



## Big winner



CHUCK KENNEDY • KRT CAMPUS

Just a few days before winning the New Hampshire primaries, U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, of Massachusetts, talks to customers at Maryanne's diner in Derry, N.H. Kerry was trying to rally support in N.H. for the Jan. 27 Democratic primary.

# Kerry defeats Dean in N.H. primary

By Ron Fournier  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANCHESTER, N.H. — John Kerry overpowered Howard Dean to win New Hampshire's primary Tuesday, a second-straight campaign victory for the newly minted Democratic presidential front-runner.

"I ask Democrats everywhere to join us so we can defeat George W. Bush and the economy of privilege," Kerry told supporters cheered by his political revival. He promised to "reduce the poverty of millions rather than reducing the taxes of millionaires."

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina and retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark battled for third, but far behind the two leaders. Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, sagging to fifth place, rejected advice from some advisers to abandon his bid.

After trooping through coffee shops, country stores and living rooms of Iowa and New Hampshire, the candidates now move to the cold realities of a national campaign — airport rallies and multimillion-dollar ad buys in seven states holding contests next Tuesday.

Kerry, who reshaped the race with his stunning win in Iowa's caucuses Jan. 19, pledged to carry his momentum to every state. He assumes the weighty mantle of front-runner, a title that drew scrutiny to Dean's record and every lapse.

"He hasn't been in that position," Dean

said of Kerry in an Associated Press interview. "We'll find out what happens."

The four-term senator said he can handle it.

"I've been in public life for a long time, and I have been in tough races before and have been scrutinized," Kerry told the AP. "I'm ready to lead our party to victory."

With 95 percent of the precincts reporting, Kerry had 39 percent, Dean had 26 percent, Clark 13 percent, Edwards 12 percent and Lieberman 9 percent.

An AP analysis of the delegate count showed Kerry winning 13 delegates and Dean capturing nine, while Edwards and Clark appeared to finish below the 15 percent vote threshold needed to win any delegates.

It has been a topsy-turvy Democratic race, with Dean leading New Hampshire polls by 25 percentage points when the year began, Kerry seizing a similar lead after Iowa and Dean gaining a bit of ground after an 11th-hour political overhaul.

"We were written off for months, and plugged on and showed people the determination we have to defeat President Bush," Kerry told the AP.

Dean, the former five-term governor of Vermont who finished third in Iowa, lost New Hampshire by double digits — less than he needed for a complete rebound or to erase

See Kerry on page 2

# University replaces SIDs with UINs

By Erin Price  
THE BATTALION

Beginning this semester, Texas A&M stopped posting Social Security numbers on class rosters and assigned each student, faculty and staff member a Universal Identification Number (UIN), to prevent identity theft.

"We would like to get away from using Social Security numbers for student identification purposes altogether," said Tom Putnam, director of Computing and Information Services. "There is no reason to have them on the class rosters."

The use of the UIN began this semester, but has been in the process for years,

Putnam said. The new, nine-digit UINs were randomly assigned by a computer program, he said.

"There has been a lot of concern about identity theft," Putnam said. "The request for this change came from faculty and students."

All students, not just new students will receive a UIN.

Putnam said students will need to know their UIN if they have classes that use scantrons for exams.

Students can view their UIN by logging onto myrecord.tamu.edu using their NetID.

Ed Walraven, journalism adviser, said the new identification numbers will not be a big adjustment for faculty.

"It will be safer for our students, but

overall, it's not going to be that big of a difference," Walraven said.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, professors are not allowed to post grades with a student's whole Social Security number or even portions of it. The same procedure will be followed for the UIN.

Walraven said if professors must post grades publicly, that they must have the student pick unique identifiers or use WebCT. Potentially, some professors could wait until grades are due and post them on myrecord.tamu.edu, Walraven said.

Chris Hickman, a junior finance major,

See UIN on page 2

## UNIVERSITY IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

University Identification Numbers (UINs) will replace student Social Security numbers to prevent theft.

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Students can find their UIN by logging on to myrecord.tamu.edu



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SOURCE : CIS

# Gates announces potential tuition increase

By Anthony Woolstrum  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Dr. Robert M. Gates announced Tuesday potential tuition fee increase of nearly \$20 per credit hour.

The \$19.50 increase will take effect fall 2004, pending approval of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

"This is a significant increase," Gates said. "I acknowledge that."

Last year, students paid \$46 per credit hour. Now, with this proposal, coupled with the increase of \$9 per credit hour last semester, tuition would increase to \$74.50 dollars per credit hour.

The revenue from this increase provides for the faculty reinstatement program, which is aimed to attract more high-quality tenure track professors to the University, Gates said.

Currently, A&M leads the nation in classes with more than 30 students. A&M also has the lowest percent of classes that have less than 20 students. With this new initiative, Gates said he plans to bring these numbers into balance to make A&M a more competitive university.

Already, the student-faculty ratio has dropped from 22-to-1 to 21-to-1, Gates said.

"If the students are going to pay more, then the students should see the benefit," he said.

Beyond the increase in faculty, \$3.4 million will be designated to increase financial aid, Gates said.

Gates has announced previously the Regents Scholars Program, which is designed to help offset increases in tuition by providing financial aid to students who come from low-income households. The administration wants to continue to accommodate as many students as possible, Gates said.

The need to increase tuition comes from a decrease in state



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University President Robert M. Gates addresses the audience during the Proposed Tuition Increase Forum Tuesday night in Rudder Tower. Gates attributed the need to raise tuition in the fall 2004 to a decrease in state funding. Areas targeted for funding increases included an increase in faculty and building beautification.

funding. The state revenue level is the most significant factor in the University's budget. Without that funding, A&M is forced to find the difference elsewhere, resulting in students paying more tuition.

See Gates on page 2

# Athletic banners returned, suspects remain unknown

By Joaquin Salcedo  
THE BATTALION

The athletic team banners representing Big 12 Conference schools stolen from G. Rollie White Coliseum Dec. 6 were returned anonymously behind the eagle statue in Cain Park a few days after the incident, according to Athletic Department officials.

The five members of the group who stole the banners have yet to be identified.

The eleven banners stolen are worth about \$3,000.

The University of Texas banner was the only banner left behind.

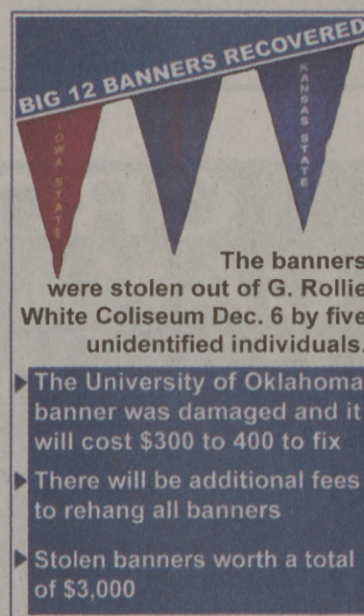
Images of the five unidentified individuals, one female and four males, were recorded at the time of the incident by one of the security cameras in G. Rollie, but were inadequate in supplying the evidence needed to locate those involved.

Details of how the individuals broke in remain unknown because the buildings are presumably locked down each night, said Rob Stewart, promotions and game operations coordinator.

"It was a break-in. The doors were not unlocked before the incident," Stewart said. "I think that to a degree it may have been a prank, but there is nothing that would lead me to believe that they were from Texas rather than A&M or A&M rather than Texas."

An anonymous phone call was made to the Athletic Department a few days after the burglary saying the banners had been dropped off at Cain Park.

The banners were in the same shape they were before they were stolen except for the University of Oklahoma banner. The banner was damaged by being cut off of the



The banners were stolen out of G. Rollie White Coliseum Dec. 6 by five unidentified individuals.

- ▶ The University of Oklahoma banner was damaged and it will cost \$300 to 400 to fix
- ▶ There will be additional fees to rehang all banners
- ▶ Stolen banners worth a total of \$3,000

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
PHOTO BY : SHARON AESCHBACH  
SOURCE : ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

wooden bowel rod from which the banners hang rather than being untied in the same fashion as the others, Stewart said.

"I don't know why they cut that particular one over any of the others," he said.

It will cost \$300 to \$400 to replace the banner as well as additional labor costs to rehang all of the recovered banners, Stewart said.

The Athletic Department has gone as far as requesting that the University Police Department step aside from the investigation.

UPD has agreed to transfer any leads that it receives directly to the Athletic Department, said UPD Detective Travis Lively.

"At the time of the burglary, they

See Banners on page 12

# Student Senate to consider fee referendum

By Sonia Moghe  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Student Senate will vote Wednesday on whether to support the increasing student service fees and whether to call a referendum on the increase in April.

Current student fees are at \$11.86 per semester credit hour, but students cannot pay any more than \$142.32 total in fees. There is currently a state-mandated cap of \$150 per semester that the fee falls under. The Student Service Fee Advisory Board (SSFAB) is proposing to raise that

fee to \$12.51, which will surpass the \$150 cap by 12 cents, said Joe Williams, MSC vice president for diversity and a member of the SSFA.

Mark McCaig, president of the student government watch, warned voting delegates to pay attention to the details involved in voting for an increase that will surpass the cap.

"I do not believe the SSFAB made their recommendation to increase the student service fee one cent above the state mandated (per semester credit hour) cap because they believed it was in the interest of the student body," McCaig said.

"The student body made it very clear last year that they don't support a student service fee increase."

Speaker of the Senate Matthew Wilkins encouraged students to come to the Student Senate meeting to voice their opinions.

"We can only voice student opinions if we know what they are," he said.

Bill Kibler, interim vice president of student affairs said according to the Texas Education Code, that if the student body votes in favor of increasing student

See Senate on page 12