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## Gates officially named A&M president

Board of Regents names Tempton as interim president of Prairie View A&M

By Melissa Sullivan  
THE BATTALION

In a five to three vote, the Board of Regents officially appointed Dr. Robert M. Gates as Texas A&M University's next president Thursday.

"(Gates) is an esteemed active public servant and has lots of energy that will bring great leadership to the university," said Erle Nye, chairman of the Board of Regents.

Despite the three votes against him, Nye said that it was not a surprise that Gates was appointed.

"The board is 100 percent behind him and support him," he said. "The board wishes him

the best for a successful tenure as president."

Gates was named A&M's sole presidential finalist in May, but in accordance with state law, the board had to wait 21 days to officially appoint him.

"We could not do anything official until today," said Howard Graves, chancellor of the Texas A&M System. "He is familiar with the terrain and he will get lots of advice. He is a smart, experienced leader."

Although officially appointed, Gates will not take office until August 1. He has other obligations that he must attend before he permanently begins at A&M, Nye said.

Current president Dr. Ray M.

Bowen has agreed to extend his stay until the end of July due to the delay. He was originally scheduled to step down June 30.

Bowen said that he is happy with the Gates decision, but he did not favor one candidate over the other. Bowen said all the presidential candidates had exceptional qualifications for the presidency.

"I am pleased with the appointment and we were fortunate to have a string of fine candidates," he said.

Bowen said that while he is not making any major decisions regarding the University, if any major decisions arrive, he will brief Gates on the issues so he has an advantage when he enters office.

"I have had a lot of interactions with him both on the phone and by email and we are working to get into transition mode," Bowen said.

"We are anxious to help Gates

and the Chancellor for we want the best for each university in the system," Nye said. "It is a challenging job and we will be all about helping the best we can."

At the same meeting, in a unanimous vote, the Board appointed Dr. Willie Tempton as interim president of Prairie View A&M University while a national search committee conducts a search for a new president who is expected to take office in the summer 2003.

Tempton has made it clear that he is not a candidate, Nye said.

"Prairie View has made some strides in recent years and we are anxious to conduct the search and find the best person for the job," Nye said.

"We need to focus on the future rather than to focus on any significant problems."



GATES

## Grad school popularity mixed at the moment

By Ruth Ihde  
THE BATTALION

Recently, gradschools.com released a study suggesting a significant decrease in popularity among graduate degrees dealing with information systems and information technology, and an increased interest in liberal arts programs such as creative writing and international relations.

Gradschools.com offers information to students who are interested in going into graduate school. The site is sponsored by many schools nationwide, including Texas A&M, and provides information about what each graduate program includes free of charge to prospective students.

Mark Shay, founder and CEO of gradschools.com, said this research is done on a quarterly basis. Researchers take the top 20 fields and look at significant changes among hits to those sites. The results are then placed in a top 20 list including the hottest trends in graduate school enrollment.

In the months following Sept. 11, Shay believes that there have been more students interested in continuing their education because of America's economic downturn, but the number of students interested in the technology sector has decreased significantly.

He said this may be indicative that companies are not paying six-figures to

graduates of technology degrees; therefore, students are turning to fields that catch their particular interests rather than American interests.

"When the market is hot, people tend to go with employability, and when its not, people tend to do more of what they want," Shay said. "This is not to say that fields such as information systems are dead, but maybe they have lost their luster."

Other findings in research done by gradschools.com shows an increased interest of foreign students who want to enroll in graduate school, especially after the events of Sept. 11.

Shay proposed that there was almost a panic mentality seen in foreign students wanting to get into a master's program before the Immigration and Naturalization Service put restrictions on who qualifies for a student visa.

The aftermath of Sept. 11 and immigration restrictions did not seem to have an immediate impact on the international students at A&M. There was actually a small increase in the number of applications submitted by those students wanting to attend A&M.

Dr. Clifton Griffin, assistant dean of graduate studies, said that there was really no upsurge in graduate school enrollment after September 11th and that enrollment

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## West Texas bus crash kills three passengers

COLORADO CITY, Texas (AP) — Three passengers aboard a Greyhound bus died and at least four others were hospitalized when it rear-ended a tractor-trailer on Interstate 20 headed toward Dallas, authorities said Sunday.

The bus was behind a tractor-trailer traveling east on the interstate at about 5:30 a.m. Sunday when a second tractor-trailer began slowly entering the highway from a rest stop, Texas Department of Public Safety communications operator Erin Hale said.

The first tractor-trailer had enough time to pull out of the lane the second tractor-trailer was entering, but the Greyhound driver, who was directly behind the first truck, didn't have time to move, she said.

"The people who were killed were at the front of the bus," Hale said. About two dozen other passengers on the bus were taken to local hospitals to be treated for injuries. Hale did not know the extent of the injuries.

Joann Market, a nurse at Mitchell County Hospital, said 22 patients who came to the facility were treated for minor injuries and released.

Two other patients, initially brought to the hospital, were transferred to a trauma center in Lubbock and another was admitted.

Another six patients were released from Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater, where two of the three riders died. The third was pronounced dead at the scene.

The bus driver and one of his female

### Greyhound bus fatal crash

At least two are dead Sunday after the bus going from Los Angeles to Dallas rear-ended the tractor-trailer.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP

passengers both were in stable condition Sunday afternoon at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, hospital spokeswoman Karen Brittain said.

Brittain said the bus driver, 39-year-old Sweetwater resident Earlie Johnson, is expected to survive. However, he might lose part of his leg, she said.

### Washing away the rain



BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

Despite rain moving through the Bryan-College Station area, junior computer science major **Ray Evans** (left) and senior nuclear engineering major **Chad Suhr** wash cars on the corner of Texas Avenue and Southwest Parkway on Sunday. The two were raising money for summer missions for Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

## Car tire saboteurs searched for

Pro-life group offering \$500 reward for information leading to arrests

By Diane Xavier  
THE BATTALION

A local pro-life group is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of any individuals responsible for sabotaging car tires with an estimated two to three pounds of nails near the Planned Parenthood Clinic on East 29th Street in Bryan.

For the second time in the past three months, nails were scattered throughout Sandia Street in Bryan, where members of the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life park while they pray in front of the Clinic.

Bryan police said they estimated two to three pounds of roofing nails were found on abortion day at the clinic May 28. Hundreds of nails were also

found at the same location on the morning of March 22.

Both incidents resulted in flat tires for protesters. Neither the Coalition nor the Bryan Police Department have received any leads or tips.

Bryan Police Public Information Officer Lt. Chris Farris, said the nails were obviously placed on the road intentionally.

"There was a large number of nails on that street, not just a few placed here and there," Farris said. "The area is just a small street with no other traffic and the only people that park there are the protesters."

Tuesday is abortion day at Planned Parenthood and this usually brings out

more protesters, he said.

"Whoever is responsible for this knows we're always out here and it is obvious that they want to harm us," said Amber Matchen a Coalition member. "We don't have physical proof but it was obvious that the nails were placed for malintentions."

Jon Agnew, a member of the coalition and a Bryan Police officer, had his tire punctured in March. Agnew was praying in front of the clinic on May 28 when a Coalition member notified him of the incident.

The punctured tire did not bother him; however, Agnew said the profanity he

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## Kroger now offering fingerprint scanning

By Courtney McDonald  
THE BATTALION

Buying groceries at Kroger is now only a fingerprint away thanks to its new Secure Touch-n-Pay technology. The three Kroger stores in the Bryan-College Station area currently utilize this new technology and as of March, the store located on Texas Avenue at Southwest Parkway, was the first store nationwide to implement the fingerprint payment machines.

"Kroger stores in the B-CS area were chosen as the pilot stores because they have the best cultural diversity in the surrounding neighborhoods," said store manager David Herrick.

The Secure Touch-n-Pay system stores the customer's Driver's License or State I.D. number, telephone number, Kroger Plus shopper's card, credit cards, and checking accounts under the shopper's fingerprint. The fingerprint is mapped out numerically on the capture window and cannot be duplicated.



The benefit of using this technology is essentially convenience, Herrick said. Customers can pay for their groceries and receive discounts from their Kroger Plus card without the hassle of writing checks, credit cards with worn-out magnetic strips or I.D. verification.

Finger imaging guarantees that only the individual shopper can access their account, thus decreasing the chance of credit card fraud and enabling the discovery of overdrawn bank accounts.

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