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# Senate confirms Ashcroft's nomination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Sen. John Ashcroft won confirmation as attorney general on Thursday, completing President Bush's Cabinet and overcoming a ferocious Democratic assault on his conservative views and personal integrity. The Senate vote was 58-42.

"The president of the United States, George W. Bush, is entitled to have his selection as attorney general," Majority Leader Trent Lott said a few moments before the roll was called on the most contentious confirmation fight in a decade.

Vouching for the nominee's honesty and integrity, he brushed aside weeks of attacks by Democrats, including many of Ashcroft's former Senate colleagues. "I don't know that person they're depicting," said Lott, R-Miss.

Democrats claimed a consolation prize, saying the 42 votes against the nomination would be enough to sustain a filibuster against future Bush administration nominations they deemed too conservative. The votes in opposition were the most against any attor-

## BIRDS

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time in March.

Despite what evidence would suggest, Sippial said the Physical Plant cleans up affected areas on "a very frequent basis.

Parking Area 56, the lot across from the Rec Center, is scheduled to be cleaned Monday. However, the parking lot will have to be closed, potentially exacerbating parking prob-

Student complaints have raised the University's attention, and officials have started to look deeper into the situation.

ney general in the nation's history. "He's wrong on civil rights, wrong on a woman's right to choose, wrong on needed steps to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children," argued Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., who led the fight against confirmation. "And he's the wrong choice to be attorney general of the United States.

Within hours of the vote, Ashcroft was sworn in at the Supreme Court by Justice Clarence Thomas, a longtime friend who survived a brutal confirmation struggle of his own a decade ago.

In a statement, the new attorney general pledged he would "confront injustice by leading a professional Justice Department that is free from politics, that is uncompromisingly fair."

Even with Democrats claiming success, the result was a victory for Ashcroft and the president. All 50 Senate Republicans and eight Democrats voted for confirmation of the former Missouri senator, whose long political career seemed over when he lost a re-election bid last November.

"At a meeting this afternoon, officials met and began developing a plan to gently urge the birds off cam-King said. pus,'

Many University departments attended the meeting, including the University Police Department; the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Residence Life; and Parking Traffic and Transportation Services. Sippial also attended the meeting.

Birds living in an agricultural region tend to feed heavily in the day and roost at dusk, and apparently, the live oak trees on campus are a popular location for the birds. Most of the major fecal activity occurs afAll the votes in opposition came from Democrats. They included not only liberal stalwarts such as Kennedy, but also the roster of po-

THE BATTALION

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#### - Edward M. Kennedy U.S. senator

tential presidential contenders who would need support from women's groups and black voters to prosper in a 2004 campaign — Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, John Edwards of North Carolina, Evan Bayh of Indiana, John Kerry of Massachusetts and Joseph Biden of Delaware.

ter the birds roost. If they were frightened away from campus before they settled in for the evening, the excrement would not be as heavy, King said.

Gary Jackson, manager of Bus Operations, acknowledged that the bird feces are a problem, but said no students have voiced their concern to him.

"So far, we haven't had any complaints from the students," he said.

Sippial said that in the five and a half years he has been with A&M, there have "always been complaints off and on," about the fecal material. Even though there have been more complaints this year, the issue is "not a new problem.'

> Bryan Bryan 800 Commun

Sen. Jean Carnahan, D-Mo., opposed Ashcroft in her first high-profile vote since taking the seat that her late husband won from Ashcroft last November. Ashcroft, she said, "was

just too divisive for our country." Republicans bristled at the attacks. 'I have absolute, total, complete confidence that he is going to be one outstanding attorney general of the

United States," said Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma, the GOP whip. And Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, scoffed at Democratic claims. "If that's the way you've got to send a message, by trashing a person's rep-utation, distorting his record ... that's

pretty pathetic," he said. Liberal opponents, he charged,

want a litmus test society. Even before the vote, Republican sources circulated the names of likely top-ranking officials in a Justice Department headed by the Ashcroft. These included Larry D. Thompson as deputy attorney general, the No. 2 spot in the agency, and Theodore Olson as solicitor

REC

general, the lawyer who repartalic the administration bef Supreme Court.

Thompson, a black law was U.S. attorney in Atlant the Reagan administration, adviser to Clarence Thon his bitterly fought confirm Supreme Court justice in l

Ashcroft's conservatives cluding his opposition to and gun control and his fig a desegregation plan in more than a decade ago, in doubt during the confin tle. In four days of hearing month, the former state atto V MARI eral, governor and senator be Batt reassure his critics, saying the Batt serve "all the people" and the Consp nation's laws despite his **gg**ie M preferences." In particularly arpledged not to seek a Supremig the A reversal of a woman's right. Follow tion, said he would defend on fire c

stitutionality of gun control iministi posed in the Senate, and saidtensing o rights division was of particine logo: portance to him. impor Aggi

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adjust student fees within that cap without asking for the Texaslse the A ture's consent.

Problems with equipment at the Rec Center are not included in the ration of the Rec Center is seeking, Corrington said. Rec equipment is fixed as not lo but recent delays in shipping have kept needed parts from arriving i outique Station. Corrington hopes to stockpile equipment parts in the future an, vice

the "out of order" signs posted on various machines in the weight moutiques During its lifetime, exercise equipment is cycled through the Last y as it ages. Older machines are placed on the second and third floor nost \$50 machines arrive first in the weight room. Equipment on its last legand stude surplus for scraps or for other state institutions' use, Corrington sail

The bill to raise the Rec Center Fee cap will be placed on the cal sent to the Higher Education Committee of the Texas Legislature for eration this session. Brown, a vice chairman of the committee, s pects the bill to pass.

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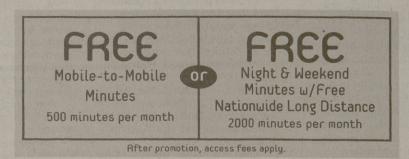
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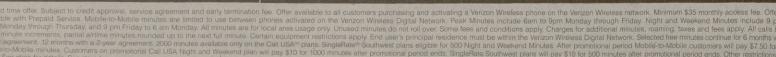


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