

THE BATTALION

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A&M reps to visit Qatar campus

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

About 40 Texas A&M representatives, including 13 students, will depart for the Middle East Wednesday to attend a weeklong series of welcome events for students at the University's new campus in Qatar.

The Qatar campus opened on Sept. 7 and offers classes in four fields of engineering including petroleum, chemical, electrical and mechanical to the 29 students currently enrolled.

The students — 15 women and 14 men — will be entertained by three Aggie Wrangler couples and a Singing Cadets quartet and will meet with three student leaders and University administrators.

The Qatar Foundation, which was founded by the Emir of Qatar, has provided funding for the Aggies' travel.

Student Body President Matt Josefy, who is among those visiting Qatar this week, said he is looking forward to the opportunity to visit the Middle East.

"The thing that's really exciting to me is the chance we have as Aggies to get to know our counterparts in another part of the world," he said.

The group will tour the campus and homes of faculty, Josefy said, and is even scheduled for a boat ride. Welcome events include a Texas-style barbecue, an academic convocation and discussion forums with Qatari students.

"Talking with the students is going to be one of the highlights for me," Josefy said.

Tommy Ramirez, a senior education major and singing cadet, said he was surprised to learn about many of the Qatari customs. Leg-crossing, looking at women and photographing the elderly or women is taboo, he said, as is using the left hand.

"I'm left handed," Ramirez said, "so I am hoping I don't offend anyone."

The Wranglers opted to alter their attire while in Qatar to comply with the modest culture, said Aggie Wrangler President John Riggs. Instead of their usual skirts, the three women will be wearing jeans.

"We're always conscious of who we represent and how we portray ourselves and, in turn, the University," Riggs said.

Sharing A&M culture is one of the main reasons for the trip, he said, which is why the Wranglers were invited to perform.

"We're representative of the country western theme (of the barbecue)," Riggs said. "The position of being a representative of the University is nothing new for the Wranglers."

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QATAR WELCOME EVENTS

Texas A&M students and administrators will spend the week welcoming students to the University's new campus in Qatar.

- Three Aggie Wrangler couples will perform at a Texas-style barbecue
- A Singing Cadets quartet will entertain at various events
- A&M students will participate in discussion forums with Qatari students
- Aggie representatives will tour the new campus, faculty homes and an oil field
- An academic convocation, similar to the one held at A&M, is scheduled

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SOURCE: OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Puppy love



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Alecia Siems, junior psychology major, plays with Moxie, a 2-month-old schnauzer mix, at the Brazos Valley Animal Shelter booth outside the Memorial Student Center during the "Let's Beat the Hell Outta Stress" fair Tuesday afternoon.

Davis terminated in recall election

By Erica Werner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

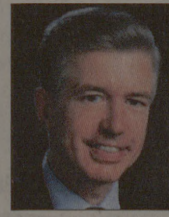
LOS ANGELES — Californians banished Gov. Gray Davis just 11 months into his second term and elected action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger to replace him Tuesday — a Hollywood ending to one of the most extraordinary political melodramas in the nation's history.

Voters traded a career Democratic politician who became one of the state's most despised chief executives for a moderate Republican megastar who had never before run for office. Davis became the first California governor pried from office and only the second nationwide to be recalled.

Early tallies showed the recall favored by 1,019,874 voters, or 57.5 percent, and opposed by 755,375, or 42.6 percent.

Other early returns had Schwarzenegger ahead with 862,217 votes; Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante with 482,376; Republican state Sen. Tom McClintock with 200,970; and Green Party candidate Peter Camejo with 25,916.

Schwarzenegger prevailed despite a flurry of negative publicity in the campaign's final days, surviving allegations that he had groped women and accusa-



DAVIS



SCHWARZENEGGER

tions that as a young man he expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler.

The 56-year-old Austrian immigrant — husband of television journalist Maria Shriver — finds himself in charge of the nation's most populated state with an economy surpassed only

by those of several countries. Schwarzenegger promised to return the shine to a Golden State beset by massive budget problems and riven by deep political divisions.

Voters faced two questions — whether to recall Davis, and who among the other candidates should replace him if he was removed. They chose to get rid of the incumbent and put Schwarzenegger in his place.

About seven in 10 voters interviewed in exit polls said they had made up their minds how they would vote on the recall question more than a month before the

See Recall on page 6

Senate to hear student opinions

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate is offering numerous chances for students' voices to be heard this week, as part of a push for better representation of the interests of the student body, said Matthew Wilkins, speaker of the Senate and a junior philosophy major.

Starting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday night, students may address the senators on any issue they feel merits attention.

The Student Government Association's budget for this year will be up for debate at the Senate's meeting Wednesday.

The three agencies receiving the largest increase in funding are SGA Diversity (\$8,500), Development (\$2,500) and Guide (\$2,200), a group that mentors freshmen. All three agencies received no money during the 2002-2003 academic year.

The SGA Diversity's request for funds prompted discussion and an explanation as to why the increase is needed by SGA Vice President for Diversity Pablo Rodriguez at the Senate's last meeting, held Sept. 24. The grocery chain H-E-B provided a grant of \$10,000 over a two-year period when the committee was founded in 2001. Now, Rodriguez said, it is up to the SGA to continue funding the program.

The committee's programs include network luncheons, monthly celebrations and recognitions, the diversity team faculty mentor program, diversity round-table discussions and the third annual Diversity Symposium, which will be held Nov. 20.

Development's funds will be used for post-game receptions, "Development Day" events and

SGA Budget

The Student Senate will be debating the Student Government Association's 2003 - 2004 budget Wednesday night.

Committee	2002-2003 Allocation	2003-2004 Allocation
Diversity	\$0	\$8,500
Development	\$0	\$2,500
Guide	\$0	\$2,200
Big Event	\$3,900	\$6,000
Election Commission	\$0	\$1,000

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SOURCE: SGA

securing funds for an All-SGA endowment, Jackson Hildebrand, SGA vice president for finance and a junior accounting major, said at the last meeting.

Student Body President and senior accounting major Matt Josefy said the Executive Council must obtain the Senate's approval for SGA's budget annually.

Hildebrand's presentation showed that overall, the SGA will spend \$4,250 less this year.

Students interested in addressing senators are asked to show up at 7 p.m. to sign in. The open governance period will be held near the beginning of the meeting to allow students with outside commitments extra convenience.

The change comes in the midst of "Senate Listens Week," which began Monday and will continue through Friday. Senators have been stationed at tables outside Sbis Dining Hall, the Commons, Duncan Dining Hall and Rudder Plaza to discuss issues ranging from Aggie Bonfire to parking to tuition increases.

"People can come up to us with issues they have," Wilkins said.

The Senate also hopes to compile a massive survey of the student body through visits to classrooms and distribution at the tables, he said.

"We hope," Wilkins said, "to reach a sizable percentage of the student body."

Former A&M student convicted, sentencing deliberation continues

By Lauren Smith
THE BATTALION

A jury on Tuesday deliberated the sentence of a former Texas A&M student found guilty Monday of intoxication manslaughter in connection with the death of an 18-year-old passenger in his truck.

Deliberations are scheduled to continue Wednesday.

Stuart "Clint" Thompson, 22, was convicted in the death of passenger Laina Elizabeth Bagby, 18, a freshman at Southwest Texas State

University, now Texas State University.

Bagby was killed around 4 a.m. June 9, 2002, after a night of alleged partying when a truck driven by Thompson flipped three times as he lost control on an off-ramp. Bagby died on the scene, and Thompson and a second passenger, Elijah Garza, were ejected from the vehicle.

The jury deliberated for two hours and 45 minutes before announcing the decision Monday.

College Station police estimate Thompson's truck was traveling at 97 mph on the off-ramp

See Deliberation on page 6

DeLay tries to end redistricting stalemate

By April Castro
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was in the Texas Capitol for a second consecutive day Tuesday, attempting to broker an agreement between state lawmakers squabbling over a congressional redistricting map.

With Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, House Speaker Tom Craddick and Gov. Rick Perry out of town, DeLay and other lawmakers indicated that negotiators were making progress

on a map that would put more Republicans in the Texas congressional delegation.

"We are very, very close," DeLay said, leaving a morning meeting in Dewhurst's office. "The lieutenant governor has laid out some very interesting maps and we're almost there."

Texas Democrats have blamed DeLay for triggering the state's months-long redistricting attempt, which has been marked by three special sessions, two out-of-state boycotts and a deep partisan divide in the Legislature.

Democrats have ended their walkouts for now, but

Republicans haven't been able to get beyond strife within their own party. Craddick, a Republican, has been adamant about ensuring that his home district in Midland has a congressional seat to represent the Permian Basin's oil and gas industry. But a separate seat in Midland could mean that the farming and agricultural region from Lubbock to Abilene would lose representation — a move opposed by Lubbock Republican Sen. Robert Duncan. The two chambers have rallied their

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