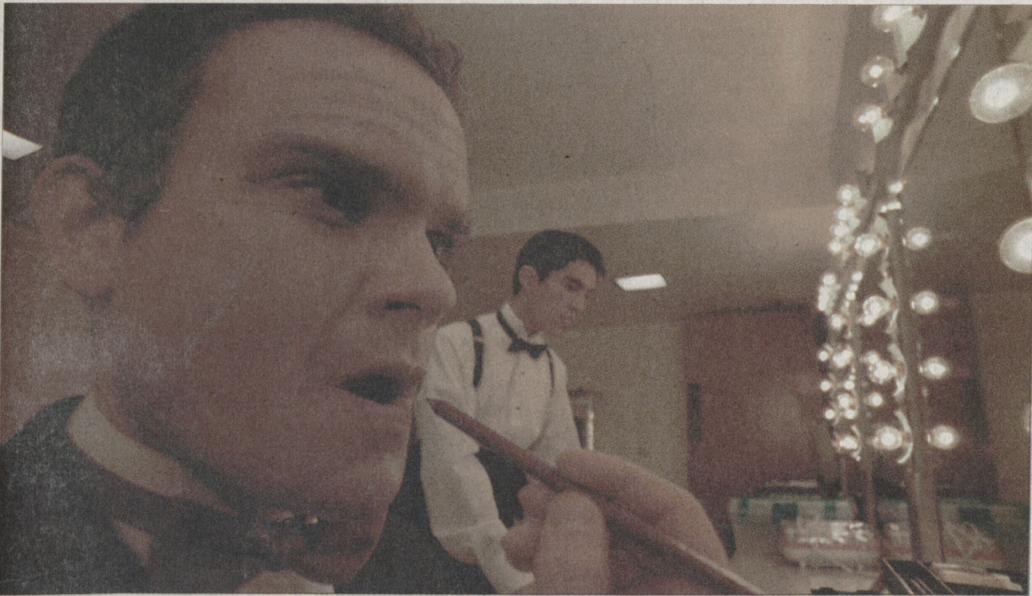


Aggie Players



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Keith Neagle, a sophomore English major and member of the Aggie Players, gets into character before a production on Thursday night in Rudder. The play, *Andromache*, was originally a work of the ancient Greek Euripides.

2000 platforms reviewed at Bush

By BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

The presidential race is not over yet, but if the election were today, Vice President Al Gore would win, said Haynes Johnson, a member of a panel discussion on presidential campaigns held at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center Thursday night.

"If the people vote on issues, Gore will win," Johnson said, adding that he would not bet money on it because the race is very

close, with one full month of campaigning left.

The panel discussion was moderated by Roger Mudd, an established national television journalist. The panel discussed presidential campaigns since the inception of the United States and comprised Haynes; Michael Deaver, deputy chief of staff and adviser to Ronald Reagan for more than 20 years; and Dr. Robert Remini, an author and historian of Jacksonian America and 19th century presidencies.

The discussion consisted of sev-

eral questions presented by Mudd and a forum among the panel members. It served as the official commencement of the tour of "Portraits of the Presidents" — a four-year tour of presidential portraits, sculptures and photographs from the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.

The portrait collection will stop at seven places in the United States while the Old Patent Office Building — the permanent home of the collection — is renovated. The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum is the first of the stops.

Mudd began the panel with the topic of campaign debates.

Deaver, the man known as the architect of Reagan's communications program, said that debates should not be a staged camera event, but rather be held in front of Congress. He said congressmen should be given the opportunity to question candidates, giving the American people an idea how the candidates could work with Congress.

Deaver said that although candidates do not travel cross-country

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Lieberman, Cheney spar over tax cuts, budget surpluses

DANVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Republican Dick Cheney and Democrat Joseph Lieberman disagreed firmly but politely Thursday night about military readiness, tax cuts and the future of Social Security in a debate of campaign under studies.

Sitting a few feet apart around a small table, the vice presidential candidates agreed that President Slobodan Milosevic should give up power in Yugoslavia after an election loss, but

both opposed the use of American troops to force him out.

In a debate that ranged broadly over campaign issues, Lieberman, a two-term Connecticut senator, said Republicans want to "raid the Medicare trust fund to pay for their tax cuts." But Cheney said there was more than enough money to go around, and it is "totally reasonable" to give relief to all taxpayers.

The argument that "somehow ... all of it is

going to tax cuts isn't true," Cheney said of the huge surpluses forecast over the next decade.

The two men sparred as they sat together for their only debate of the fall campaign. The atmosphere on a specially constructed stage at Centre College was far more relaxed than Tuesday night when presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush met in Boston for

See DEBATE on Page 6A.

Inspectors give MSC's 12th Man test score of 66

By ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

A recent health inspection of the 12th Man Cafeteria in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) yielded a failing grade.

Inspectors from the Brazos County Health Department gave the cafeteria a grade of 66 out of 100, after finding a number of minor health violations during an unannounced tour Oct. 2, said Julie Anderson, a health department official. She added that a follow-up inspection Thursday revealed that the problems were corrected, and the cafeteria got a 100 evaluation.

The violation that most concerned inspectors involved the sinks where cafeteria workers wash their hands. Health standards require that the water be at a temperature of at least 110 degrees Fahrenheit, but the water coming out of the faucets was about 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Washing with hot water is important for sanitation, Anderson said.

"It helps to liquefy the grease on your hands so the soap reaches the skin," she said.

Food handlers must wash their hands every time they change tasks, such as moving from vegetable preparation to making sandwiches.

The lukewarm water was caused by faulty valves that drew cold water into the hot water spigots, but the plumbing problem has been fixed, Anderson said.

Other violations included the im-

proper dating of meat. When a package of meat was opened, it was left in the freezer and marked with the date it was opened. Health standards require that packaged meat, when opened, be marked with a "consume by" date when the contents must be thrown away, Anderson said.

"In this case, the worker was simply not aware of the rule, so that was corrected," she said. "It's not like the meat had gone rotten and they were still serving it."

Inspectors also noted crowded conditions in the kitchen and inadequate paper towel and soap dispensers.

Even though the 12th Man Cafeteria received a failing grade, Anderson said, the cafeteria was not shut down because the violations were not serious enough to pose a health hazard to customers.

"There were a few problems, but I talked to one of the inspectors, and he said he had no qualms about eating there himself," Anderson said.

Cynthia Zawieja, associate director of the Food Services Department, said the failing grade was an aberration and not reflective of food services at A&M.

"It's embarrassing for us to receive that score," Zawieja said. "We're usually in compliance, but we just had a bad day that day, and we've taken corrective measures. People need to know that it's still safe to eat there."

Other A&M cafeterias tested received a grade of 80 or higher.

TAMU Food Establishments Inspected on Oct. 2, 2000

Establishment	SCORE
Common Denominator	84
Commons Dining Center	83
Common Market	100
Golf Course Snack Bar	90
Blocker Espresso Bar	97
Bus Stop Snack Bar	97
Pie Are Square	96
Zachry Snackery	100
Stone Willy's	100
Pavilion Snack Bar	100
Mobile Food (Houston St.)	97
MSC Cafeteria	
12th Man International	66

BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

Student dedicates time to accurate weather updates

Meanwhile, Keith loses strenght on Mexican coast

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A hurricane slammed into Mexico's Gulf coast near Tampico on Thursday, forcing evacuations, ripping roofs from homes and causing floods before weakening to a tropical storm.

Keith was packing 90 mph winds when it hit the Gulf coast above Tampico, about 280 miles south of the U.S. border. No injuries or deaths were reported Thursday evening, as Keith lost strength over land.

"Corrugated metal roofs blew off several wooden houses, trees were blown over and electrical posts were knocked down," said

Tofik Salum, director of the civil defense agency in the northern state of Tamaulipas.

Hardest hit was the town of Gonzalez, about 110 miles northwest of Tampico, Salum said.

The storm lost strength as it moved inland and forecasters predicted it would rapidly weaken. All warnings were called off, except for a tropical storm warning north from Tampico to the port city of La Pesca.

At 8 p.m., the center of Tropical Storm Keith was about 35 miles south of Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. The storm was moving toward

See KEITH on Page 6A.

By BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

Weatherman Ted says Aggies no longer have to consult the television or radio for the current conditions and forecast for Bryan-College Station. They do not even have to look out the window — just at their computer screens.

Ted Ryan, a junior meteorology major, is in his second year of giving AggieLand the heads-up on weather via the Internet.

"I'm always watching," he said. "I enjoy watching severe weather, but I have never gone storm chasing because it is a lot harder to storm chase than it was in the movie *Twister*."

Ryan's Website — located at <http://weather.resnet.tamu.edu> — is updated at least twice

daily with current conditions and forecasts. He said the big update comes every day at 4 p.m., but he makes changes as often as necessary to keep up with Mother Nature.

"I like to say that I am very accurate because I am here in College Station and because I am only forecasting for College Station," Ryan said. "The National Weather Service can't do that because they forecast for 100 square miles."

Ryan said his project started out of necessity because his friends always wanted him to keep them updated on weather forecasts.

"I decided it would be more practical to set

See WEATHER on Page 6A.

Holloway elected freshman class president

By COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

Joseph Holloway and Meredith Talley were elected president and vice president, respectively, for the Class of '04.

Neil Simpson, election commissioner for the Student Government Association (SGA) and a junior recreation, park and tourism sciences major, announced the results in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue Thursday night.

Holloway, a business administration major, received 58.4 percent of the freshmen vote, beating Melissa Baumann, a renewable natural resources major.

"I decided to run for class president because I would rather have myself lead than have someone else do it and risk them doing a poor job," he said, attributing his success to the positive people he surrounded himself with throughout his campaign.

He added that he wanted "to expand on what the

Class of '04 has to offer and make it even better."

Holloway will be assisted by vice president Talley, a general studies major. Talley received 57.2 percent of the vote, beating Katie Lowe, an English and anthropology major.

Talley said that positive feedback from supporters helped to keep up her spirit in the race for vice president. Talley said her campaign strategy was to speak to various organizations, adding that she wants "the Class of '04 to make a strong standing throughout our time at A&M. I am just excited to be a part of it all."

The Freshman Council, composed of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian and social secretary, is co-directed by Aaron Dobbs, a senior journalism and political science major, and Katy Guercio, a senior marketing major.

"Fish Council encompasses the whole class and we are just a resource outlet for the council members," Dobbs said.

Guercio said the duties of president and vice

president are as large as they want them to be and really have no bounds.

"Students on Fish Council have a lot of leeway to explore their role and the possibilities for the Class of '04; we are just here to advise and help when needed," she said.

The overall voting results were lower than expected, but typical for a freshman election, Simpson said. Eighty-six votes were placed online. Simpson informed candidates that they have 48 hours to appeal the voting decision if they feel an injustice was done, but SGA offices will close at 6 p.m. Saturday. This means that all complaints regarding voter turnout must be in by this time to be considered.

Simpson warned that candidates can be fined, regardless of the election outcome, if their campaign fliers are not removed from the various campus sites by 10 p.m. Saturday.

The roles of the freshman council president and vice president will begin immediately.



BERNARDO GARCIA/THE BATTALION

Joseph Holloway congratulates Meredith Talley after they were announced as president and the vice president of the freshman class, respectively.