

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

A&M may be hub for national security

By Emily Peters
THE BATTALION

Early planning for A&M to house the National Center for Homeland Security was approved by the board of Regents Friday. The center will make A&M the hub of collaborated national efforts to develop new security technology in biohazard management, emergency responses and sociopolitical issues.

national priority due to increased vulnerability post-Sept. 11. The National Security Agency said A&M is heavily qualified for its already-established programs, including the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, the Food Safety Inspection Service, and the Texas Transportation Institute. Officials said A&M would look to Congress to fund the \$120 million project over a five-year period.

next fall, requiring the average student to pay \$400 more in tuition each semester. Parking, diplomas, transcripts and medical services will also be more expensive, in addition to a new Software Licensing fee, and a \$2 increase for faculty salaries.

Foundation, who will fund the \$23 million complex solely from private endowments. The complex, which is beginning construction this month, will house football dressing rooms, training rooms, coaches' offices, lounges and an athlete study center. Upon the complex's expected completion in August 2003, stadium capacity will increase from 82,600 to somewhere between 102,000 and 104,000.

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Students vying for mayor seat

By Christina Hoffman
THE BATTALION

Some Texas A&M students want an Aggie voice on the College Station City Council. The 44,000 A&M students living in College Station make up over half the population of the city. A group of students is running for positions on the city council feel should make the majority heard.

politics that the people want." Cruz said he is serious and fully committed about running for mayor. He has not received any negative comments, but said he sometimes feels people are not taking him seriously because he is a student. He said students need to step up to a challenge of this kind. He felt an obligation to run for mayor after realizing the lack of representation for students in College Station. "Earlier in the fall semester, I began attending the city council meetings regularly. It struck me as odd that in a college town where we, the students, make up well over half the population, there wasn't anybody on council who represented us," Cruz said.



One-year-old **Dakaiya Brown** watches from her front door as senior accounting major **Adrian Sumter** and other members of Delta Sigma Theta paint her house in College Station during the 20th Big Event on Saturday. Nearly 3,000 Aggies participated in the community service project.

Big Event celebrates 20th year

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION

Approximately 6,730 Texas A&M volunteers celebrated the twentieth anniversary of Big Event Saturday by helping at over 550 sites in the Bryan-College Station area. Tasks included fixing, cleaning, painting, weeding, planting trees and building fences. The students gathered at Simpson Drill Field at 9 a.m. for a kick off event that included a concert by Saving Dawn, as well as free food and drinks.

Big Event and a senior industrial engineering major, told the gathered students they were "a testament to the true Aggie spirit." A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen also addressed the students. "Being out here makes all Aggies proud. This is a great tribute to your commitment to your fellow Aggies," Bowen said. "You set a wonderful example. You support each other, the University, and the community."



Sophomore english major **Ryan Cates** scrapes the paint off a house Saturday at Big Event.

Candidates for College Station Mayor

- Chris Field, 19 - Blinn College freshman
- Jaime Cruz, 23 - Texas A&M senior
- Ron Silvia, 64 - City councilman
- Dick Birdwell, 70 - Former city councilman

CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Candidates support Bonfire's return



This is the third of a three part series that presents the positions of the student body president candidates on issues of interest to students.

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION



COVENTRY

Question 5: What are your views on Bonfire's absence? How will you work with a new administration and the student body to cope with the loss of the 90-year tradition? For SBP candidate Lara Pringle, bringing back Bonfire is a top priority for her administration. "I do want Bonfire back, I am advocating for Bonfire to come back safely and I accept the administration's decision that it won't be here in 2002," she said.

90-year tradition encouraged camaraderie, teamwork and bonding and developed unity among the groups that were involved, she said. Working with Traditions Council to write up a proposal including the history and tradition behind Bonfire and explaining its importance to the student body and the University will help the new president to understand its background, Pringle said. She plans to actively involve students who have worked on Bonfire and students that plan to work on it in the future.

SGA reverses flier decision

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

The Student Government Association Election Commission reversed its recent decision to censor a class officer candidate's campaign flyers. Shannon Dubberly, who is running against Christopher Farmer and Stephanie Goodman for Class of 2004 vice president, was instructed Wednesday to remove his

flyers, which the commission deemed inappropriate, or face fines and possible disqualification. Election commissioner Caytie Sarandis, a senior recreation parks and tourism major, said she notified Dubberly Friday that all fines against him would be dropped and he would be allowed to distribute the flyers. "We [The election commission] still believe it's distasteful and not in the best

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Aggies romp over Sooners

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Beyond a shadow of a doubt
America's backup government is causing more harm than good

WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 73° F
LOW 42° F

TUESDAY

HIGH 61° F
LOW 46° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF WWW.COLLEGEWEATHER.COM

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