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Fish



by R. DeLuna Campaign

Continued from page 1

than in 1994 and that increasing the number of professors will lead to smaller classes and more student access to professors.

Other goals of the campaign, such as increasing the number of scholarships and better athletic programs, will also benefit the average student.

"Excellence in athletics will definitely enhance the life of the students," Gates said.

Thus far, the campaign has raised money for 19 endowed Foundation Excellence Awards, scholarships given by the Texas A&M Foundation to minority students. In total, \$92 million has been raised for scholarships, including 585 scholarships for undergraduates.

Money has also been raised for graduate fellowships and faculty chairs to lure and keep distinguished faculty.

Nye said the campaign is important because of the looming cuts in state funding.

"Don't bother (lobbying) state officials for more money. They want to be supportive of higher education but the money just isn't there," he said.

Nye said that Gates has helped the University cope with budget cuts by putting an emphasis on spending efficiently.

The importance of research at A&M was discussed by those who believe it distinguishes A&M from other state schools and those who expressed concern that funding research will do little to help the average student.

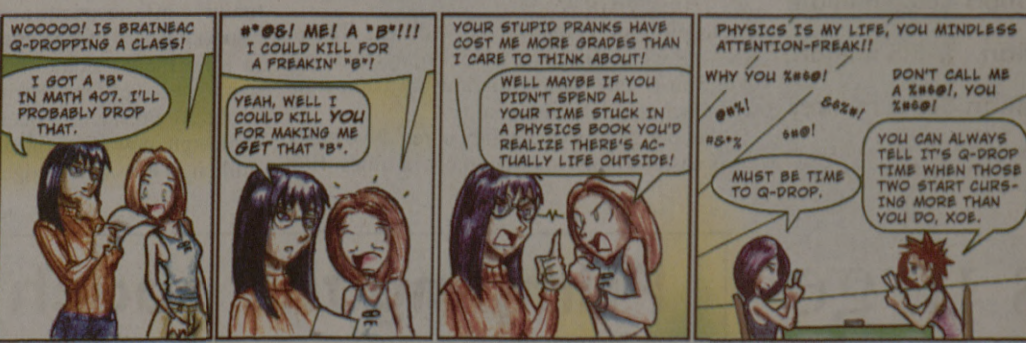
"What is done in the research labs in the morning is taught in the classroom in the afternoon," Gates said.

Regent Anne Armstrong said that One Spirit, One Vision will give the University a chance to improve its weak programs and boost its ranking among top universities in America.

"(One Spirit, One Vision) will make us not just in the top 20 but maybe in the very top," Armstrong said.

The campaign began in 2000, and all donations made to A&M between that date until 2007 count toward the campaign goal.

CUBE OF XOE



BY C.J.

Noise Pollution



by Josh Darwin

Event

Continued from page 1

Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates offered the crowd encouraging words before volunteers dispersed to begin their assigned service projects.

"Service is fundamental to our existence," Gates said. "Big Event gives students a chance to have a direct and immediate positive impact on people, making their lives better tomorrow than they were yesterday because someone cared."

Nearly 700 jobs were completed by the variety of campus organizations and groups for residents of the Bryan-College Station area.

The Big Event Committee began preparing

Saturday's work schedule in late September with weekly meetings that became bi-weekly after Spring Break.

"Every job site has a file folder, and it is an extensive process to get all the masses of students wanting to get involved matched up with jobs," said Michelle Bertino, director of students involvement for the Big Event committee.

The service projects strengthen the bonds between students and the residents of the Bryan-College Station community, Bertino said.

"Two worlds come together for a good cause, and a sense of real unity is felt by all on this day that will hopefully continue throughout the year," she said.

Shiites

Continued from page 1

headed by the exiled Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, who has said the U.S.-led coalition forces were welcome in Iraq as long as they didn't impose a government on the country.

Another Supreme Council spokesman on Saturday also denied Rumsfeld's assertion that the Badr Corps is "trained, equipped and directed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard."

Mohsen Hakim, a Supreme Council official in northern Iraq, said his group has been trying to oust Saddam for two decades, while the U.S. effort is relatively recent.

"We, as representatives of the Iraqi nation, do not need the U.S. permission or coordination for dismissing the oppressor regime of Baghdad. This is a right that has been officially recognized at the international level," said Hakim, according to IRNA.

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THE BATTALION

Brandie Liffick, Editor in Chief

The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Media, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 014 Reed McDonald Building, Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: news@thebatt.com; Web site: http://www.thebatt.com

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local, and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald, and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. First copy free, additional copies 25¢. Mail subscriptions are \$60 per school year, \$30 for the fall or spring semester, \$17.50 for the summer or \$10 a month. To charge by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express, call 845-2611.

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