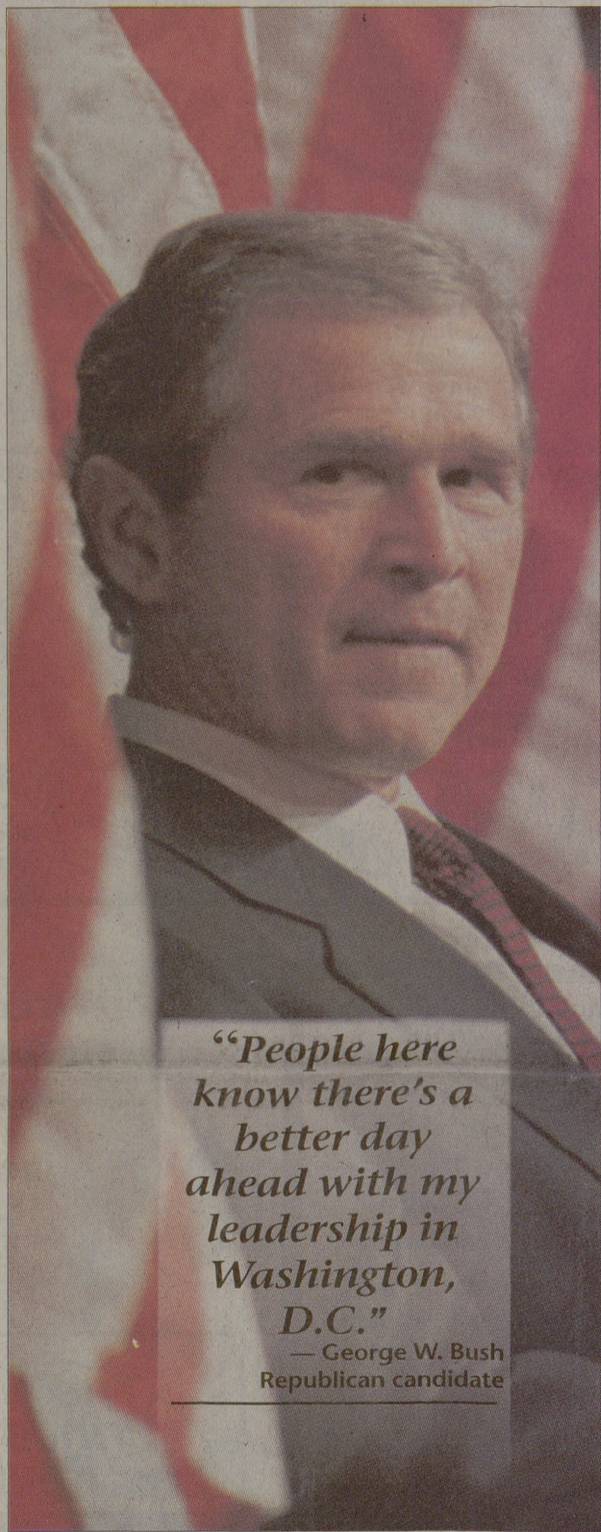


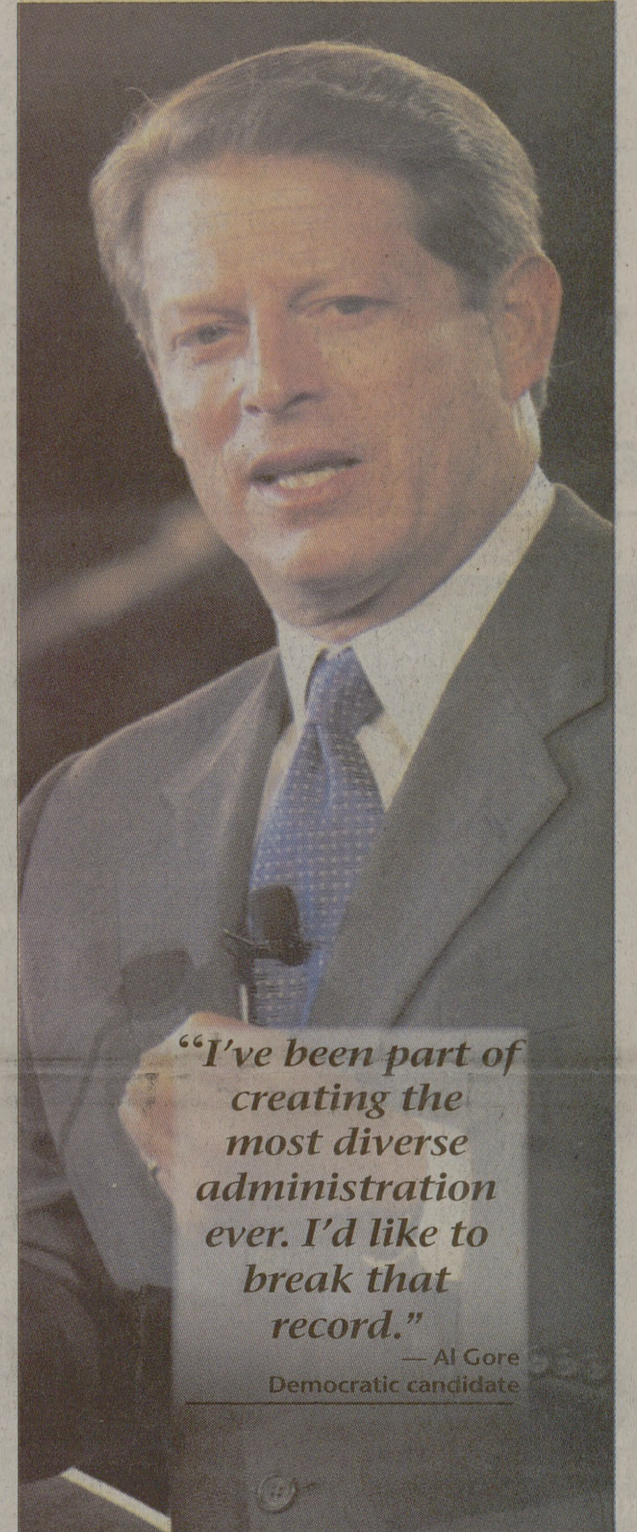
ELECTION 2000

Bush, Gore look for last-minute momentum, race to the finish line



"People here know there's a better day ahead with my leadership in Washington, D.C."
— George W. Bush
Republican candidate

AP



"I've been part of creating the most diverse administration ever. I'd like to break that record."
— Al Gore
Democratic candidate

AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — George W. Bush and Al Gore campaigned through the final hours of their run for the White House on Monday, seeking last-minute momentum in a costly and exhausting race to become the nation's 43rd president.

The Texas governor said he trusted that Americans had "heard our message" — compassionate conservatism and a less intrusive government. The vice president urged a Democratic vote to maintain the nation's economic prosperity.

Gore anticipated a long count on Election Night and joked that his first meal as president-elect would probably be breakfast. "But I'm going to make it a Happy Meal from McDonald's," he told an Iowa audience.

In Florida, Bush was confident he would return Republicans to the presidency lost by his father in 1992. "We've laid the groundwork for victory," he said, "now it's up (to us) to get people to the polls."

Candidates for the 107th Congress went through their final paces, Republicans and Democrats focusing their energy and money on four or five dozen highly contested races likely to determine control of the House and the Senate.

The airwaves were a blizzard of campaign advertising, with an advantage to Bush. From the start of his run through mid-October, the Texas governor had spent \$138 million, including \$56 million on radio and television ads, according to the Campaign Study Group. Gore was at \$94 million overall, including \$41.5 million for broadcast ads.

The polls gave Bush a small edge in the popular vote, a position he gained after overtaking Gore in public opinion surveys during October. But the decisive Electoral College seemed less predictable. It takes 270 electoral votes, a majority, to win the White House. Key swing states included Florida (25 electoral votes); Pennsylvania (23); and Michigan (18); and an aggressive Bush campaign bid as well for Gore strongholds such as California (54) and Tennessee (11).

Some aides worried that Green Party candidate Ralph Nader would damage the vice president's chances of succeeding Bill Clinton by diluting the Democratic vote in swing states like Oregon and Wisconsin. Under pressure from Democratic liberals to back off, Nader countered: "...The only wasted vote is for someone you don't believe in."

See ELECTION on Page 2.

Brazos County ready for voters

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

The atmosphere in the Brazos County Courthouse Monday afternoon was hustle-and-bustle as County Clerk Mary Ann Ward and her staff prepared to manage 44 polling sites for today's election.

"I've got my hopes high," Ward said as she issued a set of election materials to an election judge from one of the voting precincts.

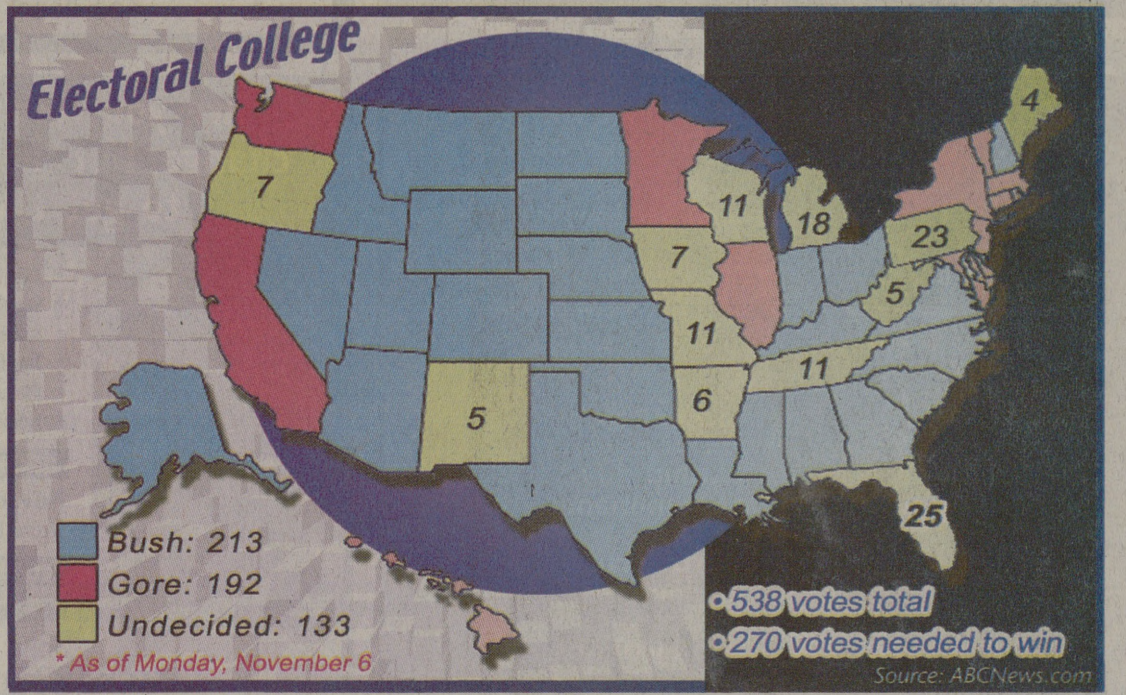
Ward said Brazos County boasted more than 18,000 early voters, a record-breaking num-

ber. Only 16,000 people voted early in the last election. As of Monday afternoon, 85,252 voters were registered in Brazos County, leaving less than 70,000 to vote today.

Voters must vote according to their designated precincts. Students living on campus will vote in precinct 20 in Memorial Student Center (MSC) 146.

To vote today, voters will be required to present their voter registration cards, driver's licenses or other official photo identification.

Ward said voters can contact
See VOTING on Page 2.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Box facilitates condolences to families of Silver Taps honorees

BY MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
The Battalion

At 10:20 tonight, lights on the Texas A&M campus will be dimmed and students and loved ones will gather at the Academic Building Plaza to remember Katherine Keller, a senior biology major, and Jayson Clubbs, a freshman general studies major. The Ross Volunteers honor guard will march across campus to the plaza area and fire a volley salute. Buglers from the Aggie Band will then play a special arrangement of "Taps," with the toll of the Albritton Tower signaling the end of the ceremony.

Adding a more personal touch to the tradition, the Silver Taps Subcommittee of the Traditions Council has placed a box in the

Academic Plaza at the base of the flagpole for students, faculty and friends to leave notes and cards for the families.

"My subcommittee began to think about what these families must be going through to lose their loved one," said Christy French, chairwoman of the Silver Taps subcommittee and a junior psychology major. "Students do not really get the opportunity to express to the families how much it means to them that the families have come or how sorry they are about the death of their loved one."

"Obviously, it is not always the most appropriate of timing for a stranger to approach that family after such an emotional ceremony to express their sympathy about that fam-

ily's son or daughter. This way they can express their emotions and sympathies to the families without having to worry about actually approaching the families during such a hard time for them."

Monday the box was placed by the flag pole for the first time. Accompanying the box is a card with information about the students, including their names, classifications, majors and hometowns. The box will be picked up at dark tonight, and the notes will be given to the families.

Schuyler Houser, chairwoman of the Traditions Council and a senior industrial engineering major, said if the response to the box is favorable, the Traditions Council

hopes to have the box available for future Silver Taps ceremonies.

French encourages all students, not just people who knew the students being honored, to leave notes.

"It is said that once a member of our Aggie family leaves us, their spirit lives on and they will always be a part of our Aggie family," she said. "We are hoping that students will be able to put into words to the loved ones of those being honored what the Aggie spirit is and how it hurt us to lose a member of that family."

French added that leaving a note in the box can help students through the healing process because they can share their feelings about the deaths of their friends.

Bryan-College Station VOTING PRECINCTS

Precinct Voting Location

- 3A, 3B, 3C
Precinct 4 Fire Station
 - 4A, 4B, 79A, 79B
Kemp School
 - New Bethlehem Baptist Church
 - South Knoll School
 - College Station Conference Center
 - College Station Municipal Court
 - Crockett School
 - Manor East Mall Shopping Center
 - Henderson School
 - Ben Milam School
 - Central Church of Christ
 - Courthouse Annex
 - Brazos County Health Department
 - Fryan Central Fire Station
 - Memorial Student Center 146
On-campus residents are in 20
 - A&M United Methodist Church
 - Johnson School
 - College Hills Elementary School
 - G.W. William Tabernacle
 - Sam Rayburn Middle School
 - Bright Light Baptist Church
 - Peach Creek Community Center
 - Brushy Community Center
 - Navarro Elementary School
 - A&M Church of Christ
 - College Station Public Library
 - Lincoln Center
 - College Station City Hall Training Room
 - First Freewill Baptist Church
 - College Heights Assembly of God Church
 - Castle Heights Baptist Church
 - Rock Prairie Elementary School
 - Aldersgate Methodist Church
 - Wesley Methodist Church
 - Arena Hall
 - Brazos County Courthouse
 - Calvary Baptist Church
 - Holy Cross Lutheran Church
 - Brazos Center
- Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Take your voter registration card or photo ID. If you have questions about your voting precinct, call Voter Services at 361-4490.**

SELSO GARCIA & BRADY CREEL/THE BATTALION

SILVER TAPS

Jayson Alan Clubb
Freshman General Studies Major

Katherine Anne Keller
Senior Biology Major

The Silver Taps ceremony will be held tonight at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building. The ceremony is to honor those students who have passed away while enrolled.