MONDAYMARCH 25, 2002 VOLUME 108 • ISSUE 116 THE BATTALION E BATTALION **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** A&M may be hub for national security

By Emily Peters THE BATTALION

arly planning for A&M to house the nal Center for Homeland Security was oved by the board of Regents Friday. The er will make A&M the hub of collaborated nal efforts to develop new security technolin biohazard management, emergency ses 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.

The regents also passed a myriad of fees for S. Rep. Kevin Brady presented the idea to A&M and A&M system schools. The academic lature Wednesday in the midst of President enhancement fee will charge \$30 more per h's requests to make national security a semester credit hour starting with new students

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.

Regents also heard that the football complex soon to be built on the south end of Kyle Field is already working under budget.

Careful planning coupled with low bid proposals from construction companies will result in a project price \$1.9 million below the originally-proposed price. Regents approved construction contracts and the University's partnership with the 12th Man

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.

In other business, the railroad will not be removed from the A&M campus, Chuck Sippial, A&M VP for Administration, reported to the

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Christina Hoffman policies that the people want." THE BATTALION

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fire talks with aime Cruz, Jr., a 23-yearnians planne senior economics major, is hursday. ing for mayor of College explosion ion so he can provide a he foot of the for the students at A&M. office tower, hCollege Station, we have jeorge Street minority ruling and the e of several why being ignored," Cruz shooting

ng attacks. Al Aqsa Brig dents, a voice which has ia linked to on deaf ears until now." his May, four of seven city s Fatah fa d responsibilit l positions will be availor election, including the mbing. on of mayor. The College City Council meets on ond and fourth Thursday ry month. It is not a fulladministrative position,

mayor has many advisers with decisions, Cruz said, re, his young age will not this ability to serve on city

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.

Cruz will run against three other mayoral candidates: Dick Birdwell, age 71, who served on the College Station council from 1988-1992, and again 1996-1998; and from Councilman Ron Silvia, who first announced he would run for mayor in February.

Last week, Chris Field, a 19 year old Blinn College student, filed to run for College Station mayor.

Cruz is not the only student aiming to provide a voice for A&M students. Corps member



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

Big Event and a senior industrial engineering major, told the gath-

heir duties are to make that the policies being set are in sync with what the on, as a whole, wants," said. "We mostly vote on

T.J. Flowers, a junior history major, is running for Council Position 4 and Natalie

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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

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. Ashley McAlpine, director of

ered students they were ment 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.'

Corps of Cadets outfit A Company, Rho Delta Chi sorority

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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION Sophomore english major Ryan Cates scrapes the paint off a house Saturday at Big Event

andidates 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

Question 5: What are your views on Bonfire's absence? How will you INGL F work with a new administration and the student body to cope with the of the 90-year tradition?

or SBP candidate Lara Pringle, bringing back tre is a top priority for her administration. do want Bonfire back, I am advocating for Bonfire me back safely and I accept the administration's g that it won't be here in 2002," she said. ngle said she feels it is necessary to move past the decision and focus on what can be done to ensure s return in 2003 and its continuation in the The best way to do this is to educate students on e and its meaning, she said.

ve been to Bonfire since I was 11 years old, so I erstand the importance behind the tradition," gle said. "I think we need to make sure that other ents do, too."

For the senior finance major, Bonfire is about much the than watching logs burn on the Polo Fields. The

90-year tradition encouraged camaraderie, teamwork and bonding and COVENTRY 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.

Pringle sees the need for an activity to promote unity on campus in the way that Bonfire did. Possible suggestions by Pringle include a competition or a community service project.

Finding and adopting a new tradition will rely on student involvement, Pringle said, explaining that a new activity cannot be decided solely by leaders in student government. It is imperative to have input from as much

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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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