

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Candle bearers (above) at Aggie Muster light candles as the names on the roll call are read. Gov. Rick Perry, Class of 1972 (below), spoke at the campus muster.

Kidnapping a threat to Americans

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION

CNN's "The Capital Gang" and Thomas Hargrove, whose life inspired the movie *Proof of Life* starring Russell Crowe and Meg Ryan, spoke at the MSC Wiley Lecture Series Friday night at Rudder Auditorium about American safety abroad.

The main discussion was on threats Americans face while living in and visiting other countries.

Hargrove, a 1966 graduate of Texas A&M, was kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas of FARC, the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia, at a roadblock in 1994. He was held hostage for 334 days in the Andes and was released only after his family paid a ransom.

Hargrove lost 60 pounds, was kept in chains and locked in a room for days at a time while his wife and professional kidnaper negotiators bargained for his freedom.

He is one of the few victims who will talk about the experience and explain the kidnapping and ransom industry from the inside.

Kidnapping is big business in Latin America, Hargrove said, but he said the media rarely reports it. Most of the hostage negotiations are kept secret and families of hostages negotiate with the kidnappers more often than Americans realize.

"Kidnapping is seldom reported to the press," Hargrove said. "If a person is in the media and becomes high profile,

See **Threat** on page 2

'Softly call the Muster...' Gov. Perry addresses unity through Aggie spirit

By Emily Peters
THE BATTALION

Aggie Muster united the Aggie family Sunday to carry on the tradition of honoring fallen Aggie comrades.

Gov. Rick Perry, Class of 1972, took a moment to catch his composure before continuing his emotionally-charged Muster speech paying tribute to his fallen Aggie friend who passed away two weeks ago.

Perry said that when he was a fresh-

man, he said George Schriever, his commanding officer, would pound on his door at all hours of the night.

"That was my signal to come a running," he said. "He may have wanted his shoes or his brass shined, or maybe just wanted me to sing him to sleep that night."

Perry and Schriever ended up as copilots in the United States Air Force.

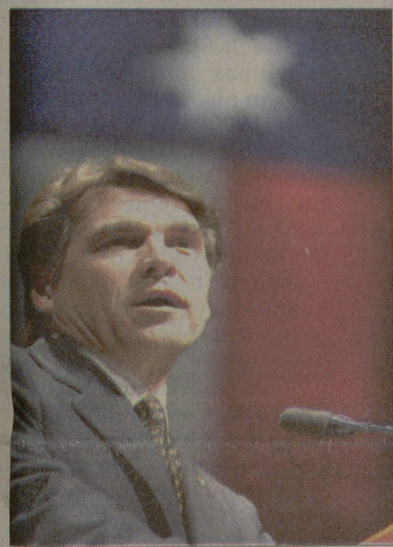
"He lives on forever in the form of the Aggie spirit," Perry said. "Though

these Aggies are no longer here, as we light a candle, we know they are still alive in our hearts."

Campus Muster in Reed Arena honored Brazos County Aggies and members of the 50th Anniversary class of 1952, who passed away in the past year. Nearly 11,000 attended the ceremony.

Candles lit for each Aggie created a glowing ring of light surrounding

See **Muster** on page 2



Powell: Education eliminates racism

By Sarah Darr
THE BATTALION

Self-education is the easiest way to eliminate racism and fear of the unknown, said Kevin Powell, a former MTV "Real World" participant and now an author and political activist.

"Self-education is the best education," Powell said. "To me, education is what I know about myself and other people?"

Powell's third book, *Keeping it Real*, was written in letter form; some written to different people in his life, and the last letter to everyone. It covered various issues including racism and political activism in America. Powell spoke Friday in the Memorial Student Center.

"We still live in a country where there is racism against people who are handicapped

in one way or another," Powell said.

Powell said there are many types of activism that one can implement to get their voice heard.

"It starts with writing letters to officials and can progress to protesting or boycotting if you have to," he said.

Powell said it is important to balance staying open-minded with holding on to personal beliefs.

"Constantly expanding your horizons will engage people in critical thinking, but it can be a struggle to do sometimes and you may have to expand your value system," he said.

Powell said children need to be educated at an early age about all cultures and races, not just their own.

"If children do not learn anything about people unlike them and just look to pop culture for knowledge, they'll never respect

that group," Powell said. "Education of this needs to start early."

Powell said his mother is his inspiration in following his passion for reading and writing.

After reading his first book by Ernest Hemingway, Powell researched Hemingway's background and realized what an interesting life authors could lead. He then began to read books from all different kinds of authors.

"Because of my education, I didn't even know that a black person could be a writer," Powell said.

Powell said reading also allows students to learn as much as possible about their own race and develop strength in their own beliefs.

See **Education** on page 2

Prof says 1990s boom could not have lasted

By Elizabeth Kline
THE BATTALION

The information technology boom of the 1990s could not have lasted forever, Harvard University professor Dr. Dale Jorgenson said Friday at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex.

Jorgenson addressed a crowd of economists, professors and students at the New Economy Conference, hosted by the George Bush School of Government and Public Service and the

Department of Economics. The goal of the conference was to explore information technology's impact on economic performance.

Jorgenson said the remarkable economic growth of the 1990s was a result of the Federal Reserve Board's allowing the economy to go into an investment boom that drove unemployment down and output up.

"The labor force was growing at twice the rate of the population,"

See **Boom** on page 2



COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCES

Ten squirrels were trapped and collared with a monitoring system as part of the animal ecology class' research in the practices of urban squirrels.

A&M squirrel research will continue

By Anna Chaloupka
THE BATTALION

Squirrels running around with tracking collars will become a familiar site at Texas A&M, as research on the ecology of fox squirrels in urban settings is expected to continue for at least two more years.

Students enrolled in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences' Animal Ecology 403 course spent the past three months trapping fox squirrels on campus, fitting them with radio-transmitter collars and tracking them using basic wildlife techniques like radio telemetry and census methodology.

They applied classroom principles to the data collected to find information like average survival rate, mortality, litter size and range movement, said Dr. Roel Lopez, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station wildlife researcher.

"The students liked being able to take classroom lessons and apply them in the field," he said. "It has enhanced the overall undergraduate experience."

The project began on the main campus in February, and Lopez said the response has been overwhelming and positive.

Wayne Buchanan, a junior wildlife and fisheries sciences major, said he liked the project because it did not confine him to the classroom.

"I thought it was great," Buchanan said. "We were able to go outside and do what we will be doing in the future."

Rachel Curless, a senior wildlife and fisheries sciences major, said the project not only gave her field experience, it allowed her to become familiar with radio telemetry and various computer programs that she will use in the workforce.

"We gained experience we would not have otherwise," Curless said.

The class trapped 10 squirrels during the research, Lopez said, and from the data, they

See **Squirrels** on page 2

Emission test raises inspection cost

DALLAS (AP) — Motorists in five Texas counties will have to dig a little deeper into their pocketbooks next month when a new vehicle emission inspection program takes effect.

Emissions inspections in Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Collin and Harris counties will cost \$22.50 instead of the current \$13. With the \$12.50 safety inspection fee, total costs will be \$35 instead of \$25.50.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission says the plan will help Texas cut ozone levels and comply with the Federal Clean Air Act by the 2007 target date.

Failure to comply could result in the loss of federal highway funds and restrictions on opening new businesses.

Under the new rules, vehicles made in 1996 and after will be subject to an on-board diagnostics test, or

OBD, which plugs into vehicles' computers. Older cars will use the acceleration simulation mode test, or ASM, which uses a treadmill to simulate a road test.

The current test checks for carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons, a smog-forming agent. The new test will

See **Emission** on page 2

INSIDE

AggieLife Pg. 3

Kicking the habit
Aggies share their struggles with smoking

Sports Pg. 7

Aggies fall short against Bears

WEATHER TODAY

30% HIGH 80° F
LOW 65° F

TUESDAY

HIGH 85° F
LOW 65° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF WWW.GORGEWEBSTER.COM