

Starr Report

Former independent counsel reflects on impeachment trial

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

Referring to the spectacle that thrust him into the national spotlight as the "recent unpleasantness," Kenneth Starr reflected on the investigation and subsequent impeachment of President Bill Clinton Wednesday when he spoke at a lecture at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center.

Starr was the guest speaker at the annual Twanna Powell lecture, sponsored by the George Bush Library Foundation. Starr is the former Whitewater independent counsel whose five-year investigation culminated in only the second impeachment trial of a president in American history.

"In the end, people decided they could not support the removal of a duly elected president for offenses that would warrant the removal of a federal judge or any lesser member of the executive branch," Starr said.

Reflecting on his role in the process, Starr said his main regret was allowing his mission to expand beyond what he called the "Arkansas phase" of the investigation.

Appointed in 1994 to investigate Whitewater, Starr was later authorized by Attorney General Janet Reno to look into a series of scandals involving the Clinton administration, including allegations the president lied under oath about having sexual relations with a White House intern.

"I think it would have been preferable for the attorney general to seek the appointment of other independent counsels to look into the new matters," Starr said.

Starr also said he failed to defend his office against partisan attacks in the media.

"It was an enormous amount of litigation, and the patience of the American people wore thin, especially in this 24-hour news cycle," Starr said. "We didn't do an adequate job of informing the public of the job description of our office and how broad our original mandate was."

Starr said the Department of Justice could have done more to fend off the campaign of demonization against the independent counsel's office.

"It would have been better if the Justice Department had been more supportive of our efforts," Starr said. "I know if Griffin Bell [attorney general under President Jimmy Carter] was there, he would have called the White House and said 'Call off the attack dogs right now.'"

Starr discussed the flaws in the independent counsel law, which he said creates a constitutionally awkward situation in which a president is subject to a prosecutor with almost unlimited jurisdiction and resources but who is technically part of the executive branch.

"It was a well-intentioned but illusory effort to eliminate politics from justice," Starr said.

He advocated returning to the pre-Watergate system in which the attorney general would appoint a special prosecutor to investigate allegations of wrongdoing in the executive branch.

In his closing remarks, Starr said that the president's acquittal in the Senate trial did not mean the American people condoned presidential misconduct.

"Character does count. Despite all the economic and foreign policy issues that are important in this election year, I'm happy to hear citizens say that integrity matters," Starr said.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Judge Kenneth Starr walks with former President George Bush on their way to speak at the Twanna M. Powell Lecture series, a program which brings distinguished leaders and recognized ex-

perts on major public policy issues about or related to the state of Texas to the Campus of Texas A&M University. Starr became famous for his report covering President Clinton's 1998 legal inquires.

RHA hears plan to implement 'wireless' campus

BY CYRA GATLING
The Battalion

air.... We want something more definite." Many factors are still up for debate, such as how the project would be funded, whether the cell phones will be optional and how the cell phones would be distributed for a possible trial-basis offering.

If approved the project would not be enacted for another year or two. The RHA approved a bill in favor of the "Not on Our Campus" Campaign, which stands to create a campus of tolerance and unity.

The "Not on Our Campus" Campaign hopes to curtail acts of intolerance, bigotry and hate based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, ability, age or language through multiple steps.

"The fact that the leaders in the halls support 'Not on Our Campus' will help improve the community because they are the leaders and role models who will take the campaign back to the halls and instill it into the halls and the community," said Julie Cast, president of RHA and a junior marketing major.

The campaign aims to establish a long-lasting tradition of tolerance on the Texas A&M campus. "Support for 'Not on Our Campus' will change the conception that A&M is not as tolerant as other campuses," Cast said.

"Not on Our Campus" hopes to receive support from all organizations and to change the climate around campus for the better. Additionally, Cindy Zawieja, associate director of Food Services, spoke on the status of the Sbsa Dining Hall, which will be back in business on Dec. 15.

Until the reopening of Sbsa, students can continue to eat at the Memorial Student Center (MSC), Commons Dining Hall and Sbsa Hut and through Outbound Dining. Bus services, however, may change to operate solely during dinner hours.

These dining options will be available throughout the summer and fall. Incoming freshmen will receive information about dining options in their packets at freshman orientation.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) is working to make the idea of a "wireless" campus—one where students would be equipped with cellular phones as part of their dorm experience—a reality.

The RHA heard a proposal for the implementation of a wireless campus.

The proposal calls for each student living on campus to receive a cell phone to make free calls on campus. Students could then sign up for wireless plans to use the phones off campus and make long distance calls.

Walter Magnussen Jr., associate director for telecommunications, presented the wireless campus proposal.

The proposal would eliminate land, or "hard" phone lines, for residence halls.

"Capital costs are anticipated to be \$9 million to \$10 million," Magnussen said. "We already pay \$7 million, so this is more of an incremental cost than an additional cost."

The proposal details a variety of features for the phones.

As soon as students go off campus, a room light would come on to signify that they are being charged for calls. An emergency notification light will be available on the phones to notify students of bad weather or other emergency situations. There will also be an emergency number on the phone that would dial directly to the University Police and alert police of the caller's location.

Some students disagree with the proposed implementation of cell phones.

"Although cell phones would be convenient, there are far too many unseen complications to consider a proposal yet," said Thomas Coulbourne, a resident of Hotard Hall and a sophomore English major. "Problems [include] time in setting it up, limitations on usage, course registration and interruption during class and events."

"There are too many things up in the



Recruitment efforts to change

Student advisory committee will focus on increasing minority enrollment, diversity

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

Adrienne Ballare, a senior journalism major who participated in the round table discussion as a part of Black History Month, said the University's most recent attempt to increase minority enrollment by creating the Office of Admissions Student Recruitment Advisory Committee is just another unsuccessful tactic refashioned from A&M's past.

"The Recruitment Advisory Committee is just another show-and-tell that A&M is trying to get on the ball and increase minority enrollment at A&M," Ballare said. "I think the University should take a more active role in recruiting minorities, like they did to recruit me."

The Student Recruitment Advisory Committee, a committee formed to help the Office of Admissions better recruit minorities to create a more diverse campus, held their first meeting last Thursday. The committee consists of student leaders from different minority groups who will serve as liaisons between the Office of Admissions and the student body.

Maco Faniel, vice president for community improvement for the Student Government Association and a sophomore speech communication major, said the committee is in the process of identifying problems with the current recruitment strategy and deciding the most tangible and effective means of making improvements.

The committee hopes to

help accomplish coordinating of events for campus visits, involving key organizations on the campus in the recruiting efforts and dispelling the negative image of Texas A&M not being sensitive to the needs of all students.

Faniel said the committee hopes to target minority students during their campus visits.

"We want to create programs for campus visits that give prospective students of color a sense of familiarity," Faniel said. "If they don't see students of color, that might deter them from coming to A&M, but by creating programs during their campus visit, prospective students can interact one-on-one with students of color at A&M."

But Ballare said the committee will not be effective in re-

cruting if they only recruit when prospective students come to A&M for campus visits.

"A lot of minorities don't even come to A&M to visit because of the negative stereotype this school has," Ballare said. "It makes more sense for minority recruiters to go to their high schools and talk to juniors and seniors about the importance of a quality education and share their experiences with the prospective students."

Van Johnson, a senior chemistry major who also participated in the roundtable discussion, said the committee is a step in the right direction, but the University has to listen to the committee and try some of its ideas for the committee to be effective.

"This is definitely a positive

step because the University is getting feedback from people who are here, which will give them an outlook on what A&M is to the people who are at A&M," Johnson said. "How effective it will be depends on how many of the recommendations the committee makes are actually implemented."

Joe Estrada, director of Admissions, said the committee will serve as student ambassadors to share experiences with potential students.

"My excitement about the process is student participation in activities," Estrada said. "We have a cadre of students we can call to participate in recruitment activities on and off campus and, though it's been done in the past, [the committee] gives it more formality."

53rd session student senators name Chad Wagner as speaker

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

Chad Wagner, a sophomore political science major, was elected speaker of Student Senate for the 53rd session Wednesday evening.

As speaker for the Senate, Wagner has set many goals for the 53rd session.

"I want to work at promoting positive interactions among senators, and I hope to increase students' accessibility to the senators through increased technology and personal interaction," Wagner said.

"As speaker, I will work as the voice of the Student Senate. Just as each senator acts as a voice of the student body, I want to keep the focus of the Senate on the student body."

Wagner promised to work as an advocate for the issues and concerns of the student body to Texas A&M administrators.

"Progress — tangible progress has to be our goal," Wagner said.

"Progress that the student body can see in everything we do. I want

the student body to know that we are always working for the better of Texas A&M."

Wagner has been a student senator

"Progress — tangible progress has to be our goal. Progress that the student body can see in everything we do. I want the student body to know that we are always working for the better of Texas A&M."

— Chad Wagner
Speaker of Student Senate

for two years and was chairperson of external affairs during the 52nd session of the Student Senate.

Though Student Body President-Elect Forrest Lane has not officially taken office, the senior political science major was sworn in at Wednes-

day's meeting.

Lane said he understands the importance of maintaining good relations between the executive branch of the Student Government Association (SGA) and Student Senate.

"Cooperation and communication between student body president and Student Senate is essential to getting work done on campus," Lane said.

"The 53rd session is a dynamic group of great people who I know have a lot of good ideas for this University."

The Senate elected Courtney Eschbach, sophomore political science major, as the speaker pro-tempore.

The speaker pro-tempore handles the administrative aspects of Student Senate, while the speaker chairs Student Senate meetings and represents the Student Senate.

"I am excited to be working with Chad Wagner, he is a very open person, and [has] some great ideas for the Student Senate," Eschbach said.

"I want the student body to know that I am here for them."

INSIDE

Sports

- Howard looks to Olympics
- Aggie swimmer heads to trials

Page 17

Aggielife

- This room for rent

Students discuss pros and cons of subleasing

Page 3

Opinion

- From student council to city council

Students should support city council representation

Page 19

Batt Radio

- Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on the Texas teenager abortion case.

Batt Online

- Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu