

Republicans offer proposal

Democrats forge ahead with manual recount of Palm Beach County

(AP) — One week into America's election limbo, the secretary of state of Florida certified George W. Bush's fragile lead, even as thousands of disputed ballots were counted into the night at the behest of Al Gore.

"When is it going to end?" asked Bush aide James A. Baker III.

There was no answer in sight. Baker floated a proposal to cease the ballot-by-ballot fight for Florida's 25 electoral votes and the White House, but Democrats said he offered nothing new — and dismissed it outright. With lawyers and judges front and center in the presidential election, nerves began to fray and adjectives failed to serve.

"It's like the seventh day of being held hostage," stammered Jeb Bush, governor of Florida and the harried brother of the GOP presidential hopeful.

Secretary of State Katherine Harris, a

Republican Bush supporter, announced Tuesday night that the Texas governor had

"If the secretary of state arbitrarily refuses to accept the amended returns ... then we will be back in court."

— David Boies
member of Gore's legal team

a 300-vote lead out of 6 million votes cast — with overseas absentee ballots and ongoing recount totals pending.

Her announcement came almost three

hours after a 5 p.m. vote-counting deadline, upheld earlier by state Judge Terry Lewis. He turned aside Gore's arguments to lift the deadline, but gave Harris the authority to accept or reject follow-up manual recount totals.

Lewis' decision was a setback for the vice president, who wanted a clear order erasing the Tuesday deadline. His lawyers found solace in Lewis urging Harris to consider "all appropriate facts and circumstances" when recount totals are filed.

In another blow for Gore, Democratic-leaning Miami-Dade County refused his request for a recount and a second, Broward, also was inclined to reject Gore's request. A third jurisdiction, Volusia County, finished its recount Tuesday with gains for Gore. A fourth county, Palm Beach, begins its recounts Wednesday and Democrats hope to cut deeply into Bush's lead there. Harris said she will require counties fil-

ing late recount numbers to explain in writing by 2 p.m. Wednesday why new vote totals should be accepted. "Unless I determine, in the exercise of my discretion, that these facts and circumstances ... justify an amendment to today's official returns" the totals will stand, she said.

Gore decided to hold off an appeal of Lewis' ruling and press forward with recounts in four Democratic-leaning counties. Gore's advisers hope Harris will approve the hand-counted ballots — though they expect the worst — and are prepared to appeal if she does not.

"If the secretary of state arbitrarily refuses to accept the amended returns based on the recount and violates what this court has ruled ... which is to accept those results unless she has good reason not to, then we will be back in court," said a new member of Gore's massive legal team, David Boies.

See ELECTION on Page 5.

ELECTION LITIGATION

—The Bush camp filed a notice of appeal in Atlanta to reserve its right to challenge a federal judge who refused on Monday to block manual counts.

—In Volusia County, Gore cut Bush's lead by 98 votes after officials completed a hand count of some 184,000 ballots.

—Election authorities in Broward County decided to add four more votes to Gore — votes that turned up during a hand count of three precincts on Monday.

—Palm Beach election officials decided to return Wednesday morning to begin hand counting the county's 430,000 ballots.

—Officials in Miami-Dade County began a sample hand recount of 5,871 ballots in three overwhelmingly Democratic precincts.

—The National Right to Life Committee, an anti-abortion group, filed a federal lawsuit in Orlando seeking to block counties from conducting manual recounts.

—The U.S. Postal Service was expediting delivery of military overseas ballots to ensure they arrive in county election departments before Friday's deadline.

—In New Mexico, Gore had a 374-vote lead in the seesawing race for five electoral votes after officials announced they had misread absentee results.

SELSO GARCIA/THE BATTALION

Faculty Senate approves courses

BY TAMRA RUSSELL

The Battalion

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate approved 10 new graduate courses and 22 new undergraduate courses Monday.

A letter will be sent to A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen asking his approval of the new courses.

"Once it is approved by the Faculty Senate, it is put in a letter and sent to Dr. Bowen," said Mildred Seaton, office secretary for the Faculty Senate. "After he approves it, it is sent to the deans, and they inform their department heads of the changes."

The Senate changed the names of 40 graduate courses and 22 undergraduate courses, and three undergraduate courses were withdrawn.

The Senate also approved changes in curriculum for the Department of Construction Science and the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution, the academic calendar for the 2001-'02 school year and the abbreviated calendar for the 2002-'03 school year.

Dr. William Perry, executive associate provost, answered questions during the meeting about the Blinn Transfer Enrollment at A&M Program (Blinn TEAM Program), which will allow students to co-enroll at Blinn and A&M.

"I'm chairing the undergraduate admissions advisory committee, and in our first meeting this fall, we talked about the Blinn TEAM Program," Perry said. "We planned on having monthly updates at the Senate meetings, and this was the first of the monthly updates."

Perry said the Senate wants to make sure the academic quality of the Blinn TEAM program is equal to what A&M requires of its students.

"I think the Senate has the same interests that we do — mainly that we pay attention to academic quality in this program and that we work with the

See SENATE on Page 2.

Hoop dreams



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Forward Jaynetta Saunders posted a double-double with 21 points and 10 rebounds in the Aggies' 88-77

exhibition win over the Delta Kosice team from Slovakia on Tuesday night. See related game story on Pg. 7.

Perry waits for election outcome

Lt. Governor met with Bush to make necessary transition plans

AUSTIN (AP) — Frustrated by the presidential waiting game, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday he is ready to become Texas' next governor and has turned his attention to preparing for the next legislative session.

"I think we're all a little bit frustrated," said Perry, a Republican who would become governor if Gov. George W. Bush is elected president. "We thought we elected a president ... we've had a recount to confirm that."

Perry met with Bush Thursday and has made plans for a transition to the new office if necessary.

"The governor's direction to me was to be prepared," Perry said. "Be a good boy scout. Be prepared." I said, "Yes sir."

He predicted Bush will prevail over Vice President Al Gore but added that the election and his possible succession is "a little bit up in the air."

Perry spoke with reporters while donating blood, his first public comments since election night. He said he has not spoken with Bush since last week.

"He's obviously got things he needs to be focused on," Perry said. "We're keeping his staff apprised of what's going on in the state of Texas."

Perry said he has turned his attention to the upcoming legislative session

in January and met recently with Texas House Speaker Pete Laney. Monday was the first day of bill filing and already more than 250 proposals have been introduced.

"I'm preparing for the next session of the Legislature and have been since June 1999," he said. "We know what we're going to be working on. We just don't know which office we're going to be working out of."

If Perry becomes governor, the 31-member Senate would choose one of its own to replace him.

Several senators have campaigned for the job and Perry says he has avoided getting involved.

He also refused to speculate on how quickly his successor would be chosen.



PERRY

UPD warns A&M about false emails

Urban legends circulate around college campuses

BY MARIUM MOHIUDDIN

The Battalion

Email messages warning students about an unidentified male stabbing or stalking women are false, said University Police Department (UPD) officials.

Two emails have been circulating among Texas A&M students. One tells of a man who stabbed a woman while shaking her hand when she was entering the Commons Lobby. The email goes on to say that the student went to A.P. Beutel Health Center, where a Beutel official told the student that several other victims have experienced similar attacks.

The other email tells of another female student who tried to get gas at a self-service gas station, but her credit card was not approved by the gas pump machine. When the woman walked into the store to ask why the clerk did not accept her credit card, the clerk told the woman that a man had crawled under her car.

The clerk said he recognized the man as one who had been linked with assaulting women by cutting their heels. The clerk said another man was in her car. That man was suspected of dismembering women once they get into their cars. The clerk told the woman to look out the window because the men were fleeing from her car.

Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said the emails are all urban legends and have been

circulating around several college campuses.

"I believe it was started by a young lady who thought the email was true and passed it along to her friends out of concern," Wiatt said, adding that the email had reached many A&M admin-

"I believe it was started by a young lady who thought the email was true and passed it along to her friends out of concern."

— Bob Wiatt
director of UPD

istrators. "One professor called me and asked if she should warn her female students about this."

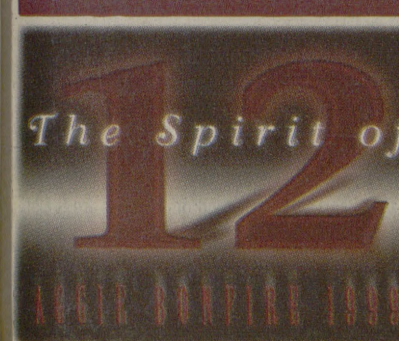
Wiatt said students should disregard these messages.

"These are all false and they are just part of the foolishness that comes via the Internet," he said. "It takes on a life of its own and goes spiraling out of control."

Wiatt said UPD is trying to debunk these emails as quickly as possible.

Presentation to show significance of Bonfire collapse to freshmen

This is the third in a week-long series in memory of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse. The series will conclude Friday with a special memorial section.



BY BRADY CREEL

The Battalion

Despite the media coverage surrounding the events of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, organizers of an event called Rebuild believe some freshmen do not understand the significance of Nov. 18, nor do they know that 12 Aggies died in the early-morning tragedy.

A group of resident advisers from Krueger Hall is determined to change that. At 10 p.m. tonight, Rebuild, a Bonfire memorial presentation, will be held in Rudder Theater to discuss the history and meaning of Bonfire and give new Aggies a sense of what the campus experienced one year ago.

"That is a vital part of Aggie history," said

Abbey Bunning, a Rebuild organizer and sophomore environmental design major.

Rebuild will include Bonfire video footage, a slide show and segments of the 911 calls from the Aggie Bonfire collapse. Richard West, father of victim Nathan Scott West, and Janice Kerlee, mother of Tim Kerlee Jr., will be two of the speakers.

Bunning said although the memory of the collapse holds special meaning for students who were here last year, the Class of '04 and other new students cannot comprehend what Nov. 18 means.

"My freshmen don't even know the date Nov. 18," she said. "A lot of people are almost scared to find out too much about it."

Suzanne Brabeck, a senior sociology major and resident adviser in Krueger, said Re-

build is being organized to teach the freshmen that a tragedy is not necessary for Aggies to unite as they did last year.

"That is what we are hoping to ignite within them," she said.

Bunning said unity among the freshman is not as strong this year since Bonfire is absent from campus. Although most traditional Aggie events, like Silver Taps and Midnight Yell practice, are ongoing, she said, Bonfire plays a major role in bringing the freshman class together with fellow Aggies. This year's freshmen have not experienced that.

"Bonfire is the culmination of the fall activities," Bunning said, reflecting that her own class, the Class of '03, has yet to see a

See REBUILD on Page 5.

Blood drive honors death of Bonfire collapse victims

BY MARIUM MOHIUDDIN

The Battalion

Aggies are out to show they are bound together not only by Texas A&M or the spirit of the Twelfth Man, but also by their maroon blood.

With nine donation sites set up on campus and 30 other sites around the state, the blood drive is to honor the 12 Aggies who died in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse. The blood drive will last through Nov. 18.

Calling themselves Everyone Bleeds Maroon, several organizations, such as Off Campus

See BLOOD on Page 2.