

THE BATTALION

Volume 109 • Issue 76 • 14 pages

Texas A&M University

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Thursday, January 16, 2003

A&M hosts Cheney question, answer session



Dick Cheney to visit A&M
Monday, Feb. 3 at 11 A.M.

Where: Rudder Auditorium

What: Speech, question and answer session

Tickets available at MSC Box Office Monday, Jan. 20

Source: Bush Foundation

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

By Nicole M. Jones
THE BATTALION

U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney is scheduled to speak at Rudder Auditorium Feb. 3 at 11 a.m. to give students, faculty and staff an opportunity to ask him questions about current issues involving the United States.

Students who are interested may question the national leader on any issue ranging from war with Iraq to problems with North Korea, said officials at the George Bush Foundation.

Cheney is the latest in a long line of dignitaries from the Bush administration who have spoken at Texas A&M including First Lady Laura Bush, former President George Bush and President George W. Bush.

In 2002, China President Jiang Zemin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair visited and spoke at the Bush Library.

Cheney's speech and question-and-answer period are a part of the Twanna M. Powell Lecture Series.

A&M students will have a unique opportunity to create their own questions for the vice president following his speech, said Dr.

Roman Popadiuk, director of the Bush Foundation.

"Although the subject matter of Vice President Cheney's speech is his choice, we do ask that speakers address current issues, and presently our country is faced with the threat of Iraq, (which is) a possible topic," Popadiuk said.

Cheney's political career began in 1969 when he joined Nixon's White House. He soon moved from deputy assistant to the president, to the White House chief of staff.

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A&M faculty hiring may be on hold

By Nicole M. Jones
THE BATTALION

While a reduction in state funds for the University is pending, Texas A&M may face a faculty hiring freeze, Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said in an interview at the Capitol last week.

In an article from the Austin American-Statesman Monday, another member of the Texas legislature said it is possible that the state will implement a hiring freeze to save state money to alleviate the state's estimated debt.

Even though A&M has not officially stated it has a hiring freeze, it already seems that one is in effect, said Dr. Joe Townsend, associate dean for student development in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Townsend said because A&M is admitting the biggest freshman class ever this year, it can be difficult for students to get into the classes they need.

"There are 26 majors in the College of Agriculture alone. Some majors have it harder trying to register for classes than others," he said.

Townsend said that if a student's major does not have a heavy math or science emphasis, they might run into problems registering for classes.

Within the College of Agriculture, the majors that have the most problems with overcrowding are agriculture business, agriculture economics, recreation, park and tourism sciences and ag development, Townsend said.

A&M has fewer professors now than 10 years ago with a 3.8 percent turnover rate for professors at A&M, according to the Dean of Faculties' Office.

"It's an A&M problem, not a professor or student problem," Townsend said. He said possible

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Faked out



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M lecturer **Wade Womack** and A&M graduate student **Michael Crow** battle for the basketball Wednesday morning at the student rec center. They were playing basketball with a group of faculty and graduate students who play every day at the same time at the rec center. Rec center staff said that it has been especially crowded this week due to New Year's resolutions and the start of school.

Homeland security an A&M priority

By Janet McLaren
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Vice President for Research Dr. Richard Ewing has appointed Dr. Paul Carlton Jr. director of the Integrative Center for Homeland Security (ICHS).

Carlton, a retired Air Force Lieutenant, is a relative newcomer to the University, coming to A&M in Fall 2002 as a special assistant to the president of the University Health Science Center. ICHS was estab-

lished by the Board of Regents in May 2002 in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Ewing said Carlton's military career will make him a competent director.

"Due to his experience as surgeon general of the Air Force, Dr. Carlton is the best person to take on the oversight and administration of the Integrative Center for Homeland Security for Texas A&M University, and I look forward to working



CARLTON

together (with him) on homeland security issues," Ewing said.

Carlton said he would not implement major changes in the administration of the ICHS.

"I will continue the great work my predecessor started as we work on the practical application for difficult problems facing us in homeland security," he said. "Our key focus will be on the practical application that will be delivered quickly and efficiently."

Ewing said he will work with Carlton to

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Bush to challenge affirmative action

By Ron Fournier
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush plans to challenge a University of Michigan program that gives preference to minority students, telling the Supreme Court there are better ways to promote diversity, administration officials said Wednesday.

Justice Department and White House attorneys, acting on Bush's orders, were preparing a brief arguing against programs that gave black and Hispanic students an edge when applying to the university and its law school.

Without confirming Bush's plans, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said the president was meeting Wednesday with his advisers to review the brief which is due Thursday and would shortly publicly reveal his conclusion.

"He seeks ways to encourage diversity and do so in a way that does not rely on either quotes or racial preferences," Fleischer told reporters. "Quotas and racial preferences do not serve to lift up our country and to help the average American. Instead they have a tendency to divide people, to separate people who are deemed to be worthy of

something and have it taken away from them not on the basis of merit."

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle called it "a watershed moment for the administration. They have to decide whether they're for civil rights and diversity or not."

Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri, a graduate of the University of Michigan law school who says he'll seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004, said he planned to file a brief in support of the university's program. "I believe affirmative action is an essential tool in expanding educational opportunities to minorities," he said.

Fleischer vehemently disagreed that an administration brief challenging the university's affirmative action program would define Bush as an opponent of civil rights. "When people view people who have different opinions on the basis of principle as being opposed to civil rights — that's excessive," he said.

The lawsuit brought by three white students is the biggest affirmative action case in a generation, a political lightning rod as Bush struggles to increase his

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SBSLC brings black leaders to campus

By Lauren Smith
THE BATTALION

Black college students nationwide will travel to College Station this weekend to attend the annual Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBLC) hosted by Texas A&M and the Department of Multicultural Services.

"Students from schools ranging from Indiana University to Notre Dame, as well as numerous historically black colleges and universities will be in attendance at this year's conference," said Jetonne Butler, director of registration for the conference.

SBSLC, a student-run confer-

ence held every January at A&M, unites more than 1,000 students and advisers, Butler said.

Now in its 15th year, SBSLC attempts to encourage leaders to look to the future.

"(We want to) inspire and motivate the intellect of young black collegians to be productive leaders of tomorrow," said Anverly Black, director of the Advanced Leadership Institute for the conference.

The conference will consist of various workshops focusing on career planning, leadership skills, a career fair, a vendor fair and seminars with prominent keynote speakers Dr. Kervin J. Smith and Patricia Russell-McCloud, said Erika Kelly, assistant director of programs for the conference.

Kelly said Smith, who will speak Friday morning, is the founder and president of Kervin J. Smith Ministries, an international and multicultural ministry that spread its prophe-

cy around the world. Russell-McCloud, named by Black Enterprise magazine

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Annual Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference

- January 16-19
- Keynote speakers:
 - Dr. Kervin J. Smith
 - Patricia McCloud
- Live performances by:
 - HBO's Def Party Jam - Friday at Rudder Tower
 - Hip hop artist Amerie - Saturday at Reed Arena

Source: Department of Multicultural Services

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