

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Gates supports tradition and change



GATES

By Emily Peters
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M presidential hopeful Dr. Robert Gates said Wednesday that Aggie history and traditions can coexist with the inevitable changes the University needs to make to achieve Vision 2020.

Gates, former director of the CIA is one of the five interviewed by a faculty search committee tasked with recommending a replacement for A&M

President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, who will step down June 30.

As interim head of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service from 1999 to 2001, Gates said he gained a deep respect for Aggie traditions and sense of family, especially in the midst of the Bonfire tragedy. He said his support for Vision 2020 will not undermine A&M's uniqueness.

"I have sensed an undercurrent that Vision 2020 may threaten to undermine the

Aggie spirit," he said after two days of meeting with A&M administrators and student leaders. "I see no conflict with that. As far as I'm concerned, A&M is already No. 1 in culture and spirit, and there is no reason to sacrifice that."

Gates said his presidency, which he said would last at least 5 years, would advocate change.

"If you want to maintain status quo, I am not the right man," he said.

Gates opened his address apologizing to

the search committee for not getting his paperwork in properly and being difficult to contact. He never planned to be a university president, he said.

"I'm a little surprised to be here," he said. "This was not in my retirement plan."

Gates said he turned down offers from other universities for president positions

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District 31 hopefuls start mudslinging

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

The District 31 Republican runoff between Peter Wareing and John Carter has turned into a political slugfest, with each candidate spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to fill the television airwaves and residents' mailboxes with advertisements blasting his opponent.

On Tuesday, Carter challenged Wareing, a Houston businessman who moved to the district to run for Congress, to pledge to live in Bryan permanently whether or

not he wins the April 9 runoff. "To truly represent the people, you have to live with them and not just have moved in to buy a congressional seat," said James Harris, Carter's campaign manager.

Wareing, who is currently renting an apartment in Bryan, said win or lose, he plans to buy a home and settle in the area and dismissed the challenge as just another ploy in Carter's negative campaign.

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A&M involved in SAT overhaul

By Emily Peters
THE BATTALION

The SAT, which is used nationally in college admission decisions, is under revision, and the man in charge of Texas A&M admissions has been given power to influence the change.

The proposed revisions to the SAT would be the test's largest overhaul since 1993, and A&M Assistant Provost Joe Estrada sits on the national revision committee.

"I got a request to sit on the committee, and I determined that this was a wonderful invitation

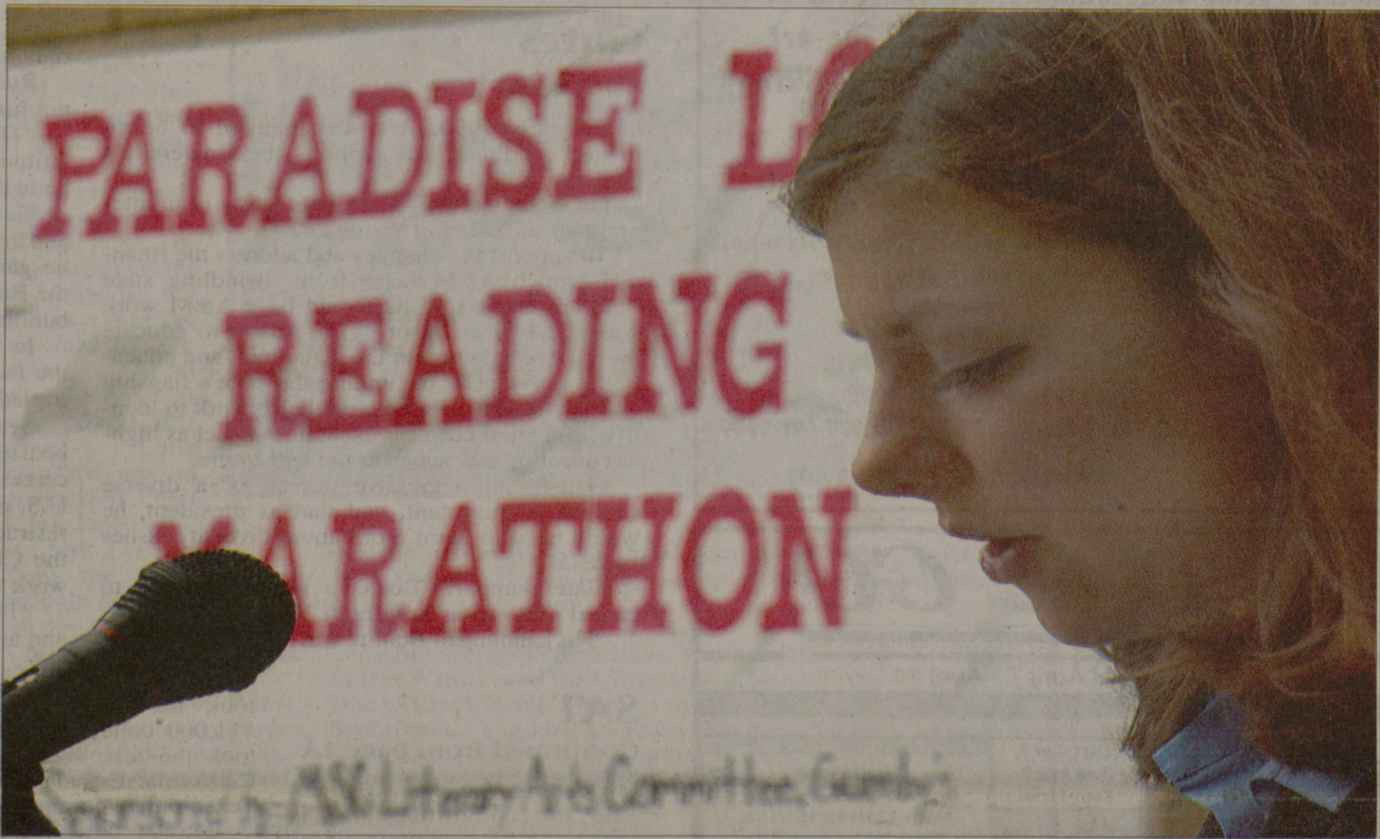
and something I wanted to get involved with," he said. "It is an enormous responsibility because it changes the nature of the exam for future students."

Proposed changes may add a writing section, exclude analogies and toughen math problems in an attempt to better discern a student's possibility of success in college.

Estrada said he and the other committee members are reviewing details of each test question for clarity and any

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Reading marathon



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Allison Hunt reads John Milton's *Paradise Lost* in front of the Academic Building on Wednesday. A marathon public reading of the novel was conducted by volunteers on behalf of the Barbara Bush Literacy Corps, an organization promoting literacy.

Bomb threat leaves MSC empty

By Sommer Bunce
THE BATTALION

More than 1,000 people were evacuated from the Memorial Student Center and the Rudder Tower Complex just before 9 p.m. Wednesday night after police said a caller left a bomb threat for the adjoining buildings.

Building proctors received a call in Rudder Tower that threatened an explosion in the buildings at 9:30 p.m., said University Police Department Lt. Lynn

Sechelski. Evacuation was taken as a safety precaution, Sechelski said.

"It took 30 to 45 minutes to get all these people out of the building," Sechelski said. "We always treat it as serious."

Students crowded onto Simpson Drill Field and just beyond Rudder Fountain, some still holding interrupted meetings, others well-dressed in long skirts, ties and jackets, waiting to be readmitted to the buildings.

UPD does not have the capability to

sweep such large buildings for a bomb or other explosive devices, Sechelski said. With such a large area and small staff, he said, the main concern was clearing the area.

Shortly before 9:30 p.m., police could be seen ushering groups of running students across the breezeway connecting Rudder and the MSC.

Sechelski said it would take a large

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Day of Silence addresses discrimination

Students, faculty and staff to participate in peaceful protest

By Tanya Nading
THE BATTALION

One hundred or more students, faculty and staff will participate in the second Texas A&M Day of Silence Thursday, a protest to echo the silence that is caused by harassment and discrimination.

The original Day of Silence began as a nationwide movement for youth who felt silenced by their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered life.

"They felt that they were constantly being judged who they are as people," said

Beatriz Arnillas, coordinator of the Gender Issues and Education Services office. "People who identify themselves as GLBT feel they cannot mention who their significant other is during conversations because of a fear of being oppressed."

Many students face discrimination everyday, and for some students on campus, it is more visible than others. One student, who asked not to have his name published, suffered from discrimination at Texas A&M.

"The one time that sticks out most in

my mind was back during my freshman year," he said. "I was living in an all male suite-style hall, and my roommate found out that I was gay by looking through some stuff on my computer."

His roommate told several people in their residence hall, and the student said word of his homosexuality spread. People would tape notes and signs on his door to harass him, he said.

"It was hard because people who I was friends with stopped talking to me," he said. "I think the only reason I got through that semester was because I had

a really cool hall director, and he helped me out. I didn't move out until the end of the school year. I stayed because I had made friends in the dorm."

Just Wednesday, the student said, a friend told him she had been harassed and "called a pervert" when she kissed her girlfriend goodbye.

The A&M Day of Silence is intended to recognize students who feel they have been a victim of oppression and discrimination.

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Author recalls experience of war with Rudder's Rangers

By Brittany Hooten
THE BATTALION

It was the height of World War II, and Robert Edlin was eager for front-line action, so he sought a transfer to Lt. James Earl Rudder's elite 2nd Ranger Battalion.

When Rudder asked him why he wanted to be a ranger, Edlin said he wanted to be with somebody who "will fight all the way through." Rudder followed that question and asked Edlin what he would do if he was leading a company of rangers on a hill and was

surrounded and far outnumbered by German soldiers. Edlin said he would surrender and then try to escape. "[Rudder] said, 'You're the first S.O.B. that came in here and surrendered,'" Edlin said. "That's how I wound up in the rangers."

Edlin, whose experiences are detailed in the newly published book *The Fool Lieutenant*, spoke at a book signing Wednesday night at Barnes & Noble

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Sports Pg. 1B
Texas freshmen shine as Horns down Ags

WEATHER
TODAY

HIGH 68° F
LOW 47° F

FRIDAY

HIGH 72° F
LOW 53° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF
www.collegeweather.com

STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS

- Thursday is the last day to vote in runoff elections
- Contested seats include sr. yell leader, jr. yell leader and class officers
- Vote online at vote.tamu.edu
- Vote at campus locations in the MSC, the Commons, Evans, Blocker and the Rec Center

Source: The Election Commission
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