

Baker fills house at Bush complex

Former secretary of state speaks on ethics

By STEPHEN METCALF
The Battalion

In front of a packed house at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center, former Secretary of State James Baker sought to reaffirm Americans' belief that ethics are alive and in practice in government. Baker used a simple statement to illustrate his feelings on the issue: "Ethics in government — I'm for it."

Wielding this mantra and his experiences in public service as his battle-axe, he landed powerful blows on the notion that Americans should look at politics with an air of distrust.

"Now, here in America, some people may think everybody does wrong," Baker said. "But by comparison to the routine and systematic governmental corruption in other places, the normative behavior for public officials in America from top to bottom is really remarkably high. Americans are still shocked and even angered when a government official is caught taking bribes or stealing public property or selling a vote."

Baker said this is a clear indication that the American government is in better shape than it appears.

"It occurs to me that there are five reasons that that is the case: our culture, our representative democracy, our divided government, the press and the rule of law," Baker said. "Each one works sep-

arately, and in many cases, with the others, to promote ethics in government."

Baker cited America's strong historical bias against corruption to back his reasons. Later, he called representative democracy "the greatest friend of honest government" because people can improve ethics in government in two ways: removing corrupt officials, and installing ethical officials.

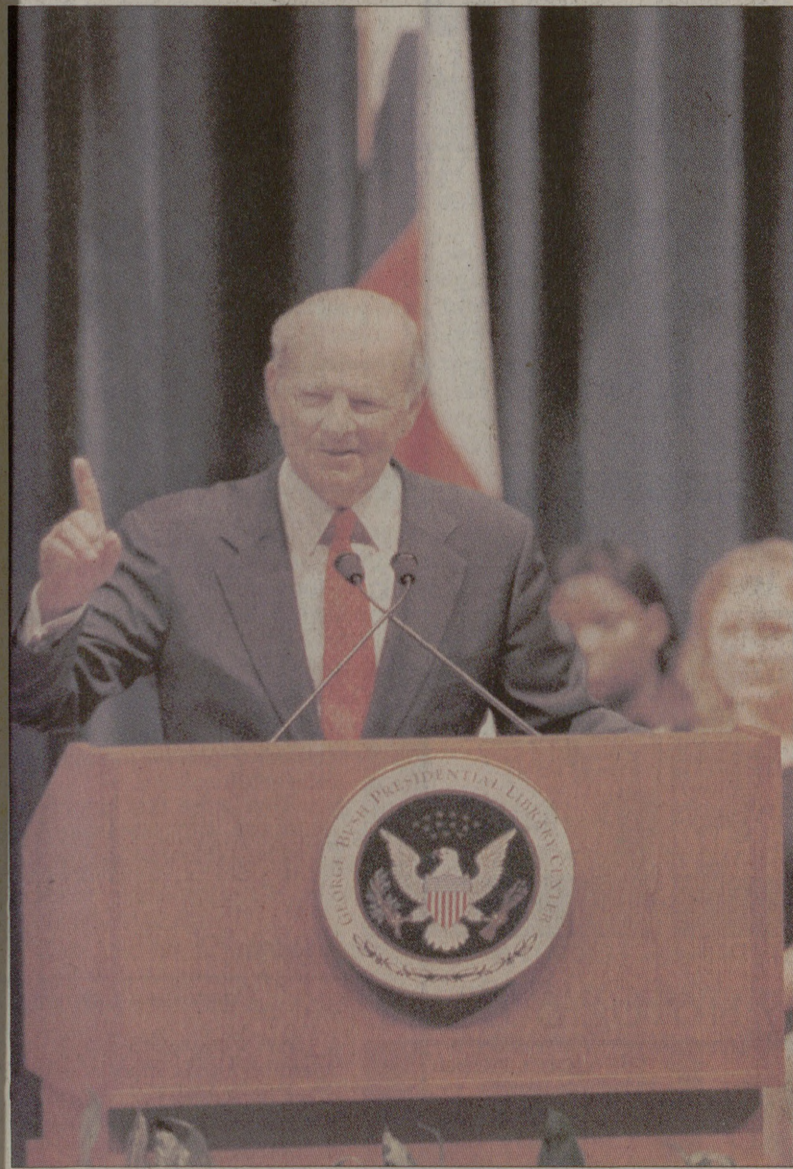
Baker praised divided government for splitting power into small pieces that are difficult for one corrupt official to manipulate and the press for "telling the truth and telling it in a hurry."

In addressing the power of the rule of law, Baker emphasized that, unlike in many other countries, American law succeeds from time to time in catching and punishing lawbreakers.

Interspersed in his dogged defense of the buttresses of ethics in American government, Baker entertained the audience with anecdotal humor that resulted in booming laughter. He revisited the painfulness of Watergate and some of the subsequent misguided efforts to expel corruption from government.

The evening concluded with Baker fielding questions from the audience regarding the current budget standoff, ethical campaigning and the United States' relationship with Israel.

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CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Former Secretary of State James Baker spoke at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center about government ethics Wednesday.

Don Davis Jr.

- 1996 — Charged and indicted by a grand jury on two cases of sexual assault
- 1996 — Failed to appear in court for a pretrial hearing, leaving his parents to pay a \$150,000 bail
- 1996 — Don Davis Sr., Davis' father, spent about six months in the Brazos County Jail for lying to authorities about giving his fugitive son \$6,000 in cash
- 1997 — Found guilty of larceny and sentenced to three days in jail in Dearborn, Mich.
- Oct. 24, 2000 — Arrested for not having a driver's license in Cleveland, Ohio
- Oct. 30, 2000 — Routine check performed on Davis' fingerprints revealing allegations made against him at the Brazos County Courthouse
- Oct. 31, 2000 — Arrested in Ohio on charges of aggravated sexual assault
- Nov. 3, 2000 — A UPD detective and Texas Ranger will bring Davis back to Bryan

SELSO GARCIA/THE BATTALION

Assault suspect arrested

Accused offender found, to be returned to Texas

By ARATI BHATTACHARYA & MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
The Battalion

Don Richard Davis Jr., who was arrested in Ohio Tuesday on charges of aggravated sexual assault after running from police for four years, will be brought back to Bryan College Station Monday to be tried in Bryan's Brazos County Courthouse.

Davis, a Texas A&M graduate, was charged and indicted by a grand jury in 1996 on two cases of sexual assault on A&M's campus. He had been on the run since failing to show up for his trial in Bryan.

"The victims were ecstatic about Davis' arrest," said Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department (UPD). "I'm sure this will bring relief and a sense of closure for them."

Brazos County Sheriff Chris Kirk said the next step is to extradite Davis.

"There are two routes that can be taken," Kirk said. "Either he can waive extradition and be brought to Texas, or fight it. If he fights, the government will have to file the appropriate paperwork."

Kirk said Davis has indicated he will waive extradition. A UPD detective and a Texas Ranger will travel to Cleveland aboard a Department of Public Safety airplane to bring Davis back to Bryan.

"Whether he pleads guilty or not is not our concern — either way, we're going to push this case to the end," Wiatt said.

Wiatt added that it is possible that Davis would face up to 99 years in prison for the two incidents of aggravated sexual assault. The sexual assault statute in Texas allows males and females to be victims and must be based on a theory of consent.

Wiatt said the evidence the police has against Davis makes the case rock-solid.

"We have a complete match of Davis' DNA fitting with the two victims," Wiatt said. "The girls have also identified him in a lineup."

Davis was working as a bouncer in Cleveland and was caught when he was stopped for running a red light on Oct. 24. The officer arrested him for not having a driver's license. Davis posted bail and was released a day after his arrest.

On Monday, the Ohio Bureau of Investigation did a routine check on the fingerprints of recent arrests which led to details about the charges against Davis at the Brazos County Courthouse.

"I've been waiting for the call," Texas Ranger David Hullum told The Bryan-College Station Eagle. "The University Police Department, FBI and the locals in Ohio all really came together on this over 50 phone calls in the last day and a half."

Davis failed to appear in court for a pretrial hearing in 1996, leaving his parents to pay a \$150,000 bail.

See DAVIS on Page 2A.

Councils may implement smoking ban

By NOEL FREEMAN
The Battalion

The Bryan and College Station city councils will hold a joint meeting tonight to determine whether to increase restrictions on smoking in public places.

Both councils will hear testimony from public health officials and representatives of the Brazos Valley chapter of the Texas Restaurant Association about the effects heightened restrictions may have.

The councils will review current or-

dinances to evaluate how effectively they protect nonsmokers from smoke.

The councils may elect to implement a ban similar to one in Fort Worth, where smoking is banned in public places like restaurants and bars, or to keep current ordinances as they are. Varying degrees in between will also be considered.

Dr. Dallas E. Coate, of the Brazos County Health Authority and program director of Family Practice Residency of Brazos Valley, will testify on the public health concerns of secondhand smoke, also called passive smoking.

"Passive smoking kills people, increases the risk of allergies, asthma and other serious illnesses," Coate said. "This issue is for people who don't have a choice, like children who don't choose where their parents take them to eat."

"The carcinogens, whether you smell them or not, are almost the same on the nonsmoking side as they are on the smoking side," Coate said, refuting the argument that separate smoking sections are adequate.

Coate said smoke that comes from the lit end of cigarettes contains many

more harmful substances than that which is inhaled by smokers.

However, many restaurant and bar owners are concerned that a ban on smoking would lead to serious declines in business.

"Every time there is a smoking ban, people do lose business," Sally Ryan, owner of Red Lobster Restaurant in College Station, told The Bryan-College Station Eagle. "People do lose jobs, and sometimes people close."

See TOBACCO on Page 6A.

Conservative George W. Bush calls for government responsibility, tax breaks

This feature is part two in a three-part candidate profile series.

By SOMMER BUNCE
The Battalion

Texas Gov. George W. Bush brings a conservative view of limited government to his campaign for the presidency. Standing Tuesday in Cityteam Ministries in San Jose, Calif., Bush appealed to voters opposed to an intrusive government that "crowds compassion out of the marketplace."

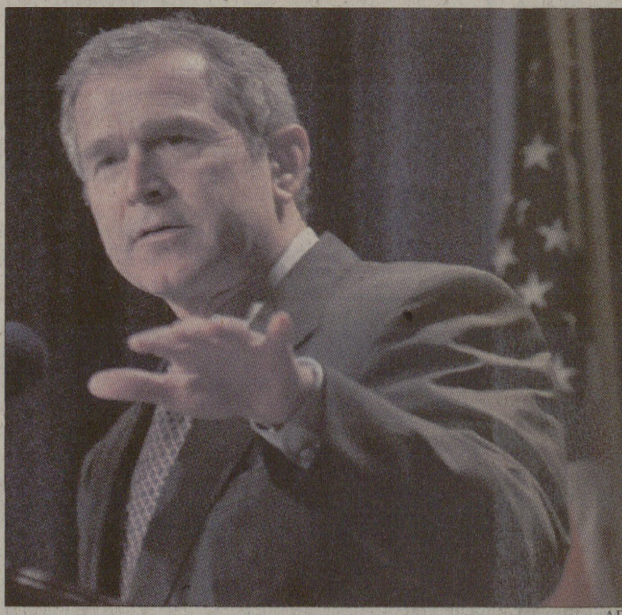
"Too often in the past, people said: 'Oh, don't worry, somebody else will take care of the problem in my area. Don't worry. The government is here,'" Bush said in Tuesday's speech. "Government can hand out money, but what government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives."

Bush called for the government to own up to its responsibility in an era when "some folks can make a difference in somebody's life, that soldiers in the armies of compassion are not just those who are on the front lines."

Governor of Texas since 1994, Bush won 68.6 percent of the vote for his re-election in 1998, becoming the first Texas governor elected to consecutive four-year terms.

The oldest son of former President George Bush, Bush's

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AP
Texas Governor George W. Bush calls on the government to take responsibility for its actions.

Nader supporters launch new Website to attract vote swappers

By MARIANO CASTILLO
The Battalion

The Internet has been credited with revolutionizing everything from communication to shopping — now the information superhighway may affect how people vote.

Nader Trader, a Website that argues that Vice President Al Gore and Green Party candidate Ralph Nader can ben-

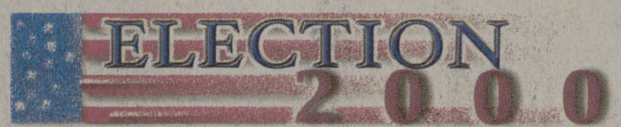
efit from strategic vote swapping, has gained considerable popularity since its Oct. 23 debut. The site has received more than 306,000 hits in slightly more than a week. More than a half-dozen sites with programs to pair up voters for swapping are currently operating.

Nader Trader has two goals — to help Nader's Green Party receive 5 percent of the vote in order to get federal funds four years from now and to help Gore win the election.

According to Jeff

Cardille, creator of the site and a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, a Nader Trader is someone who wants to vote for Nader in a swing state but has doubts because he or she does not want Gov. George W. Bush to win. To solve this dilemma, the site suggests that Nader supporters in swing states get in contact with Gore supporters in strongly Bush-leaning states and pledge to swap votes. Such a swap would result in a vote cast for Gore in the swing state and a vote cast for Nader in the Bush-secure state.

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See SENATE on Page 6A.

Early Voting

Vote before Nov. 3 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the following locations:

- Brazos County Courthouse**
- Arena Hall**
- Galilee Baptist Church**
- 136 and 146 MSC**
- College Station I.S.D. Administrative Offices**

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