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Gates focuses on change at Academic Convocation

By Dan Orth
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates focused on change for A&M in his State of the University address yesterday during the Academic Convocation in Rudder Auditorium.

Gates said change was necessary for A&M to achieve Vision 2020, a plan to make A&M one of the top 10 public universities in the United States by the year 2020.

"A new era has begun at Texas A&M," Gates said when he began talking about his plans for the future of the University.

Gates named his top four priorities for reaching the goal of Vision 2020, including increasing faculty, improving student programs, increasing diversity and expanding buildings.

He said increasing faculty is his top priority and laid out plans on how to fund this, including reallocating funds and increasing tuition.

A&M plans to hire 447 new professors, with engineering and the sciences receiving the most new faculty.

With states reducing university funds, Gates said hiring faculty goes against the current trend.

"While others are hitting the brakes, we hit the accelerator," he said.

Citing salary differences between A&M and other universities, Gates said he is con-



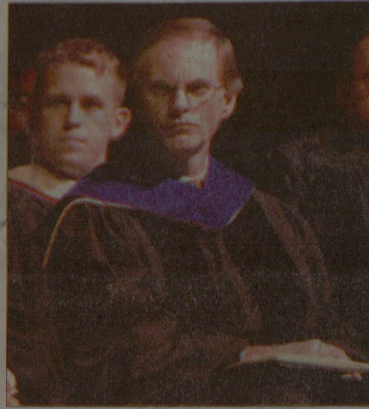
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cerned about keeping top faculty and has improved pay to keep them from leaving.

Improving student programs is another priority for Gates. He said he plans to do this through a major expansion of the honors program, increasing student leadership programs and linking students to A&M's unique "other education."

Gates said greater diversity is necessary for A&M to reach excellence. He said A&M needs

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Faculty march in full regalia from Cushing Library to the Academic Convocation in Rudder Auditorium on Wednesday.

Left: Student Body President Matt Josefy and Dean of Liberal Arts Charles Johnson listen as University President Robert M. Gates lays out his plan for Texas A&M this year.

Kohl acknowledged for public service

By Sonia Moghe
THE BATTALION

Dr. Helmut Kohl, former Chancellor of Germany, shared experiences from his tenure at the George Bush Library and Museum Wednesday in acceptance of the George Bush Award for Excellence in Public Service.

He received the award based on the contributions he made to the Federal Republic of Germany — specifically the manner in which he helped bring the Cold War to a peaceful conclusion.

Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates spoke briefly preceding the presentation of the award. He welcomed both Kohl and former U.S. President George Bush to the University. He also recognized former A&M Chancellor Howard Graves, who died in September.

Bush presented the award and spoke not only of Kohl's accomplishments during his 16-year rule in Germany — the longest in modern German history — but also of his personal relationship with and reverence for Kohl.

"It was a personal privilege to work with Dr. Kohl. As the tide of history turned against tyranny, we had the right man," Bush said. "Few leaders did more to advance the course of human history."

Kohl and Bush worked together to resolve issues facing Germany during the Cold War. Kohl oversaw the German reunification from 1989 to 1990 that included such events as the fall of the Berlin Wall. He was succeeded by current Chancellor Gerhard Schroder in 1998.

Kohl commended the United States and Bush for all of their help both during the Cold War and at the end of World War II.

He gave a personal account of post World War II days and commended the United States' Marshall Plan and airlifts conducted after the war.

"The fact that Germany did get on its feet again is something we owe to the American people," Kohl said.

Kohl also praised the University for its high standing in America and directed much of his speech toward the students.

"It is better to receive this award here than at the White House," Kohl said. "To receive it in a place where there are young people, the people of tomorrow."

When speaking about terrorism, Kohl offered support on behalf of Germany saying that both America and Germany should master the challenge together.

"It's unacceptable to leave America alone — this is a joint task," Kohl said. "What is the essence of the German-American friendship is still here today."

Kohl was optimistic that the European Union would become solid. He said the representatives come from countries that were once at war



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Former President George Bush shakes hands with former Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday afternoon in the George Bush Conference Center rotunda.

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Yell leaders encourage arch yell attendance

By Joaquin Salcedo
THE BATTALION

Yell practice for this week's football game against Texas Tech University will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. in front of the Quadrangle's arches on the Texas A&M campus.

Many students and guests regularly attend the traditional Midnight Yell Practices on Fridays before the game, but fewer show up to away game yell practices, also known as "arch yells."

Yell leaders said they have been trying to promote away game yell practices in hopes that Aggies will support the football team when they play outside of Kyle Field.

"It's a neat way to get really

excited, even though the game isn't here," said head yell leader Tim Bailey. "I would really love for the residence halls and different organizations from around campus to come out."

Away game yell practices are held in front of the arches on the Quad. In an attempt to draw more attention to this tradition, Bailey said they may be held in different locations around campus throughout the year.

"It's a different environment, but it's fun," he said.

Bailey said attendance at arch yells is low because students are unaware of them.

"Typically it's just the Corps (of Cadets)," he said.

Sophomore Benton Hodges said he was unaware of the away game yells and had never attended one.

Away Game Yell Practices

Yell practice will be held at 7 p.m. on the Quad the Thursday before A&M plays each of the following schools.

	Texas Tech University	Oct. 2
	University of Nebraska	Oct. 16
	Oklahoma University	Nov. 6
	University of Missouri	Nov. 13

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SOURCE: TEXAS A&M YELL LEADERS

"I usually do stuff with my dorm, and they've never made the initiative to go," Hodges said.

Bailey said yell leaders remain positive about arch yells despite a smaller turnout than traditional Midnight Yell Practices.

"The point is we're all coming together and getting ready to

beat the hell outta whatever team we play next," said junior yell leader Ryan Bishop.

Yell leaders said they hope to have a good student turnout at tonight's yell practice.

"It's a smaller crowd than Midnight Yell, which is something we're trying to work on," Bailey said.

Senate negotiators hammer out redistricting compromise

By Natalie Gott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Trying to pressure House members to work with them, Senate negotiators working on redistricting Wednesday presented what they said was a solution to a dispute over how to draw West Texas congressional districts.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick of Midland said he had not seen the proposal but his spokesman said he did not think Craddick would like it.

The move signaled growing tension in an ongoing fight, first between Democrats and Republicans but now among the GOP, over redrawing the districts, especially in West Texas.

The map presented by Sens. Todd Staples, R-Palestine, and Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, is one option for ending the West Texas dispute.

The plan would pair the cities of Midland and Abilene in one district that would stretch from Loving County on the New Mexico border to

Bandera County to the south and up to Erath County. Another district would pair San Angelo and Lubbock in a district that extends from Parmer County to Tom Green County to Palo Pinto County.

"The agricultural community of interest would be tied to the Lubbock district. The oil and gas and ranching communities of interest would be tied to the Abilene, Midland-Odessa district," Duncan said. "This is a reasonable solution to this problem."

Craddick has been pushing for a district that would make his hometown the base for a congressional seat. The existing map has Lubbock and Midland in a district represented by U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock.

The proposal would mean U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm, an Abilene Democrat who has residences in both the reconfigured districts, Duncan said, would be paired either against Neugebauer or a potential challenger from Midland in the 2004 elections. Duncan said that would make it hard for

Stenholm to win either district.

Craddick spokesman Bob Richter countered that.

"It would be a difficult map for a person from the Permian Basin to win," Richter said.

As they unveiled the map, the senators said they wanted to meet Republican Gov. Rick Perry's Wednesday deadline for the conference committee of House and Senate members to reach an agreement.

Republicans have said if the Legislature does not approve a plan by Monday, lawmakers could have to move back the March 2 primary election date.

Perry said it would be better not to postpone the primary, but said it wasn't the most important issue.

"I think what's more important is to have a process that works where the people of the state can elect their representatives to Congress in lines that have been drawn by the duly elected representatives. That's the most important issue," Perry said.

The senators said their West Texas proposal

comes from a map by Rep. Arlene Wohlgenuth, a Burleson Republican who is considered to be on Craddick's leadership team.

"How could a top Republican leader offer a compromise on West Texas that the Speaker has rejected?" Staples questioned during the news conference.

A Wohlgenuth aide said there are differences between the senators' proposal and the map Wohlgenuth offered. Aide Erica Phillips also said the Wohlgenuth plan was her proposal, not that of the House leadership.

Craddick also sought to distance himself from the map, saying Wohlgenuth is not a member of the redistricting committee and did not speak for him in drawing her map.

The GOP has been trying to get a redistricting map approved for months, saying voting trends show Texas should have more Republicans in Texas' congressional delegation, which Democrats now rule 17-15. Democrats want the current lines to stay the same.

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steer before class

ending

Majority Leader Tom Sugar Land, said cynicism is disingenuous. Sen. Kay Bailey R-Texas, had been circulating that idea among colleagues. Hutchison, who was in Iraq when the United Nations headquarters was bombed, wants to find a way to alleviate the costs for American taxpayers.

But Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said since Iraq already has about \$100 billion in debt to other countries, the United States should be first in line for

interested in doing could to save the taxpayer money, who also visited would be penny-ford foolish to try to ory guarantee (of ent) and it has the spardize the seeps and efforts to on as possible." has passed the spending bill in The House is e it up in coming

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