

Bush, Gore win big in primaries

'Super Tuesday' gives front-runners large lead over rival candidates

(AP) — Al Gore swept past Bill Bradley in Super Tuesday primaries from Maine to California, pushing his rival to the brink of withdrawal in the Democratic presidential campaign. "We need to build on our record of prosperity," the vice president said, turning his focus toward November.

"He won, I lost," said Bradley, all but conceding his challenge was over.

Gore won from New England to Georgia to Ohio to California and at several stops in between, regularly gaining 60 percent of the vote or more. Missouri, where Bradley was born; New York, where he played pro basketball — they, too, went for Gore.

A Bush candidacy would set up a general election matchup between two 50-something scions of political families. Gore's father served as senator from Tennessee before him; Bush's father was president and his grandfather represented Connecticut in the Senate.

Blacks preferred Gore over Bradley by a margin of 6-1; and Hispanics by 8-1. The margin among union members was smaller, but a healthy 3-1. Gore also won the vote of independents, a key element of Bradley's electoral strategy, and a group that the Democratic nominee will need in the general election race. The exit polling was conducted by Voter News Service, a consortium of the Associated Press (AP) and television networks.

To voters concerned about education, abortion rights, environmental protection and other issues, he insisted, "our campaign is your cause."

George W. Bush accelerated his drive to the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday, winning California, New York and five other primaries as he rose to vanquish John McCain. Praising his insurgent challenger, Bush said, "Soon our party will unite and turn to the main

task at hand — ending the era of Clinton-Gore."

McCain was considering whether to drop out of the race and an aide said he expected the Arizona senator to pull the plug as early as Thursday. The Arizona senator won four states Tuesday but none beyond independent-minded New England. He told supporters that he and Bush "may meet again," leaving plenty of room for doubt.

"We're very pleased with the victories we won and disappointed with the ones we lost," McCain told AP. He said he'll meet with his aides Wednesday "and talk about our future."

In a reflective mood, McCain said, "We've changed the face of politics and put reform on the agenda. We're proud of what we've done."

Forging familiar coalitions, Bush relied on party faithful while McCain drew from independents and moderate Republicans. McCain's gamble of criticizing conservative Christian leaders may have

backfired in key states, while Bush's visit to a South Carolina university with a history of anti-Catholic views seemed to be a beneficial campaign issue for McCain in some states.

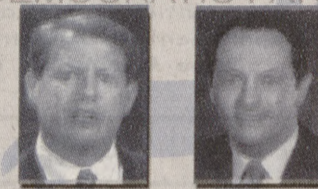
In a late-night rally, Bush enthused, "We have a national victory. Republicans and conservatives across America have said they want me to lead the Republican Party to victory come November, and I am ready and eager to do so."

The governor won California, Ohio, Georgia, Missouri and Maryland by double-digit margins — and broke McCain's hold in the Northeast with narrower victories in New York and in Maine. He won the Minnesota caucuses as well. McCain took Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont as voters in 13 states participated in the year's largest night of Republican presidential contests.

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ELECTION 2000

SUPER TUESDAY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Delegates Won
Al Gore - All Bill Bradley - 0

REPUBLICAN PARTY



Delegates Won
George W. Bush - 347 John McCain - 117

RUBEN DELUNA/The Battalion

Cajun treat



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/The Battalion

Amanda Cooper, a junior animal science major, and Lindsay Maberry, a sophomore management major, eat crawfish at Alicia's restaurant to celebrate Fat Tuesday.

Pradhan jailed for breaking parole, theft

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Dhiraj Pradhan, formerly A&M's top-paid computer science professor, was sentenced to 60 days in jail and ordered to immediately pay \$38,000 in restitution to the Texas A&M University System Tuesday for 26 charges of theft and violation of probation.

Pradhan's probation stemmed from a Nov. 24, 1998, plea bargain in which he plead guilty to the charge of Abuse of Official Capacity for misusing \$38,000 of Texas A&M University System money in return for a sentence of five years probation during which he could repay the amount in monthly installments.

Upon a secondary investigation at Pradhan's request after the plea bargain, the District Attorney's office discovered that Pradhan had continued to use \$8,000 of Texas A&M University System money after his probation had started.

"We ended up talking with the A&M General Council who led us to these instances. After some investigation, we felt these violated the terms of [Pradhan's probation]," Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said. "[This ruling]

is just a revocation of his probation."

The charges of the \$8,000 theft consist of copying and mailing over 130,000 pages of material and use of a phone card for personal gain at the University's expense.

"Pradhan said that he is being persecuted for just making a few copies," Turner said. "But I think that it is significant to realize that this amounts to \$8,000 of state money that he took while not even an employee."

Turner said the \$8,000 was added to the \$30,000 left unpaid from the original plea bargain and was ordered to be paid immediately. He also said Pradhan was ordered to turn himself over to police custody at Brazos County Jail by 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Pradhan said he had permission from his former supervisor Wei Zhao, a computer science professor, to use the University's facilities to make 2,000 copies of a paper which he intended to submit to various scientific publications. As proof, Pradhan said he presented payment authorization forms for the expenditures bearing Wei Zhao's signature.

"A few of the forms were properly filled out, but we have determined that the remainder appear to be falsified duplications," Turner said.

Pradhan said he feels as though Zhao was

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Prairie View's program funding inadequate, under question

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

The Feb. 11 Prairie View A&M University's men's track team car accident, which killed four students, has raised questions on whether Prairie View receives adequate funding for its programs.

The driver of the van en route to Pine Bluff, Ark., for an indoor track meet was a 21-year-old student athlete at Prairie View. Students and spectators are now questioning why this state-funded school could not afford a charter vehicle for its out-of-state trip.

"We do not have pockets as deep as College Station, therefore one has to participate in athletics using transportation as safe as possible — and that entails the lease of vans," said Larry Raab, vice president of finance at Prairie View A&M University.

Since state money cannot be used for athletics, money used for athletics must be raised or donated by alumni or private companies.

"Football programs pay for the majority of all other athletic programs at any

"We do not have pockets as deep as College Station, therefore one has to participate in athletics using transportation as safe as possible but also as economical as possible ..."

— Larry Raab

vice president of finance at Prairie View A&M University

university, so if you have a viable, large, well-funded football program, those monies normally cover all other sports at the university," Raab said. "We, like all the other schools in the A&M System, have to rely heavily on gate revenue and fund raising activities from alumni, the corporate world and others."

B.J. Crain, associate vice chancellor for budgets and accounting for the Texas A&M University System, said the A&M System does not have a say in distribution of money contributed to the univer-

sities by the state of Texas.

"Money in the system is distributed by the Legislature, and it never comes to the Texas A&M University System," he said.

Crain said the formula used by the Legislature is based on detailed calculations, but can be oversimplified to three basic building blocks: semester credit hours, whether it is undergraduate, graduate or a doctoral program; the type of institution, such as liberal arts, engineering or agriculture; and square footage.

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Pope to apologize for church's sins

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II plans to deliver a historic, sweeping apology for the sins of Roman Catholics over the centuries, Vatican officials said today.

The pope's homily for the Day of Pardon Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday is apparently still being written. The officials, briefing reporters on the event, also appeared to be setting limits on how such an apology should be viewed.

No pope has ever gone to such lengths to seek forgiveness for past sins, Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

A document prepared by an international group of theologians, which was released in Paris last week, and statements by officials today suggested the pope will at least allude to responsibility by the Catholics in the Holocaust, the Inquisition, the Crusades and for acts against other Christians in wars of religions.

The theological document released last week broke little new ground and was instead intended to provide the context for the pope's call for a "purification" of the church.

On the Holocaust, the document said it was important to keep a "moral and religious memory" on the injury inflicted on Jews.

"In this area, much has already been done, but this should be confirmed and deepened," the documents said. Some Jews were upset that the Vatican's landmark 1998 document on the Holocaust did not condemn the church hierarchy for any failures to save Jews.

The Vatican has consistently defended Pope Pius XII, who served during World War II and is a candidate for beatification. Israeli Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau said the latest Vatican document on the Holocaust was "quite disappointing."

"It is impossible to correct a crime of the past without any mention, for example, of Pius XII when he stood on the blood of the victims and did not say a word," he said.



POPE JOHN PAUL II

Ross St. renovation in need of funds

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

Students who have been waiting for years to use both sides of Ross Street between Ireland and Spence Streets will be waiting a while longer.

Mary Miller, the associate vice president for administration, said Ross Street has been blocked off from vehicle use because of faults in the street's foundation.

"It's been blocked off for a few years, and that's because the sub-structure of the street is caving in and it wasn't safe for vehicles to drive on it," she said.

David Godbey, associate director for engineering and design services, said "the supporting soil underneath it was not compacted properly."

Godbey said Ross Street is just part of a larger project being planned.

"It is under consideration now to be part of a large project that would include rebuilding New Main Drive and upgrading all the storm water drainage between University Boulevard and George Bush Drive," he said.

Miller said the tentative schedule calls for construction beginning in fall 2001. Due to the project's size, it will not be completed until May 2003.

"The timing is very long because we have a lot of issues that are being addressed at one time," she said.

Miller said the estimated cost is about \$4.5 million for the entire renovation project, which would be paid for with state bonds.

"It is a very expensive repair because it is a major street renovation," she said.

Godbey said the orange cylinders blocking off one side of Ross Street are "not a sign that construction is starting because first we would have to hire engineers and do plans of specifications in detail. All we've done so far is have a preliminary study on it."

Godbey said New Main Drive will be rebuilt in concrete to improve its appearance.

"New Main has deteriorated and is really not suitable to the main entrance of a major university," he said. "It is a blacktop street and our intentions are to rebuild it in concrete so it is a first-class street."

Godbey said the storm drains are to blame for the flooding that occurs on Bizzell Street, following heavy rains.

Godbey said the storm drains must be improved in order to meet the requirements of an agreement with College Station.

"We have an agreement with the City of College Station to reduce our runoff to their system on George Bush Drive by 20 percent," he said.



JP BEATO/The Battalion

Ross Street, between the Reed McDonald Building and the Chemistry Building has been closed off to two-way traffic for several years due to its faulty foundation.

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