

Buck Weirus
Spirit Award

This award recognizes students for their outstanding contributions to the quality of student life programs at Texas A&M. All students are encouraged to apply for this award.



Leadership experience and excellence in achievement. Student life is the other education.

Spirit Award applications now available:

On-line at www.AggieNetwork.com
Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center Reception Desk
President's Office, 8th Floor Rudder
Vice President for Student Affairs, 10th Floor Rudder
Office of the Dean of each College
Office of Graduate Studies
Student Activities Office, Suite 125 Koldus Building
Multicultural Services Department, Suite 137 MSC
Commandant's Office, 102 Military Sciences
MSC Student Programs Office, 216 & 223 MSC

Application HELP workshop:

February 8, 2001, 6:30-8:00 Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center

Applications due February 15, 2001

at 5:00 p.m. to the Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center Reception Desk.



Student Activities
At Texas A&M University



The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS

Questions? Please e-mail: SpiritAward@AggieNetwork.com

Sharon defeats Barak in Israel election

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ariel Sharon, the tough-talking former general dubbed "The Bulldozer," lived up to his nickname Tuesday with a landslide victory over Ehud Barak, the prime minister whose peace hopes were dashed by some of the worst Israeli-Palestinian blood-letting in decades.

"The state of Israel has entered a new path, a path of security and true peace," the portly, white-haired Sharon told cheering, chanting supporters at his campaign headquarters early Wednesday morning.

"I call upon our Palestinian neighbors to cast off the path of violence and to return to the path of dialogue and solving the conflicts between us by peaceful means," he said. "I know peace requires difficult compromises — from both sides."

Sharon said President Bush had called to congratulate him and to urge close cooperation, and also urged Barak to join forces with him in a broad-based national government.

With 99 percent of the vote counted, Sharon had 62.5 percent to 37.4 percent for Barak — a 25 percentage-point gap. The difference was even larger than the 19 points that TV exit polls predicted shortly before an emotion-choked Barak conceded defeat.

"The road we chose is the one and only true path," Barak said as backers, some teary-eyed, slowly waved blue-and-white Israeli flags. "The true path requires courage ... and it is possible that the public is not fully ready for the painful truth. ... The

truth will prevail."

Barak, who said he would step down as Labor Party leader and give up his seat in parliament, did not rule out an alliance with Sharon, but made no promises either.

"We should not rule out being part of a unity government," he said. "If it is not possible, the Labor Party will be a fighting opposition, and will fight for what it believes."

It could take weeks or months for Labor to choose a new leader, depriving Sharon of a negotiating partner in the rival political camp.

Once complete election results are announced, within eight days, Sharon will have 45 days to form a coalition government and get it approved by Israel's parliament, or Knesset. Because no lawmakers' seats were at stake, Sharon inherits the same sharply divided Knesset that Barak faced. Barak could remain caretaker prime minister while Sharon works to form a government.

Many analysts say it could be just as difficult for Sharon to form a stable government as it was for Barak — and that his term in office could be even shorter.

Sharon's first hurdle will be the 2001 budget, which the Knesset must pass by March 31. If the budget is not approved, new elections must be called for prime minister and parliament.

Officially, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority says it will work with any Israeli prime minister. But some of his top associates expressed deep misgivings, and Palestinian ne-

gotiator Saeb Erekat warned Sharon's hard-line program for peace talks was a "recipe for war."

Barak, 58, was forced into early elections after 19 turbulent months at the helm of an ever-fraying governing coalition.

"My government will concentrate on the strengthening of Jerusalem, eternal capital of Israel."

— Ariel Sharon
prime-minister-elect

He had offered Palestinians a state encompassing most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, together with a share of the contested city.

The 72-year-old Sharon says he will not cede the Palestinians more territory or a foothold in Jerusalem — a point he repeated in his victory speech.

"My government will concentrate on the strengthening of Jerusalem, eternal capital of Israel," he pledged.

Jubilant broke out at Sharon's headquarters when the exit polls were announced, with supporters whistling, clapping and blowing horns, waving blue-and-white banners as they awaited his arrival. "The end of Oslo!" some shouted, referring to the interim peace accord that Sharon opposed.

Barak supporters were plunged

into gloom. "It's a disaster for Israeli democracy and the Israeli people, because they totally want something Sharon is unable to deliver," said parliament member Yael Dayan. At Barak headquarters, a few young campaigners softly sang a line from the national anthem: "We have not yet given up hope."

For many Israelis, neither candidate was a satisfactory choice — and the depth of that frustration was driven home by a record low turnout, 62 percent. Traditionally, Israel's voting average is close to 80 percent, among the democratic world's highest.

The driving force behind the vote for many Israelis was a sense of insecurity spawned by months of Israeli-Palestinian violence. Although the great majority of the nearly 400 people killed have been Palestinians, Israelis have been badly rattled by bombings, drive-by shootings, abductions and ambushes that are seen as making increasing inroads into daily life.

And many Israelis simply could not stomach the fact that the outbreak of violence came on the heels of the most sweeping concessions offered the Palestinians by any Israeli leader: a state in 95 percent of the West Bank and virtually all of Gaza, and control of Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem, claimed by both sides as their capital.

Israeli Arabs, a key source of support for Barak in 1999 elections, stayed home in droves, angry over the fatal shooting of 13 Israeli Arabs by police during riots in October.

News in Brief

German accused of luring teen to Greece via Web

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP) — A German man accused of luring a Florida teen-ager to Greece via the Internet was arraigned Tuesday and jailed pending trial on charges of abduction and sexual assault.

After his arraignment, 35-year-old Konstantin Baehring said he loves the 15-year-old and hopes eventually to marry her.

"I still love her, I have her deep in my heart. When she turns 18, if she can find me, we can get married," Baehring said as he was led from the closed-door hearing to the Diavata maximum security facility on the outskirts of this northern port city.

Baehring was arraigned on a felony charge of abducting a minor with intent to carry out unethical actions, which carries a 10-year sentence. Baehring also faces misdemeanor charges of luring a minor and violating obscenity statutes (sexual assault) which carry maximum sentences of five years each.

Released U.S. hostage will not discuss captivity

NAZRAN, Russia (AP) — Three days after ending his captivity in Chechnya, U.S. aid worker Kenneth Gluck met Tuesday with North Caucasus leader, but refused to discuss the hazy circumstances of his abduction.

Russian military and security officials flew Gluck out of Chechnya on Monday and he spent the night in the compound of the international aid organization Doctors Without Borders in Nazran, in the neighboring republic of Dagestan. On Tuesday, he boarded a plane for Moscow.

"I want to thank everybody who has helped get me released," Gluck told reporters. He refused to say anything about where he was held or by whom, or to divulge any details of his liberation.

"I just want to say that I'm healthy and I'm very happy that I was released," Gluck said.

Ruslan Aushev, the leader of the Russian republic of Dagestan, said that Gluck told him during a meeting Tuesday morning that his captors had treated him politely and fed him well.

"In spite of a month of captivity, Gluck looked very healthy and he made jokes," Aushev quoted as saying by the international news agency. Aushev added that Gluck wanted to continue his work in Dagestan.

Gluck is head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in the North Caucasus region, where

CODY'S

COLLEGE STATIONS NEWEST DANCE CLUB

Drink Specials

Thursday-\$1 BAR DRINKS & LONGNECKS till 11:00

Friday & Saturday- \$2 BAR DRINKS & LONGNECKS till 11:00

NO Cover For 21 and Up

NO Cover with College ID! 18 & Up Welcome

GRAND OPENING Thursday, Feb. 8

Located at Texas Ave. and Southwest Pkwy. in

Park Place Plaza (next to 4.0 & GO)

DOORS OPEN AT 7 P.M.

FOR MORE INFO CALL 694-0018