

Bush certified Florida winner

Gore, Lieberman to contest results

(AP) — Florida's secretary of state certified George W. Bush the winner over Al Gore Sunday night in the state's near-deadlocked presidential vote — but court challenges left in doubt which man will be the ultimate victor and 43rd president of the United States.

Moments after Republican Katherine Harris declared Bush the winner of Florida's 25 electoral votes at a ceremony in Tallahassee, Sen. Joe Lieberman, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, said she had certified "an incomplete and inaccurate count" and that he and Gore had no choice but to contest the election.

If the certification of a 537-vote Bush margin stands, the Texas governor would win 271 electoral college votes — one more than necessary for victory — compared to 267 for Gore.

Harris said Bush had 2,912,790 votes and Gore had 2,912,253. That gave Bush the 537-vote lead out of 6 million cast, although Harris rejected partial returns from Palm Beach County. An unofficial AP tally including recounted Palm Beach County votes showed Bush ahead by 357.

The secretary of state's formal declaration, which set off GOP cheers outside the Florida capital and at the state Capitol in Austin, Texas:

"Accordingly, on behalf of the state elections canvassing commission and in accordance with the laws of the state of Florida, I hereby declare Governor George W. Bush the winner of Florida's 25 electoral votes."

Lieberman said, "The integrity of our self-government" could be cast into doubt without democratic steps to get the most complete and accurate count possible. Gore's lawyers were to file their challenge in the courts of Leon County, site of the state Capitol at Tallahassee, today.

James A. Baker III, the former secretary of state speaking for Bush — who was making his own statement later Sunday night — said that count already has been delivered, repeatedly.

He said Bush "won this election" under the rules set by law before Election Day, Nov. 7 — and under rules changed after the election. Baker denounced Gore's lawyers for what he called an extraordinary resort to the courts — although Bush has his own set of lawsuits, including the appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, which hears oral arguments on Friday.

"At some point there must be closure," Baker said. "At some point the law must prevail and the lawyers must go home."

"We have reached that point. It is time to honor the will of the people."

For all that, Baker said Bush will "absolutely" go ahead with his case in the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging the state Supreme Court ruling that led to the extended certification deadline and hand recounts of ballots cast by machine in four disputed Democratic-leaning counties.

See ELECTION on Page 2.

Lite brite



Charles Powley and John Coyle raise and secure winter holiday light fixtures in front of the Administration Building last week. The fixtures were funded by the A&M Physical Plant.

ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

A&M, UT freshman applications increase for Fall '01 enrollment

Top 10 percent, graduation rate contribute to high numbers

AUSTIN (AP) — Applications to the University of Texas-Austin (UT) and Texas A&M are coming in at record pace as students comply with requests to meet early deadlines.

The state's two largest public universities are again expecting record-breaking numbers of applications for next school year. Consequently, officials have

asked prospective freshman to get their applications in early.

Students have heeded.

Compared with this time last year, applications are up 42 percent at UT and up 20 percent at A&M. UT's deadline for fall admission is Feb. 1; A&M has set Feb. 15.

Last year, UT received 21,200 freshman applications, and the A&M

campus received 18,694. Both universities predict the current rush of applications will taper off, but UT expects an overall 10-percent increase in applications over last year. A&M is projecting a 5-percent rise.

The increase can be attributed to several factors.

First, more students are graduating from high school, and there are more college-age students in the population.

Also, high school seniors who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class are guaranteed admission to the Texas public university of their choice under state law. With those students automatically admitted, the stakes increase for those not in that select group.

In many cases, the perceived competition is spurring students to act sooner. Each institution has set a preferred-enrollment for Fall 2001 freshman class of 6,400 to 6,500 students.

See ENROLLMENT on Page 2.

ENROLLMENT Fall 2001	Texas A&M University	University of Texas
• Number of Applications	Up 20% from this time last year	Up 42% from this time last year
• Total Freshman Applications Fall 2000	18,694	21,200
• Freshman Applications for Fall 2001	8,110 so far	4,963 so far
• Deadline for Admission	Feb. 15	Feb. 1

Each institution has set a goal for the Fall 2001 freshman class of 6,400 to 6,500 students.

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Alcohol task force may continue next fall

By RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

With the success of a seven-weekend alcohol task force, which issued about 850 citations, the College Station Police Department (CSPD) and the University Police Department (UPD) are considering continuing the task force next fall.

The task force targeted Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights on six home football game weekends and the weekend before classes started in August.

Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said the goal of the task force was to make minors aware of the consequences of underage drinking.

In those seven weekends, the task force issued 605 minor in possession (MIP) citations, 212 citations for disorderly conduct and 26 miscellaneous citations, such as furnishing alcohol to a minor or possession of drug paraphernalia. Ninety-five individuals were arrested for alcohol-related offenses such as public intoxication.

The task force consisted of six officers, three each from CSPD and UPD. All of the officers volunteered to work overtime.

Wiatt said no officers were removed from their usual duties to participate in the task force.

"We had a pretty good turnout in so far as making people aware that if you're under 21, you should not be drinking, because we issued

"I don't know if it will keep me from drinking in the future, but I'll certainly be more careful to be sure I don't get caught."

— Jon student who received an MIP

a bunch of citations," he said. "I would hope that those who are under 21, who know that they cannot consume alcohol until they get to be 21 and are going all out to either possess fake IDs or have their 21-year-old friends slip them some booze, realize that, if they get caught, they are going to have to suffer the consequences."

Jon, a student who received an MIP and whose last name is not included, said he may continue to drink despite his citation.

"I can understand where the officers are coming from," he said. "I don't know if it will keep me from drinking in the future, but I'll certainly be more careful to be sure I don't get caught."

Wiatt said he hopes the success of the campaign will send a message to students.

"From these statistics, it was a pretty thorough campaign," he said. "I just hope that we're getting the message across: Alcohol is one heck of a danger to a lot of students."

See ALCOHOL on Page 2.

Student dies in car accident

By MARIANO CASTILLO
The Battalion

A Texas A&M student was killed Tuesday after her car struck an 18-wheeler on Highway 79, three miles west of Palestine.

Kimbra Leigh Cates, a junior marketing and management major, was heading to her home in Tyler for Thanksgiving. At about 5:15 p.m., her 1993 Jeep Cherokee drifted into oncoming traffic and hit the rear end of the truck's trailer. She was pronounced dead at the scene at 6 p.m. Neither of the vehicles were carrying passengers.

Trooper Bryan Becton, who responded to the accident, said the cause of the crash remains undetermined. "Anything is possible," he said. "Fatigue may be a factor. We'll never know."

The driver of the 1989 Volvo truck trailer, Billy Joe Smith, is a convict at the Wynne Unit at Huntsville. He was driving the truck under the supervision of Douglas Whitting, a correctional officer who was driving behind him.

When Smith saw Cates' Jeep cross the center line, he swerved onto the right shoulder as far as he could without running off the road, Becton said. Cates collided with the 18-wheeler about six feet from its rear. Becton said the car was crushed by the wheels of the trailer.

"It just totally destroyed the Jeep," he said.

Smith did not suffer major injuries. However, Becton said, "Smith was clearly shaken up." He was taken to a hospital in Palestine for tests to "cover all the bases."

The tests indicated that alcohol was not a factor.

Smith is a "trustee inmate" — a less violent offender who can be taken out into society with supervision. Becton said trustee inmate programs are worked out on a case-by-case basis.

Smith's Class A driver's license made him a good candidate for the truck-driving assignment, Becton said.

An autopsy of Cates was requested by Precinct 3 Judge James Todd; results are expected to be available today.

As a student, Cates was on the dean's list for Fall '99 and Spring '00, in the marketing society and in Fish Court as a peer leader for freshman. She was going to participate in an internship program with Gap, and she worked on campus for the purchasing department as a receptionist, a position she held for more than a year.

Lenna Matz, Cates' roommate and a sophomore general studies major, said Cates had a great personality and easily cheered people up.

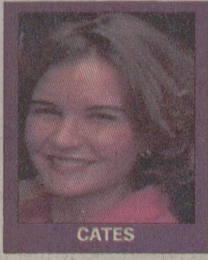
"She was very intelligent, beautiful, funny and an excellent cook," Matz said. "She loved being at A&M."

Cates was excited about ordering her Aggie ring in January, Matz added.

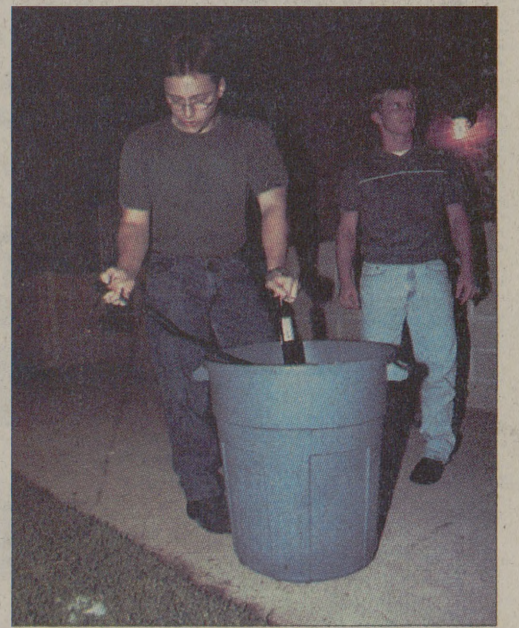
Purchasing department Assistant Director Paul Barzak said the staff was devastated by the accident.

"She was a wonderful person," he said. "She was always even-tempered. Regardless of the workload, she never got rattled. We were hoping to have her for another year until she graduated."

Cates' funeral was Saturday afternoon at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler. She is survived by her parents, Scotty and Karen Cates, and her younger sister, Carmen.



CATES



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Police officers force students to empty a keg at a party.

Complaints about ResNet spark CIS to ask students to limit use of resources

By RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

In response to complaints from on-campus students concerned about the performance of ResNet, Computing and Information Services (CIS) has distributed a memo to ResNet users asking them to limit their use of ResNet resources.

According to the memo, use of ResNet resources is disproportionate if it averages more than 2 percent of a residence hall's capacity each day for seven consecutive days.

This limit allows individuals to download or serve as much as 1.4 gigabytes a day.

Under Appendix V of the student rules, students are prohibited from excessive use of computing facilities if it prevents others from using these resources.

Tom Putnam, director of CIS, said students using too much of ResNet's capacity have been contacted.

"We don't look to see exactly what each person is doing unless there is a potential violation of University rules or laws, but

we do know that those servers are being used off campus instead of being used by A&M students," Putnam said in a memo to ResNet users. "There are several dozen servers on ResNet that serve out over two gigabytes per day every day of the week, enough to fill an average hard drive."

Putnam said that if disproportionate use continues, CIS will collect information about the usage, submit that information to Student Conflict Resolution Services (SCRS) and cut off network access for the

offending student until SCRS tell CIS to reinstate service.

Students will be given a few days to stop their activities; however, Putnam said if that disproportionate use continues, the evidence will then be sent to appropriate legal and disciplinary authorities for action.

Putnam said heavy users can slow other users' network connections because the network can transfer a limited number of files at one time.

"If you think about this as being one

highway in and out of town, and one person invites all his friends to use the highway at the same time, it becomes difficult for other people to use the highway," Putnam said. "We've had lots of complaints from students in residences that say the network is too slow and they can't get anything done."

CIS recommends that students not have file-sharing programs, such as Napster, running all the time. CIS also recommends that campus Web servers limit the number of concurrent connections to two at a time.