

DA's office looks into missing voter cards

By ELIZABETH RAINES
The Battalion

The Brazos County District Attorney's office is interested in the case of missing voter registration cards submitted to Brazos County Voter Registrar and Tax Assessor-Collector Buddy Winn by the College Republicans. Travis Jones, a sophomore general studies major, said he went to Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner's office after he found out the voter registration cards that he and his friend had filled out with the College Republicans were lost.

Jones said his friend's card was lost and his friend's name was taken off the voter

registration list in his hometown. A name is taken off the voter registration list when the voter registrar from another county removes it because a person can be registered in only one county.

"After I heard about this, I began to question the validity of Buddy Winn's claims that he had not received our voter registration cards," Jones said. "The application had to go through his office, because the only way a name can be removed from a voter registration list is through another voter registrar."

Jones said Turner was interested in the case and assigned investigator Steve Mills with the district attorney's office to work on it.

Turner would neither deny nor confirm whether there is an investigation about the missing voter registration cards.

Jones said he registered to vote for the national election on Sept. 18 when volunteer deputy registrars from the College Republicans came to the Callaway House to register A&M students.

Jones and 1,500 A&M students filled out voter application cards with the College Republicans and received receipts from the deputy registrars. When the time came to vote, Jones said, he was not registered to vote in the Brazos County area and his application could not be found.

Jones said he approached Jack Long, president of the College Republicans, about the matter. Long said Winn had lost the voter registration cards.

Jones said he was frustrated because no one told him what happened to his application, so he approached the district attorney.

Long and Winn disagree about what happened to the voter application cards. Long said too many problems have come from this situation for it to be ignored as a simple misplacement of voter registration cards.

Besides students being unable to vote because their cards were missing, many of the registered students received voter cards from

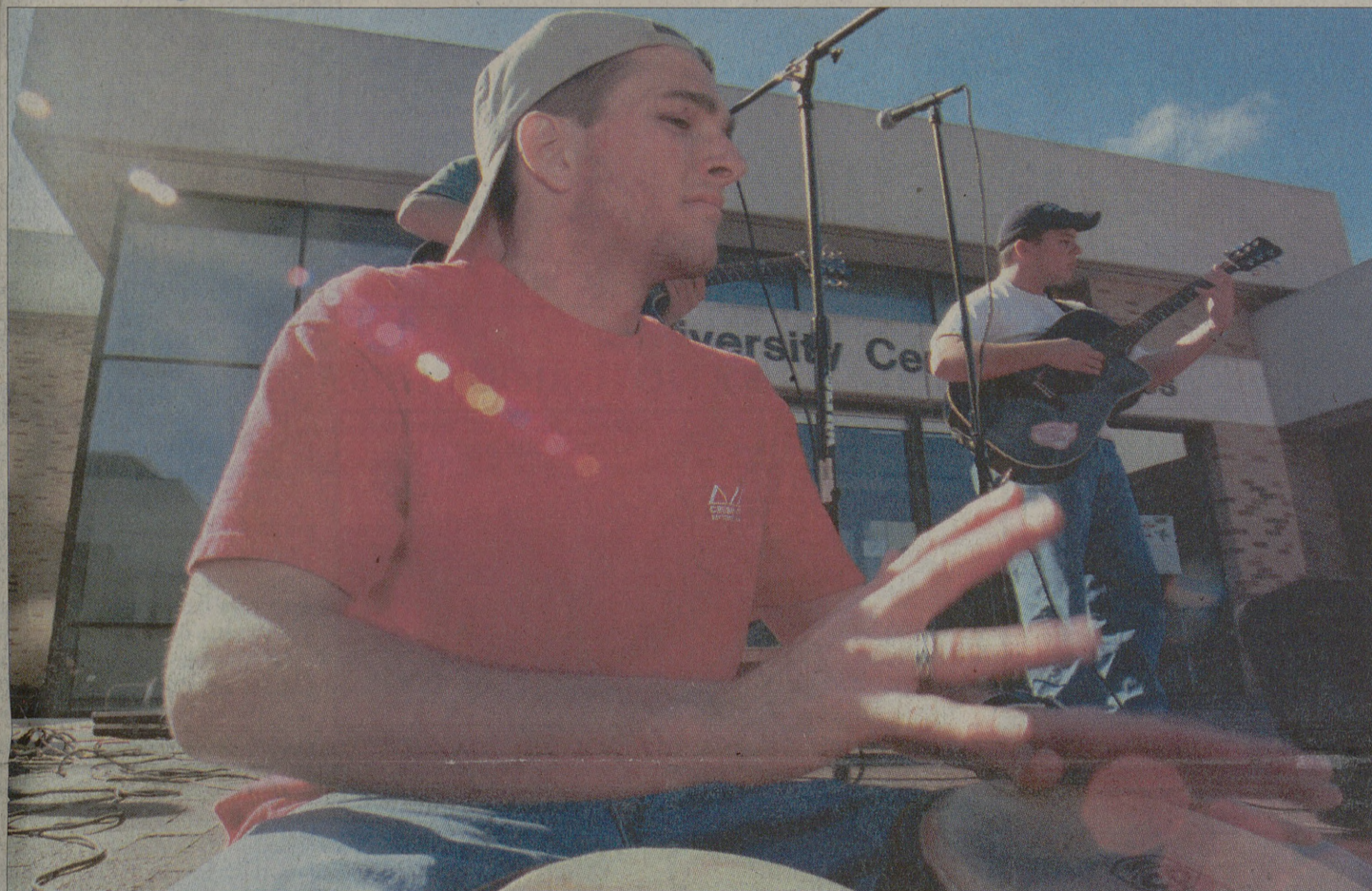
Winn's office, but the cards were not valid until Nov. 8, the day after the election.

"I am a member of College Republicans and was a volunteer deputy registrar for this past election," said Jessica Fontenot, a senior speech communication major. "I signed up quite a few people, including myself, on Oct. 2. You only have five days to turn applications in to the voter registrar's office, so I know the cards were there before the Oct. 10 date."

"However, when I and some of my friends received our voter cards, it said we could not begin voting until Nov. 8, one day after the

See REGISTRATION on Page 2.

We be jammin'



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Travis Endsley, a junior industrial distribution major, bangs on the bongos while Ryan Demmer, a junior recreation, park and tourism sciences major, plays the guitar outside of

the Memorial Student Center Monday. They were participating in "Play Anything, Say Anything," sponsored by

Gore pleads case before America

Bush builds Cabinet in private

(AP) — Al Gore defended his unprecedented reach to the courts Monday, declaring "Let the people have their say" by counting every ballot in Florida's make-or-break presidential election. George W. Bush plunged into the work of building a new government even as scattered rank-and-file Democrats warned that Gore's time may be running out.

A day after Bush summoned TV cameras to press for Gore's concession, the vice president laid out his case for letting courts settle the nation's long-count election. "This is America," he said with a forced chuckle. "When votes are cast, we count them. We don't arbitrarily set them aside because it's too difficult to count them."

The prime-time televised address was perhaps Gore's last, best chance to explain why the closest presidential election in 124 years didn't end Sunday night when Florida's top elections officer, a GOP partisan, certified Bush the winner by 537 votes out of 6 million cast.

Gore's support was falling as he went on the air.

An overnight poll conducted before the address by CNN/USA Today/Gallup found that 56 percent of Americans said Gore should concede the election compared to 46 percent who said that last week. An ABC-Washington Post survey found similar results.

"I guess Bush does have a legitimate right to the presidency, but if I was in Gore's place, I'd probably be doing the same thing he is," said Rick Prowell, 39, an electric lineman in Little Rock, Ark.

Gore protested the results in a Florida state court earlier Monday, becoming the first candidate in U.S. history to contest a presidential election before the judiciary. His lawyers asked for a quick hearing, but may not get one before the end of the week.

And on Friday, the

U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear GOP argument against recounts.

The stakes could hardly be higher. "If the people do not in the end choose me, so be it," Gore said standing at a presidential-style lectern before a dozen American flags in the vice presidential residence. "The outcome will have been fair, and the people will have spoken."

"If they choose me, so be it. I would then commit to bringing this country together. But, whatever the outcome, let the people have their say, and let us listen," Gore said, hours after Democratic leaders and President Clinton queued up to show their support.

With the agonizingly close election stretching into its fourth week, neither side appeared ready to give way in a fierce struggle that has entangled the judiciary in the business of presidential politics, threatening to spill past the Dec. 12 deadline for selecting state electors.

The continuing election

The agonizingly close election stretched into its 20th day Monday, with Democrat Al Gore contesting the results in Florida and Republican George W. Bush planning for a transition to the White House. Here is a roundup of recent developments in the Florida presidential election recount.

Courts	
Certification	Gore, seeking to overturn Florida's certification of Bush as the winner of the state's decisive 25 electoral votes, challenged the results from Palm Beach, Miami-Dade and Nassau counties in state court Monday. His court filing said the certification totals "include illegal votes and do not include legal votes that were improperly rejected. The number of such votes is more than sufficient to place in doubt, indeed to change the result of the election."
Overseas ballots	The Bush campaign filed state lawsuits late Sunday in Hillsborough, Okaloosa, Orange, Pasco and Polk counties, charging that their canvassing boards improperly rejected several overseas absentee ballots, including those that were not dated or postmarked. The lawsuits seek to force the counties to count the overseas ballots.
'Butterfly ballot'	A lawsuit over Palm Beach County's "butterfly ballot" was being sent to the state Supreme Court on Monday. Some Democrats complained the ballot was so confusing that they mistakenly cast votes for Pat Buchanan instead of Gore. They are seeking a new election in the county.
Absentee ballot applications	Both sides agreed Monday to move a Democratic lawsuit accusing Republicans of tampering with 4,700 absentee ballot applications in Seminole County, near Orlando, to circuit court in Tallahassee.
Minority voters	The Rev. Al Sharpton filed a federal lawsuit in Miami against Secretary of State Katherine Harris, Florida's board of elections and Bush, saying the state certification before Miami-Dade County could complete a manual recount of ballots disenfranchised minority voters.
Hand-counted ballots	The U.S. Supreme Court will hear a Bush appeal Friday seeking to bar hand-counted ballots from being added to the final tally.
Counting	
Statewide	Harris certified the state's election results Sunday, declaring Bush the winner. She accepted new vote totals from 16 counties and rejected Palm Beach County's partial results. Bush leads Gore by 537 votes in the certified totals.
Palm Beach County	As many as 1,000 ballots did not get reviewed before a deadline arrived and county officials turned in recount results showing Gore with a gain of 180 votes. The county finished its count anyway. Gore's court brief said the entire manual count would have added 215 votes for him.

Source: Compiled from AP wire reports AP

Scholars research paternal influence

By COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

As the relationships in families change, scholars have begun to research the effects on the children involved. One Texas A&M research team has recently concluded that a good relationship between a father and his daughter leads to her making healthy choices as an adult.

The team conducted a study concerning the absence of a father or father figure and the effects experienced by the daughter.

Dr. Danny Ballard, a health professor at A&M, led the research team in conducting a study titled "The Father/Daughter Relationship and Its Impact on Selected Intimate Outcome of Adult Females."

Dr. Marvin Genuchi, a professor of health and kinesiology at Kingwood College, had noticed that the relationships between his male acquaintances and their daughters closely affected the intimate relationships the daughters had as adults. He approached Ballard with the concept, and they researched, directed and wrote the study together.

The research team's mission was to see how the relationship between the father and daughter affected her ability to form stable and substantial long-term relationships with members of the opposite sex. The team

See DAUGHTERS on Page 2.

A&M thanks UT with money for scholarships

AUSTIN (AP) — Just more than a year ago, University of Texas-Austin (UT) students put their football rivalry with Texas A&M on hold to honor victims of the Bonfire collapse.

On Monday, that act of kindness was rewarded by A&M in the form of a \$50,000 endowment for scholarships at UT.

The "1999 Bonfire Unity Endowed Presidential Scholarship" will be available to any UT undergraduate student who is at least a sophomore and has passing grades. Recipients also must be involved in student activities and display "a clear commitment to the ideals displayed by the University of Texas during Texas A&M's Bonfire tragedy," said Jim Kunetka, director of the office of the vice president for resource development at UT.

Twelve students were killed Nov. 18, 1999, when the Bonfire they were building collapsed, sparking an outpouring of support from UT. Students gave blood, collected money and drove to College Station to comfort grieving Aggies.

"Last year's tragedy at Texas A&M has been shared by all Texans," said Larry Faulkner, president of UT.

"We are honored to have this scholarship placed at the University of Texas at Austin. It is our deepest hope that the memory of those who lost their lives in 1999 will live forever in future generations of students who merit Bonfire Unity Scholarships," Faulkner said.

A&M System Regent Robert Allen put up \$25,000 of his own money to fund half of the scholarship. The other half will be funded by A&M.

The money will be placed in a permanent endowment, and UT will use the interest to fund annual scholarships likely beginning next fall, Kunetka said.

"We thought an appropriate manner to demonstrate our appreciation would be to endow this

See BONFIRE on Page 2.

TxDOT closes rest area to reduce car accidents

By TAMRA RUSSELL
The Battalion

A picnic area on Highway 6, a half-mile south of Millican, was closed Thursday by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in an effort to reduce accidents in the surrounding area.

The picnic area is located on the west side of Hwy. 6 half a mile south of FM 159.

TxDOT spokesman Bob Colwell said there have not been many accidents in the area but the area was closed to see if accidents decrease.

"We closed it just to see if we could help alleviate some of the accidents that have been happening in that area," Colwell said.

Colwell said he did not know how many accidents have been reported since the pic-

nic area was closed. No fatal wrecks have been reported in that area, and no date has been set to reopen it.

The department also plans to combine two lanes that turn onto Westward Ho and Paradise Way streets into one turn lane. The two turning lanes are 3/4 mile apart.

The combining of the turn lanes is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2001.

Colwell said TxDOT is trying to alleviate accidents caused when drivers turn left from the turn lanes onto side roads.

Twenty-two accidents were recorded from January to August on the seven-mile stretch of highway between College Station and Navasota. Four people died in those accidents.



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

The Texas Department of Transportation closed the rest area south of Millican to try to reduce car accidents in the area.