

THE BATTALION

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GSC supports FCIC March for Diversity

By Aerin Toussaint
THE BATTALION

ty is an important issue.

"The diversity in this body is very pronounced with people from different countries, different parts of the country and with lots of different perspectives," he said.

The diversity march will be held Wednesday from 2 to 5 p.m. at Rudder Fountain Plaza. James Anderson, vice president for diversity, will speak at 3 p.m., and the march will begin at 3:15 p.m.

"It is important for students to understand and support the idea of diversification and to get faculty and students to understand the importance of diversity," said Eberhard Laepple, GSC vice president and a doctoral student in architecture. "People have biases because they aren't informed, and information helps people make good decisions."

Topics of discussion at the GSC meeting also included the lack of opportunities for graduate students to get involved in extracurricular activities and receive scholarships and awards.

The meeting ended with the appointment of a subcommittee to look into possibilities for awards and scholarships for graduate students.

The Texas A&M Graduate Student Council (GSC) said at its meeting Tuesday that it would support Wednesday's diversity march.

The Rally and March for Diversity is being held by the Faculty Committed to an Inclusive Campus (FCIC) to promote diversity on campus.

The Student Government Association (SGA) withdrew its support for the rally based on opposition to the FCIC's stance on methods of obtaining diversity.

Josh Peschel, GSC president and a graduate student in biological and agricultural engineering, said the GSC is respectful of the SGA's decision, but desires to maintain support for the spirit of diversity that is being encouraged by the march.

"By passing the resolution, the GSC has officially voiced its support for the spirit of the march as a body," Peschel said.

Matt Wilkins, a legislative affairs chair and a graduate student in aerospace engineering, said GSC was formed to better represent A&M's graduate students in student affairs, so diversity



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Above: "Barbara Bush: A Memoir," released in September of 1995, was sold at Rudder along with her newest book entitled "Reflections: Life After the White House." Below: Barbara Bush responds to questions from the audience at Rudder Auditorium Tuesday afternoon. Bush read from "Reflections" released October 2003. Bush also addressed family experiences including the inauguration of her son George W. Bush.

Bush recounts family memories

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Barbara Bush never imagined that any of her children would grow up to become president. Although most mothers would like their children grow up with presidential ambitions, she said she just hoped her children would grow up.

"But there we were, waiting for our son George W. to be sworn in as the 43rd president of the United States of America," she said.

The former first lady spoke about her book, "Reflections: Life After the White House," in front of a filled Rudder Theater Tuesday.

Bush is slated to be the center of the exhibit "The Year of the Woman" at the George Bush Presidential Library starting in April.

Bush shared with the audience

excerpts from her book which contained family stories and other experiences from the end of her husband George Bush's presidential term to the inauguration of son George W. Bush as current U.S. president.

Barbara Bush was introduced by former President George Bush.

"Some of you know her as the former first lady, some of you know her as the mother of the current president, some of you know her for her work as a literacy advocate, but everyone in the family knows her as the enforcer," her husband said.

Barbara Bush took the stage to a roar of laughter, undermining her husband's attempts to portray her as the enforcer, and admitted to the crowd that she was nervous.

"I dreamt that I was giving this speech, and someone in the crowd told me to sit down and shut up," she said.



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Barbara Bush shared humorous family stories with the audience to give people another look at the Bush family.

She said her two sons, Jeb and George Jr., called her after a town meeting in Florida one night last year. George said he was asked by an audience member if the Bush family believed that family dinners were important, and

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Prairie View students file another voting suit

By Juan A. Lozano
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But Waller County Elections Administrator Lela Loewe, one of the lawsuit's defendants, said she submitted paperwork to the Justice Department on Friday and again on Tuesday regarding the recent change. The change was approved by Waller County Commissioners Court last week.

Loewe said the change is an increase in the number of days allotted for early voting at the campus center because the location was not used in 2003 for early voting for the state constitutional amendments election.

The change in use of the campus center from two days in 2002 to zero days in 2003 was approved by the Justice Department, she said.

Officials with the Justice Department did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"A request was made to me verbally for three days at Prairie View and I didn't see wasting

the county money on that," Loewe said. "You don't fix a problem before you have it. When you show me you will have that many people voting in (more than one) day, I will do that."

The students' attorneys have said their clients ability to participate in the March 9 primary election would be limited because students don't have time to go to other locations because they are preparing for midterm exams and spring break is the week of the election, when many of them will be gone.

Goldman said he doesn't believe the action taken by Waller County officials on the early voting location is in response to the lawsuit filed earlier this month.

"It's another indication of systematic problems Waller County has in addressing the rights of minority voters at Prairie View," he said.

Loewe said her decision was based on prior use of early voting locations and how many the county could afford to open this election.

HOUSTON (AP) — Prairie View A&M University students embroiled in a voting rights fight in Waller County filed another lawsuit Tuesday in what they are calling efforts to preserve their ability to vote in local elections.

The second lawsuit, filed in federal court in Houston, is in response to a decision by county officials to reduce the number of days and hours for early voting at a satellite location: a community center on the Prairie View campus.

Jonah Goldman, an attorney with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said students would like early voting at the center to take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. over two days. But Waller County officials have approved only one day, Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday's lawsuit comes nearly two weeks after

Prairie View students filed one against Waller County District Attorney Oliver Kitzman, who last year said they weren't automatically eligible to vote in county elections because of state-mandated residency standards.

That lawsuit, also filed in Houston, came on the heels of an opinion by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, who said Prairie View students may vote in their university town if they simply designate Waller County as their residence.

Goldman said any voting change in Texas is covered under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and must be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice in order to show that it does not worsen the position of minority voters.

"During other times they precluded other plans that had different amounts of early voting," he said. "This change has not been precluded."

According to students' attorneys, the last change approved by federal authorities was for an election in March 2002, when two days of early voting were allotted for the campus center.

Under the Sea

The recently-implemented Integrated Ocean Drilling Program will explore the history and structure of the Earth through scientific ocean drilling

- Will bring in \$450-500 million to TAMU during the next 10 years
- IODP is the largest contract TAMU has ever undertaken
- Sea expeditions will begin in June to locations including Iceland, New Zealand and British Columbia

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SOURCE: COLLEGE OF GEOSCIENCES

IODP brings research opportunities to A&M

By Kristin Kemp
THE BATTALION

Junior geology major Andrew Fair said research employment is one of the advantages of being a geology student at Texas A&M.

While Fair does not know what his long-term career goals are, the College of Geosciences has several opportunities available to its students.

Many of these opportunities are provided by the college's participation in innovative programs such as the recently-implemented Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP).

The College of Geosciences has teamed up with Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University and Joint Oceanographic Institutions Inc. to

form the JOI Alliance.

This partnership of scientists and research institutions was organized to explore the history and structure of the earth through scientific ocean drilling. This type of teamwork makes joint research projects available, and opens new research opportunities with Lamont-Doherty scientists, said Paul Fox, professor and director of IODP.

IODP is the largest contract A&M has ever undertaken, Fox said.

Replacing the current ocean drilling program, the new contract plans to bring \$450-500 million to the University during the next 10 years, Fox said.

IODP, he said, is the largest earth science

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Kerry pulls narrow victory out of Wisconsin primary

By Ron Fournier
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Kerry squeezed out victory in Wisconsin, barely holding off hard-charging rival John Edwards who established himself as the front-runner's sole rival as the Democratic presidential race thunders toward a 10-state showdown March 2.

Howard Dean trailed far behind, winless in 17 contests, his candidacy doomed less than a month after he stood atop the

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Democratic field. The fallen front-runner retreated to Vermont, where he will consider several options, including endorsing one of his rivals, advisers said.

Close race or not, Kerry said, "A win is a win."

Edwards, his dream of a head-to-head matchup now a reality, declared,

"We'll go full-throttle to the next group of states."

He pledged to campaign in each of the 10 states holding primaries or caucuses March 2, including California, New York and Ohio, and awarding 1,151 delegates, more than half the total needed to claim the nomination.

The North Carolina lawmaker's breakout was fueled by the highest Republican turnout of the primary season

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