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The Texas A&M Debate Society The Texas A&M Debate Society

presents

Resolved: The Republican Vice-Presidential
candidate should be Colin Powell.

Thursday, April 13, 2000

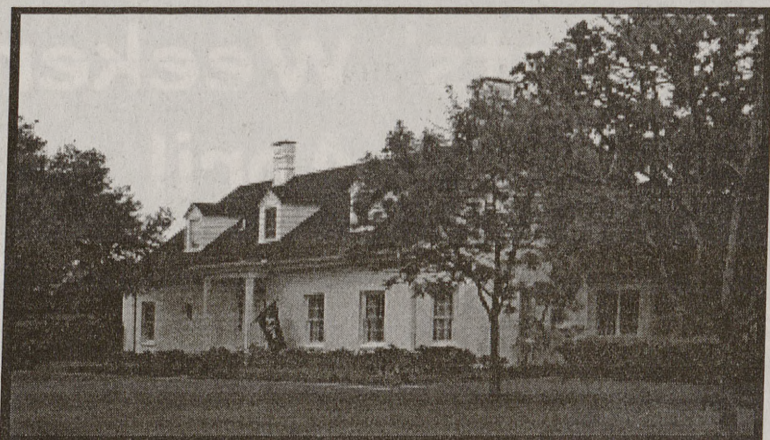
7:00pm Rudder 301

The topic will be debated by members of the Texas A&M Debate Society

**President and Mrs. Ray M. Bowen '58
and
Vice President for Student Affairs Malon Southerland '65**
invite you and your family
to drop by their campus homes
from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 15, 2000



The President's home is located on Throckmorton Street
across from Duncan Drill Field.



The Gilchrist-Southerland residence is located at 100 Throckmorton Street
across from the Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.

Light refreshments will be served at both homes.

NATION

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THE BATTALION

Thursday

Million Mom March to call for gun control action

SHORT HILLS, N.J. (AP) — It took an unforgettable image of young children escaping a racist gunman to transform Donna Dees-Thomases from a wealthy suburban mother into a grassroots activist.

The image was from Aug. 10, when a white supremacist opened fire on a Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills, Calif.

Dees-Thomases was flipping channels when she saw the video of children the same age as her daughters crossing the street hand-in-hand with police officers.

"These were my kids crossing the street," Dees-Thomases said. "My kids go to a JCC. Anybody could walk in. It was just crazy."

One week later, Dees-Thomases registered a Website, and launched the Million Mom March campaign. The grassroots effort is expected to become the nation's largest gun control demonstration to date.

The Mother's Day rally is expected to draw 100,000 people to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Other demonstrations are scheduled in 20 cities nationwide, including Tulsa, Okla., Los Angeles, Denver and Portland, Ore.

The group is pressing Congress for stricter gun control, including measures to require all handgun owners to be licensed and registered, require built-in child safety locks and limit handgun purchases to one a month.

"Mothers are certainly an impor-

tant voice in this debate, and they are a voice that has not been very strong until this point," said Shannon Fratartoli, researcher at the Center for Gun Policy and Research at Johns Hopkins University.

"We have yet to see really a grassroots movement in this area, and maybe that's what is needed in order to change voting behavior."

National Rifle Association spokesman Bill Powers said the organization was unconcerned about the appeal of the May 14 rally.

"It is one of the great freedoms of America" to express oneself politically, he said.

Prior to the Granada Hills shooting, Dees-Thomases considered herself rather apolitical. Today, her cluttered basement office in this wealthy suburban community is adorned by bright pink posters and T-shirts reading, "We're looking for a few good moms."

Dees-Thomases, a part-time publicist for David Letter-

man's late-night talk show, named the Million Mom March the success of the Million Man rally for black empowerment in 1995, and the Million Youth March.

The campaign has grown by word of mouth — mothers working out of the office in Washington.

Organizers have recruited by calling parent-teacher groups, synagogues and women's support, Dees-Thomases said.

"It is a true instinct of protecting their children," she said. "It is totally primitive."

Moms have their march

Mothers across the country are expected to participate in a demonstration on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and in other cities on Mother's Day. Here is a look at the cities where rallies, called Mom March, are planned — on Mother's day or the previous day.



Source: Million Mom March

News in Brief

Wildfire destroys 13,000 Fla. acres

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — A wildfire that had burned 13,000 acres stalled today on the edge of Big Cypress Swamp after destroying three houses and forcing people to flee other homes in the area.

Wind was expected to pick up during the late afternoon and push the fire toward the southeast and away from populated areas on the edge of Naples, fire officials said.

The RV resort, about 2 1/2 miles from the fire's edge, sits on a road that serves as the eastern boundary of Naples' developed areas.

Earlier, fire crews had feared

"very aggressive fire behavior," said state fire spokesman Jim Harrell. Advancing flames caught three firefighters' vehicles on Monday, although their operators escaped.

An elementary school was closed for the day today in the area about 10 miles east of Naples, or 130 miles south of Tampa.

Residents of 50 homes within a mile of the fire had been urged to evacuate Tuesday, and 10 businesses were asked to close, said Deborah Wright, a Collier County spokesperson.

The fire started Sunday in the Picayune Strand State Forest, between Naples and the Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park. It was blamed on humans, but the exact cause has not been determined.

Expert says settlers poison

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — It could be a macabre sequel to the Pocahontas story, a pathologist says many of the settlers at Jamestown may have been poisoned with arsenic — possibly by a local Indian.

Dr. Frank Hancock, a pathologist, says he found arsenic in the remains of a settler in Jamestown.

He says he is searching for a medical explanation why so many colonists died two years after the first English settlement in America was established in 1607.

His conclusion: Many colonists may have been poi-

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