

THE BATTALION

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Texas A&M University

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Board names Mays chairman

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Board of Regents chose media mogul L. Lowry Mays as its new chairman Thursday after Gov. Rick Perry's recent appointees to the board, Erle Nye and John White, were sworn in.

Mays, 67, is the chairman of Clear Channel Communications, a San Antonio-based conglomerate that owns more than 1,200 radio stations and 36 television stations. Mays was appointed to the Board in 2001. A&M's college of business is named after Mays.

The biggest challenge facing the A&M University System during the next two

years, Mays said, will be coping with substantial reductions in funding without cutting vital academic programs.

"With the economic recovery, the state may see an increase in revenue," Mays said. "I hope this isn't a long drought."

Mays said tuition deregulation, which would allow the regents to raise tuition without approval from the state Legislature, is key to maintaining academic excellence at A&M. University officials are supporting a bill that would allow the Board of Regents to raise tuition by as much as three times what is currently charged.

The board chose Nye, the former chairman, as the new vice chairman. Nye was first appointed to the Board in 1997.

Perry has not yet chosen a replacement for

outgoing regent Anne Armstrong. Because the Board's bylaws call for electing a new chairman after all three positions have been filled, the regents voted to suspend that provision. Regent Susan Rudd Wynn was not present at the meeting, but Nye said he had spoken to Wynn and she agreed that the Board should move ahead with electing new officers.

Mays was elected unanimously by the seven other regents present.

"(Mays) is a special guy, a wonderful Aggie and a great American," Nye said.

Regent Phil Adams said Mays was the "most powerful man in radio" who had revolutionized the industry, and A&M is lucky



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

John D. White, with his wife Daisy, takes the oath of office to become a regent in the MSC Thursday afternoon. Honorable John L. Hill, former chief justice of Texas swears him in.

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Fire drill



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Safety technician, Dale McCord of Bryan, at Texas A&M's Environmental Health and Safety Center, supervises senior animal science major, Karly Newbern, as she extinguishes a

controlled fire at Spence Park Thursday afternoon as part of her Health 221 class. The organization maintains some 8,000 fire extinguishers on main campus alone.

Senate bloc set to work with SBP

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

A newly-elected Student Senate bloc that campaigned to make student government more responsive to students will work closely with recently-elected Student Body President Matt Josefy, said bloc organizer Kerri Ward.

Ward, a freshman marketing major, said the 28 senators who ran under the slogan "Commitment to Change through Action not Words," supported former student body president candidate Luke Cheatham during the first round of elections, but will work well with Josefy.

"I am very excited at Matt being elected. Out of the two candidates in the runoff, Matt is the one more open-minded," Ward said. "I feel that we do have issues that pertain to students and he will be willing to work with us."

Josefy said he plans to develop a close relationship with members of the newly-elected Senate and doesn't see a voting bloc as a deterrent.

"Regardless of whether there is or isn't a voting bloc in the Senate, it is my desire to work closely with each and every senator to make positive changes for this campus," Josefy said.

Matthew Wilkins, speaker of the 56th Student Senate, said that a bloc exists but the recent officer elections of Natasha Eubanks and Jessica Newhouse, who beat bloc-affiliated candidates, show that senators will act as individuals.

"There is no single dominant group in the Senate and the officers elected reflect the diversity of viewpoints of Student Senate," said Wilkins, a sophomore philosophy major.

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— Matthew Wilkins
56th Student Senate Speaker

The bloc will represent its constituents and will not vote together on all issues or hold organizational meetings outside Student Senate, Ward said.

Ward said Cheatham, who was backed by the group for student body president, will have no role in the bloc besides being a constituent.

Proposed bill would require cultural class

By Esther Robards-Forbes
THE BATTALION

A bill introduced to the Texas House of Representatives would require students in undergraduate programs at public universities statewide to take a three-hour multicultural or gender studies class.

The bill comes at a time when more women and minorities are entering the upper level positions of business and government than ever before. Many in the state say they feel that Texas' public universities are leaving students ill-equipped to han-

dle this changing environment.

Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso, introduced House Bill 2555 in the wake of recent racial tensions at campuses across the state. Incidents range from the egging of the Martin Luther King Jr. statue and "gin and juice" parties on the University of Texas campus to the Walton Hall "ghetto" party at Texas A&M, which was planned and subsequently cancelled in January.

Chavez said having a specific requirement to study other cultures would alleviate these kinds of problems

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Kurds sweep north Iraq and seize oil

By David Espo
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opposition forces crumbled in northern Iraq on Thursday as U.S. and Kurdish troops seized oil-rich Kirkuk without a fight and held a second city within their grasp. U.S. commanders said signs pointed to a last stand by Iraqis in Saddam Hussein's birthplace of Tikrit.

Despite the gains, one Marine was killed and 22 injured in a seven-hour battle in the Iraqi capital. Four more were wounded in a suicide bombing. "Baghdad's still an ugly place," said Maj. Gen. Gene Renuart.

Widespread looting persisted 24 hours after the city celebrated the regime's fall.

Striking anew at the regime leadership, coalition aircraft dropped six satellite-guided bombs on a building where Saddam's half-brother, Barzan

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KRT CAMPUS

Two Iraqi men express their joy by pounding a statue of Saddam Hussein with their shoes after U.S. Special Forces and Kurdish peshmerga forces took control of Kirkuk, Iraq, Thursday.

Parents' Weekend

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Friday, April 11	- Midnight Yell Practice, Kyle Field
Saturday, April 12	- Bevo Burn BBQ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Simpson Drill Field
	- Maroon and White Football Game 2 p.m., Kyle Field
Sunday, April 13	- All-University Awards Ceremony 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Rudder Auditorium

SOURCE: PARENTS' WEEKEND COMMITTEE

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

Aggies prepare for weekend with parents

By Hedish Connor
THE BATTALION

Thousands of Aggie parents who bleed and wear maroon will travel to Texas A&M this weekend for the 84th annual Parents' Weekend.

Parents' Weekend, an A&M tradition dating back to 1919, starts today and will end Sunday.

Parents' Weekend is dedicated to the parents and families of students and is sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Parents' Weekend committee.

Heather Augustine, chair of Parents' Weekend committee and a senior nutrition

major, said this weekend is a chance to say thank you for the support parents and families have given to students.

"Parents' Weekend is a long-standing tradition and a way to show our guests how A&M has developed and what's going on in the lives of Aggies," she said. "It's also a way to express the spirit and traditions of A&M to parents, alumni and guests to the University."

The weekend activities include Midnight Yell Practice at Kyle Field Friday, the Bevo Burn Barbecue at the Simpson Drill Field, the Maroon and White game at Kyle Field on Saturday and the All-University Awards Ceremony at Rudder Auditorium Sunday.

The Maroon and White football game will

end the spring practice drills for the Aggie football team, and fans will have a chance to see the team play as well as participate in an autograph and picture session with coaches and players from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Memorial Student Center Flagroom.

The first 3,000 fans inside the gates at Kyle Field will receive a collector's edition puzzle, according to an athletic press release. The gates will open at noon and kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.

In an e-mail sent to all students by Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione, Franchione said the team has been split as evenly as possible, and the game should

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