



Primaries sweep through Texas Tuesday

Candidates in close race for District 17

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

The race for the District 17 congressional seat was in the midst of a heated battle Tuesday night. Two of the three candidates, Arlene Wohlgenuth, Dave McIntyre and Dot Snyder, will face each other in a runoff election in April. Wohlgenuth and McIntyre both said they felt good about how the race was turning out and were pleased at the support they received in Brazos County.

The two candidates were on hand for the primary election results Tuesday night at the Brazos Center.

The winner of the Republican nomination will face Democrat Chet Edwards in the upcoming November elections.

McIntyre, who has taught at Texas A&M on the subject of homeland security, has been running a grass roots campaign based in College Station.

"Support here is great in Brazos County; it has been all about our volunteers' hard work," McIntyre said.

Wohlgenuth has been serving in the Texas State Legislature for the past five terms, and she has been endorsed by five A&M regents.

Wohlgenuth expressed her gratitude for the people in Brazos County and her relationship with A&M.

"I have strong ties here at A&M; I am pleased to be here with friends and family who support us," she said.

Snyder, who was in Waco with her supporters on Tuesday night, said, "Brazos County is a very important part of the race."

The race was shaping up to be a runoff between Wohlgenuth and either McIntyre or Snyder at about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday.

McIntyre acknowledged the reality of a possible runoff.

"I just had two goals coming into the race: to just get a runoff, and through this process shape the agenda and the arguments of the Republican



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(From left to right) John Jackson, Lisa O'Connor, Lane Thibodeaux and Lauren Schulman try to convince voters to elect their candidates outside the Brazos Center Tuesday afternoon.

Remaining districts see seat-swapping

By Suzanne Gamboa
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A Democratic freshman congressman from Houston was bounced from office Tuesday after his district was redrawn by the Republicans, while a veteran lawmaker who switched parties this year easily won his GOP contest. Another race in the San Antonio area was too close to call.

Rep. Chris Bell was upset by Al Green, a former head of the Houston NAACP. With 50 percent of precincts reporting, Green had 8,948 votes, or 67 percent, to 4,205 votes, or 31 percent, for Bell.

On the Republican side, Rep. Ralph Hall, who left the Democratic party in January, easily defeated two lesser-known challengers a day after riding with President George W. Bush on Air Force One to a Houston fund-raiser. Hall's defection landed him critical backing from GOP leaders who called at least one primary opponent and asked him to leave the race.

"I had a natural advantage over these guys," said Hall, 80. "When you have the president and the speaker of the House and the national Republican chairman going for you, it's hard to break in."

Four-term Rep. Ciro Rodriguez was locked in a tight battle with former ally Henry Cuellar in an overwhelmingly Hispanic district that stretches from San Antonio to the Mexican border. With 76 percent of precincts reporting, only about 150 votes separated the two.

In another Democratic primary, Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Austin, a powerful liberal, easily won the nomination over former state Judge Leticia Hinojosa.

During their effort to redraw Texas' congressional map last year, the GOP targeted Doggett and Bell by making their districts more Republican. But both men decided to jump to heavily Democratic districts.

Bell, 44, ran in a Houston district where about 66 percent of the voters are black or Hispanic. Bell is white, and Green, 56, is black.

The Texas Legislature redrew the map last year in a pitched battle that led to two out-of-state walkouts

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Title IX still affecting women's lives

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

Title IX is still impacting women's lives, said a panel of six current and former Texas A&M athletes Tuesday afternoon.

The panel members told personal accounts of how Title IX has affected their lives and how it is affecting women's sports as part of A&M's Women's Week.

Title IX is a federal law passed in 1972 that bans gender discrimination concerning academics and athletics in all schools. It requires that scholarship money awarded by a school must be proportionate to the ratio of male and female athletes, and all equipment or

opportunities provided to teams must be equivalent for both genders.

Jamie Riojas, a member of the A&M women's track team and a junior age economics major, said she appreciates what past women Aggies and Title IX have done for current sports.

"Listening to their (other panelists') stories, it makes me realize how small I am," Riojas said. "It makes me appreciate everything we have and realize how lucky we are."

Trigg Crawford Bracewell, Class of 1981, played four years of women's basketball under the newly passed law. Bracewell said the team had to travel to Poteet, Texas, to face an opponent, and that the team's "hotel" was local homes or the floor of a Baptist church.

Bracewell said she is happy to see the progress women's sports have made since her playing days, but said more funding for women's sports is necessary to help continue the benefits.

"Women need to reach into their pocketbooks," Bracewell said. "Men might be more reluctant to give to a women's sport as compared to a men's."

The panelists agreed with Bracewell, saying funding and more opportunities were necessary for women's sports.

Ellen Morcom Kasari, Class of 1977 and a two-year member of the volleyball team, said that in the years before Title IX, the only way most women succeed-

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Diem to represent student voice in CBE

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

A student has been appointed as student representative for the Council for the Built Environment.



DIEM

Chris Diem, a junior political science major, was recommended by Student Body President Matt Josefy and approved by David Prior, executive vice president and provost, earlier this month.

Diem is now a full member of the council, and he has the same say as other members, said William Perry, executive associate provost.

The Council for the Built Environment has received attention lately due to the potential closing of Hotard Hall and communication issues between the council and the student body.

"After the Hotard incident, students needed a say on where things are put on campus," Diem said.

The council made the decision to add a student two weeks before the Hotard issue even came up, Perry said.

Diem is active with student government, Josefy said, serving on the publicity committee, the food services committee and working on the Collegiate Readership Program.

Josefy said this representative position is one of the dozen student appointments that the student body president is permitted to make each year.

"Chris has demonstrated an incredible ability to work on stu-

dent's behalf and will represent us well," Josefy said.

A&M has three other councils: the Educational Environment Council, the Finance Council and the Research Council. The only other council with a student representative is the Educational Environment Council, Josefy said.

Although the appointment of a student to the committee was not directly because of the Hotard incident, the incident did make it more evident that one was needed, Josefy said.

"There has been a case being made on why students should be on these councils," Josefy said. "It became apparent that students on the councils would be beneficial."

Josefy said Diem's job will be to identify any recommendations the council makes that would affect the students. He can also identify any potential problems and make his own recommendations to the council.

Diem said he is exploring ways of getting the word out to students about what's going on.

In the future, incidents such as closing of a residence hall without student input will be prevented, Diem said.

Josefy said there are not any other universities with major councils where students have an equal voice at the table.

"The student government is most effective when we are able to act proactively and preemptively," Josefy said.

Diem said he is honored to be appointed to this position.

"It is a great opportunity for students to have a voice on this committee," Diem said. "I'm looking forward to putting student input on these decisions."

Parents' Weekend preparations begin

By Michael Player
THE BATTALION

Rick and Doranda Couch never went to Texas A&M, but they have participated in the traditions and enjoy spending time on the campus.

"Even though my husband and I did not go to school at A&M, we feel like we are no less members of the Aggie family," Doranda Couch said.

The Couches have made Parents' Weekend a part of their spring activities for a few years now. Their daughters, Rebecca and Ashley, attend A&M.

"Parents' Weekend is what really showed me the family spirit of A&M," Doranda Couch said. "(It) really shows how the campus is family-oriented."

Parents' Weekend 2004 will be held April 16-18 on the O.R. Simpson Drill Field and surrounding areas, and it will be filled with the scent of barbecue and the sound of music as students and their parents gather for a weekend of fun and bonding, said Raegan Birdwell, Parents' Weekend committee president.

"Parents' Weekend is going to be bigger and better than ever," Bracewell said.

The theme for this year's Parents' Weekend is "One Spirit, One Family, One Weekend," Birdwell said. The committee will be coordinating with Whoopstock on April 17 so there will not be a lack of things to do on campus, Birdwell said.

In addition to Whoopstock, April 17 will be filled with a variety of events, including Midnight Yell, Bevo Burn Barbecue and the Maroon and White football game.

"Whoopstock is something that goes well with Parents' Weekend because they can both serve to unify the Aggie fam-

Parents' Weekend 2004

"One Spirit, One Family, One Weekend"

Friday, April 16

- Aggie Mom's Boutique, 9 a.m.
- MSC Variety Show, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 17

- Midnight Yell, 12 a.m.
- Bevo Burn Barbecue, 11 a.m.
- Whoopstock, 11 a.m.
- Maroon and White Game, 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 18

- All University Awards, 9:30 a.m.
- Ross Volunteer Performance, 12:30 p.m.

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SOURCE: PARENTS' WEEKEND COMMITTEE

ily," said Meagan Pitcher, director of entertainment for Whoopstock. "We will show diversity with several different styles of music, which will in turn bring people together."

Along with music, Whoopstock will consist of various booths and exhibits.

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