (the secuity program of the campus network), for instance those stuents who are connected through cable or DSL (Digital Subcriber Line) modems, will need to cast their vote either on ampus or through the VPN (Virtual Private Network) serv-," Keegan said.

The goal of this election commission was to get more students to participate in the elections," she said. "According to the research I have done, online voting will do this.'

'In implementing online voting, it is hoped that voter turnout in student elections will increase, because voting will be easier for the students and more efficient," Jenkins said.

"When we looked at how voter turnout increased in other schools after they implemented online voting, we saw that they had anywhere from a 30 to 40 percent increase."

Many measures were taken by Keegan and the election commission to guarantee the security of the site and the voting process.

We have had experts from CIS (Computer Information Services) and

on the

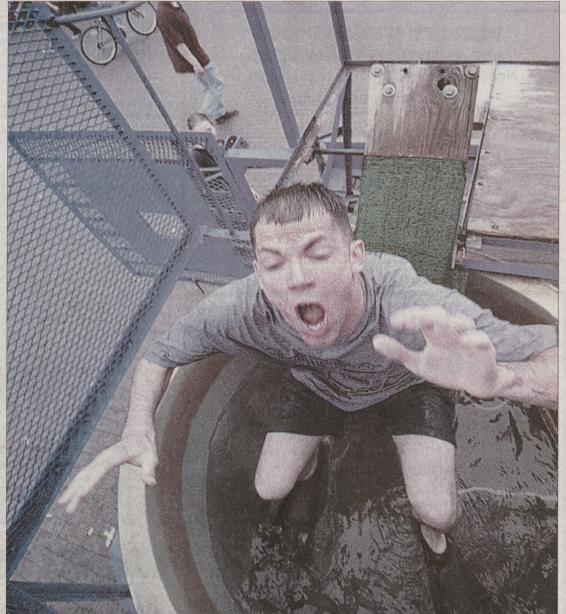
test this system," Jenkins said. "And they will continue to test the system for the next

other places

ROBERT HYNECEK/THE BATTALION month." In order to

verify the identity of the individual who is voting from the Website, students must receive a password via email before

Say 'Ahhh!'



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATT Lechner Hall director, Ken Gassiot gets a dunking outside of the Memorial Student Center Monday afternoon. The dunking booth was set up as part of "Safe Spring Break" presented by the Alcohol and Drug Education Program to promote responsible behavior during the holiday.

GOP awaits 'Super Tuesday'

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) - A feisty John McCain labeled Republican rival George W. Bush "so Clinton-esque it's scary," while a subdued Bill Bradley said he must "win a couple of states" as both underdogs looked to revive their presidential campaigns in a Super Tues-

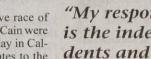
In the more competitive race of the two, both Bush and McCain were making a final push Monday in California, where 162 delegates to the GOP nominating con the biggest prize of the day. Bush had the inside track on those delegates, but McCain hoped for a symbolic nate me." victory in the nonbinding popular vote

Bradley aides were quietly making plans for an exit if Vice President Al Gore does as well as polls suggest in Tuesday's voting for the Democratic nomination.

"I don't think there's any magic number, but I do think we have

to win a couple of states," Bradley said Monday on CBS' "Early Show," holding out hope for Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Maryland or Missouri.

Both Gore and Bradley were devoting the day to New York. Gore courted New York's Jewish activists this morning, saying in a Gore administration, the United States would be "a good and helpful and loyal friend to Israel."



day showdown.

"My response is the independents and republicans are

Jenkins said the on-line voting will also involve more stuents in the election process, making the students who are lected more representative of the student body.

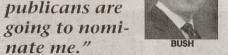
they can cast their votes.

"We wanted to make this process as secure as possible. One way that we did this is through e-mail verification," Keegan said. "The student will first register at the site through their CIS log-in ID — they will select either an Unix, ACS, Labs, or POP email account - the password will be emailed to the student instantaneously," he said.

Within 30 minutes of registering, the student must return to the site and cast their vote. If the student does not return to the site within 30 minutes of registering, they must reregister and receive a new password.

"There has not been a primary yet that has met expectations. It's just too volatile," McCain said at a rally in Santa Clara, claiming the momentum was his.

At a San Diego park, a confident-sounding Bush urged supporters to send a message "that this party and this philosophy needs a leader that can bring people together."



Bradley greeted commuters at the Staten Island Ferry terminal in Man-

hattan at 7:30 a.m. "Rest is for another day," he said.

McCain told reporters that Bush "handed us back the reform issue" thanks to a \$2.5 million series of attack ads he said are financed by Bush's forces.

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A&M women

start Big 12

First round begins

Tuesday in Kansas City, Mo.

tourney

Fall 2000 sees record application numbers

BY ANN LOISEL The Battalion

It is getting tougher to become an Aggie these days.

A record number of people are apalying to Texas A&M for admission in the Fall 2000 semester, but as those numbers go up, the number of students admitted in — at least since last year -is going down said Joseph Estrada, A&M's director of admissions ...

"We've had a considerable increase in the number of submissions," he said. [But] we're actually going to offer fewer admits than we did last year."

Estrada said the Office of Admisions and Records will send out approximately 10,000 acceptance letters n April and anticipate a freshman class ize of 6,300 to 6,500 next fall.

"We're under an enrollment control plan to keep the total enrollment of the University at a manageable ize," he said.

Laura Davis, a senior at Kingwood ligh School in Kingwood, Texas, applied to A&M this year and found out in January she was accepted.

"I never applied anywhere else, so I was really excited to get in," she said.



ROBERT HYNECEK/THE BATTAL

Davis said many of her friends also wanted to go to A&M, but have not received letters of acceptance yet.

Estrada said approximately 2,000 more applications were submitted this year than the year before.

"I think [it's because] we have a well-coordinated recruitment effort," he said. "There's a great appeal to come to A&M and be an Aggie."

The total number of applications for the fall was 18,421, but the number of completed applications - without errors or missing information was 16,451.

"That's a University record," Estrada said. "We've never reached that level of submissions.'

More transfer students are also applying to A&M this year, but those numbers are not final until after the April application deadline.

BY BROOKE HODGES The Battalion

Arend Gabro "Bo" Higgs, an agriculture systems major, died on June 28, 1999, in a water-skiing accident.

Before his death, Higgs had completed the credit hours needed to order his Aggie ring.

His family has now donated his Aggie ring to the Class of 2000 spot in the Association of Former Students' Memorial Ring Case.

Higgs' friends decided to order the ring and in his memory. They also paid for the ring out of their own pockets.

"Bo had it all planned out to order his ring," said Jeff The Association of Former Students' Memorial Ring Bailey, a friend of Higgs and a ter. **Arend Higgs'** ring was donated to represent the

senior agriculture systems ma- class of 2000. jor. "He had turned in the paperwork needed to order it the week before [the accident].

The Association of Former Students hosted a ceremony on October 30, 1999 to present Higgs' ring to his family

The Association talked about how Higgs had completed all the necessary requirements and how he stood for everything the ring represented, Bailey said.

The ring was presented to Higgs' father, Lt. Col. Stephan Higgs, Class of



'73. He and Higgs' brother, Stephan D. Higgs Jr., Class of '97, placed the ring in

everyone got to walk by and see Bo's

ring," Bailey said. "Bo was always on

the ball, he always knew what he was do-

ing. He was a great guy. He always had

a good time and he was always there for

case are donated by family members af-

ter a student has passed away, but Hig-

gs' ring was ordered after his death, said

The rings that go into the memorial

"Lt. Higgs put the ring in the case and

the memorial box.

his friends."

CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Carolyn Swanzy, director of the Aggie Ring Office.

"We normally don't order a ring for a deceased student," Swanzy said. "But, because [Higgs] had completed the qualifications for a ring, friends petitioned to order the ring and present it to the family.

The provision against ordering rings for a deceased student who has not qualified is designed to protect the integrity of the ring, said Patrick Williams, director of campus programs and Class of '92. "The ring symbolizes the

thing[s] that make up a Texas Aggie, and when you get that ring you are part of the network," he said.

The 100-year-old tradition

of taking one ring from each class and placing it in a collection started as an idea of J.B. "Josh" Sterns, Class of 1899. Until 1965, the Sterns Collection was made up of rings that former students would donate.

After 1965, the rings included in the collection were required to be memorial rings, Swanzy said.

The Sterns Collection is located in the Glitsch Library in the Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center, in a case donated by the Class of '62.



• The future of film

Insight on independent films

found in new technology and



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 Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details Houston march on equal funding.

 Check out The Battalion online at battalion.tamu.edu