

Politics

Wednesday, September 6, 2001

THE BATTALION

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GA exec council approved one dissenting vote cast against EVP Robbie Blakely

By ELIZABETH RAINES
THE BATTALION

Student Body President Houser's executive council nominees and railroad safety awareness topped the list at the first meeting of the 54th session of the Texas A&M Student Senate Wednesday.

In a turn for the better, Houser saw all 16 of her nominees approved at Wednesday night's meeting.

The Pro-Traditions student senate majority effectively blocked four of Houser's seven nominees for executive council at the final student senate meeting for the 2000-2001 school year.

Wednesday night, Kevin Capps, chair of external affairs for the Student Senate, recommended that the senators member that the student body voted for Houser and through at vote placed their faith in Houser's decision-making capabilities.

"[Houser] is here tonight because she cares about these

people that she has put into nomination — think about that," Capps said. "And think about what you are saying and everyone that stands against you, from the student body on down and everything that you are denying if you raise your hand and if you say nay."

The four who were rejected in April — Robbie Blakely, Erika Prochaska, Rachel Schaefer and Joe Handy — were approved last night. Blakely was the only non-unanimous approval, with one vote against his appointment as executive vice president.

Other executive council unanimous approvals included Jarrett Reed, Lexi Lee, Shane Daniels, April Somers, Chad Olsen, Bryan Barton, Christy Gonzalez, Mark Tharp, Pablo Rodriguez, Lacey Baggett, Leanne Hall and Nikki Grose.

The executive council serves a role similar to the Cabinet. The 16 members are divided into four departments: vice president for policy with four executive directors, vice president of administration with three execu-

tive directors, vice president of campus relations with three executive directors and vice president of programs with three executive directors.

The council members are not

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— Kevin Capps
Student Senate chair of external affairs

student senators and are appointed by Houser pending approval from the Student Senate.

Aside from introducing her nominees, Houser also asked the senators to encourage their constituents to participate in the All University League and attend the

Sept. 12 State of the University address.

"[All University League] is made up of nine weeks of healthy competition that are intended to provide mechanisms for students in the Corps of Cadets, resident halls, Greek Life and Off Campus Aggies with the opportunity to really interact and start breaking those barriers that have been developed over the course of the past couple of years," Houser said.

Sam Stevenson, public safety manager for Union Pacific Railroad, stressed the importance of railroad safety among the student body.

A train traveling at 55 miles an hour takes a mile to come to a complete stop, Stevenson said, cautioning against students illegally crossing the railroad tracks to get to West Campus.

The Federal Railroad Administration also provided statistical information to the senators. A representative of the Administration said that 425 deaths occurred last year in US Highway-Rail Collisions, and 877 deaths occurred from rail trespassing.

Capital gains tax cut slated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top congressional Republicans said Wednesday they want new legislation to stimulate the economy, including cuts in the capital gains tax rate, despite President Bush's wish to delay such an effort.

The GOP split emerged as Republicans stepped up efforts to combat Democratic claims that this year's tax cut was so costly that, unless savings are found, it could force the use of Social Security surpluses to pay for defense, education and other increases that both sides support.

In a private meeting, House GOP leaders decided to ask the White House to take administrative actions in the last days of this fiscal year to ensure that Social Security surpluses are not spent, Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said in a brief interview. Fiscal 2001 ends Sept. 30, and lawmakers have little taste for enacting 11th-hour spending cuts this year.

As for making sure Social

See CUT on page 8A.

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*Informational/Social, Sept 7, "Tiki Time", come join us for free food, prizes and further information on OCA. At Hensel Park, off South College towards Bryan, 6-8pm.

*FIRST MEETING - Tuesday, Sept 11, Koldus 111, 7pm.

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