

THE BATTALION

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Gates announces 'full support' for Slocum

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Dr. Robert M. Gates said in a statement released Wednesday that A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum has his full support, despite the Aggies' lack of success on the field this season. Gates said any decisions about Slocum's job would be made by the new athletic director, who is yet to be named.

"It is my policy that the athletic director will make decisions with respect to the programs and the coaches under his or her purview," Gates said.

Slocum, in a statement released Wednesday evening, said he appreciates Gates' support.

"I am proud that our administration

here at Texas A&M recognizes that there are numerous factors in evaluating a coach in a college setting," Slocum said.



SLOCUM

Gates said all departments on campus would be evaluated, including the Athletic Department.

"During this academic year, at my direction, Texas A&M University will review virtually every major program on campus in terms of performance, effectiveness and potential," Gates said. "I intend that all of our athletic programs, including football, also will be evaluated expeditiously by the new athletic direc-

tor as soon as he or she is hired."

Slocum, who has struggled to lead the Aggies to victory this season, is facing his first losing season as head coach of the Aggies.

After starting the season ranked No. 23 in the nation, the Aggies have fallen out of the rankings and are in danger of not receiving a bowl bid if A&M doesn't pull off a sixth win for the season. This would be the third time in Slocum's 14-year tenure as head coach and the first time since 1996 for A&M not to go to a bowl.

"We place a high value on the total development of the young men in our program. However, make no mistake, we do value winning and championships and we are not pleased with our

current record," Slocum said.

Earlier this season, Slocum relieved offensive coordinator Dino Babers from his play-calling duties in an effort to give the offense a boost. While the offense has since improved, Slocum's defense has still failed to halt the offense of the University of Nebraska and Oklahoma State University.

Slocum said in a media conference on Monday that he can't concern himself with the rumors concerning his future at A&M.

"You spend your time working on things you have control over and the things you can do something about," Slocum said. "Everybody to some extent or another deals with that."

Despite Slocum's troubles this year,

Gates says he is behind Slocum's efforts.

"While our football season to date has been disappointing, Texas A&M has a fine head coach," Gates said. "Coach Slocum has my full support."

The search for a new athletic director received a boost Tuesday. Benton Cocanougher, chairman of the A&M search committee told a Houston

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For the full text of President Gates' comments see:

www.tamu.edu/aggiedaily

History lesson



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

After the free cake and ice cream, students from the Willis Independent School District got a tour of the George Bush Presidential Library Complex during a special celebration of Bush Library's fifth anniversary.

A&M seeks new energy provider

By Lauren Smith
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System has joined hundreds of thousands of Texas shoppers seeking new energy providers, a move which could reflect positively on student's pocketbooks.

Since electric deregulation began Jan. 1 in Texas, A&M has banded with six other universities in the system to find a better price for their electricity. In 2001, the Energy Systems Lab, part of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), saved taxpayers \$1.5 million by taking less money out of the University's pocket, said Dr. Dan Turner, the lab's director. Turner said taxpayers can expect similar savings in the years to come.

Energy costs have been rising for years, leaving A&M departments such as Residence Life scraping the bottom of the coffers and turning to student fees for help. Reed Arena has also struggled under the weight of prohibitive energy bills. Officials hope deregulation will cure the troubles.

The agencies and companies in the Electric Reliability

Council of Texas (ERCOT) all have the chance to save money with the option to subscribe to other electricity sources aside from their local service. Most of the state of Texas is in the ERCOT, which covers most of the major metropolitan areas of the state, including universities and agencies within the A&M system.

"Before deregulation, the seven universities were divided into specific areas and billed respectively. Under that system, there was no choice for who provided electricity," said Susan Linenschmidt, a research engineering associate working on the lab's project. "With deregulation, people have the opportunity to pick their provider."

Several companies are bidding for a contract with the system, Linenschmidt said.

"We are going through them to find out which one meets our needs best," Linenschmidt said.

The University contracted the lab to collect data and send out proposals for contract's to electricity providers.

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Republican party sweeps Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and his party savored sweeping midterm election victories Wednesday and began sketching an agenda for a new, Republican-controlled Congress. Minority House Democrats jockeyed for position in the event Rep. Richard Gephardt steps down as party leader.

"I'm excited to be able to be on offense," said Republican Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, the once and future Senate majority leader. He said GOP priorities will include a new Department of Homeland Security as well as targeted tax cuts to help the economy. He added that Bush's judicial nominees could expect speedier review.

Bush made no public remarks during the day, and aides said he wanted to avoid giving the appearance of gloating. "There's a lot more to do and the president looks forward to working with Democrats and Republicans to do it," said his spokesman, Ari Fleischer.

Republicans were assured of 51 seats in the new Senate, a

gain of two. Democrats had 48, including one independent. One race remained in doubt, in Louisiana, where Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu will face Republican Suzanne Terrell in a December runoff.

In the House, Republicans had 227 seats — a gain of four — and led for one more. Democrats won 203, and led for three. There was one independent.

The elections marked a remarkable triumph for Republicans, who bucked history to gain seats in a midterm election in which they held the White House.

Democrats conceded the obvious. "This was one tough night," Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said on the morning after, appearing on NBC's "Today" show.

And some party activists grumbled about the party's leadership. "There wasn't any unified message," said David Worley, former chairman of the party in Georgia.

"I think the national leadership did a miserable job of giving a theme to the election."

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Honesty, integrity tops CEO's business ethics

By Amy Adams
THE BATTALION

Honesty, trust and integrity are the essential elements in business ethics today, said Richard Kovacevich, president and CEO of Wells Fargo, in a speech Wednesday night at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex.

In his speech, "Ethics in Business," Kovacevich addressed a crowded room and posed the question, "What has caused the epidemic of ethical elapses in corporate America?"

Greed and theft have always been a part of human nature, Kovacevich said, and corporate fraud has always existed, but the year 2002 seems to have been

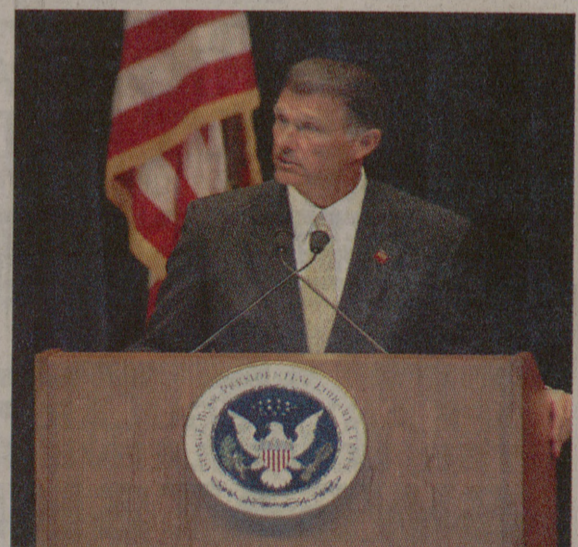
hit the hardest.

Kovacevich said the root of the problem lies in the blind adherence to financial rules. Moral questions are turned into legal technicalities, he said.

Corporate leaders are focusing on accounting rules rather than applying principles and policies to their business, Kovacevich said.

"Rules tell you what to do while principles tell you how to make ethical decisions," he said. "Rules are complex letters of the law that are easily manipulated. Principles are universal over cultures and are the fundamental spirit of the law."

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JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Richard M. Kovacevich, CEO of Wells Fargo, spoke at the Program on Ethics at the George Bush Conference Center on Nov 6, 2002.

Tours highlight Bush Library's fifth year

By Jeremy Osborne
THE BATTALION

"This is the 41st President of the United States. You're too young to remember, but he was the president during the Gulf War."

Tour guides leading groups of Boy Scouts and local elementary students through the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum Complex explained history to children on Wednesday, during the museum's 5th anniversary.

The celebrations were small — cake and ice cream — with the former President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush missing from the scene as they celebrated their son Jeb's reelection to the governorship of Florida. But for the school children who were congressmen and lobbyists for the day, the anniversary was living history.

"It was so important for us to be here because this is a great marker for this to be

here in College Station," said 11-year-old Matthew Hernandez, a door prize winner. "We're just celebrating."

Retired volunteers led the children, pointing out the original copy of the Declaration of Independence hanging in the Changing Exhibit Gallery, the full-sized plane similar to the one Bush flew in World War II, Gulf War exhibits and a recreation of the Camp David office from which Bush worked when commanding the troops.

Bob Wilkinson, a retired military man who was posted at Camp David, leads tours through the Museum every Wednesday. Like Bush, he served in World War II. He sees the Museum as part of the nation's memories.

"I enjoy this, it's fun," said Wilkinson, a self-proclaimed expert on Camp David.

In addition to role playing, students and adults participated in trivia games about the

former President and First Lady for prizes. Prizes ranged from museum posters to photos autographed by Bush.

More than 800 visitors toured the museum during the celebration.

"That's probably a 40 percent increase over a normal day," said Brian Blake, museum public relations director.

Museum Curator Patricia Burchfield said visitors can see pieces of America's past, and in the five-year duration of the museum, exhibits have explored aspects of American culture ranging from Cold War documents to a planned display of art from the American West.

"We consider ourselves an American history museum," she said.

The anniversary festivities will conclude on Friday night, when the Bush's celebrate the dedication anniversary at a private party. About 1,400 guests will enjoy dinner, a salsa band and fireworks.

ELECTION ★ COVERAGE
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