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RHA endorses non-reg Scher for junior yell

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

The Residence Hall Association has endorsed Scher, a non-reg, or not a member of the Corps of Cadets, running for junior yell leader for spring 2004 student body elections. Since Boo Boo Davies was elected as a yell leader in 2002, there has not been a reg candidate elected to the position, but this trend could change. Scher, a sophomore marketing and management major has been involved in many programs on campus, including Aggies of OAK, Caring for the Planet (CARPOOL), and the Fish Camp Weekend, Fish Camp counselor and the

Texas A&M Sophomore Leadership Academy.

Although in previous years there have been numerous candidates running for yell leader who were non-regs, none since Davies have actually been elected.

Scher said non-regs should be given a fair chance to represent Texas A&M, and that he would love nothing more than to be a yell leader.

"I love the spirit and tradition of A&M; being a yell leader is the epitome of representing A&M," he said.

Chris Mahaffey, president of RHA and a senior civil engineering major, said he is surprised the student body has not elected more non-reg yell leaders.

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"It's odd that yell leader is such a figurehead role, yet we have few non-Corps yell leaders," Mahaffey said.

Scher said he wants to raise awareness among students that it is OK to vote for non-regs.

"I respect the Corps (of Cadets) greatly, but the whole student body is not equally represented by yell leaders," Scher said.

Justin Woods, public information officer for the Corps of Cadets and a senior communications major, said he feels the five students in the Corps running for yell leader positions are the best qualified.

Woods said it was not just because they are in

the Corps, but because they have good work ethic.

"Anyone can lead a yell," Woods said. "But (the one elected) is the one who will serve the University best, and I feel the five from the Corps will do it."

Matt Laue, a senior economics major who helped with non-reg yell leader candidate Matt Geise's campaign in 2001 and 2002, said he thinks it is great to see different people having an interest and passion in wanting to represent the University and its students.

"Because our yell leaders are a representation of our student body, its composition should reflect that of our student body; one that is rich in tradition

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TS to relocate offices to off-campus location

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Transportation Services will relocate its offices to an off-campus location, marking the beginning of years of planned departmental relocations to make room for 447 new faculty members that A&M plans to hire by 2008.

The relocations were planned by the Council for the Built Environment, a group of 10 departments led by A&M's president in charge of finding space for the growing faculty.

"What we're trying to do is, by moving administrative offices to the edge of campus, make room for the central part of the campus for faculty to join us," said William Perry, vice provost and director of the CBE.

The department is scheduled to move today so employees can move from the John J. Koldus Building to its new space at 702 E. University Drive, Building E, behind Golden Corral restaurant.

A customer service center will remain in Koldus 108. Students can purchase parking permits and pay or appeal parking citations at the center, said TS Director Rodney Weis.

Weis said being off campus will be a temporary inconvenience, but he is looking forward to the

long-term plans.

TS will move to Agronomy Road, where transit and fleet operations are currently located, in 18 months to two years, Weis said.

"That will be a huge benefit to the department because it will help communication and coordination," he said.

Weis said TS could have a drive-up window and a more enhanced, efficient customer service area after it moves to Agronomy Road.

The Office of the Registrar will also be temporarily moving off campus in May.

The office will move from Heaton Hall to 3833 South Texas Avenue, said Donald Carter, an A&M registrar.

"I hate leaving campus," Carter said, "but I understand why we have to move."

Dave Parrott, dean of the Department of Student Life, said he is also looking forward to having his department consolidated into one location.

Student Life currently has offices at five locations, including the Grove, Koldus and the east wing of Sbis Dining Hall.

Parrott said Student Life will move to Cain Hall in June.

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RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Senior mechanical engineering major Lucas Kramm, senior agricultural economics major Thomas Wynn and sophomore agricultural systems management major Conrad Davis and members of the Young Conservatives of Texas protest the possible tuition raise

across from the Chemistry Building Tuesday. If approved, an increase from \$55 per credit hour to \$74.50 per hour would be implemented. Students can voice their opinions at the Board of Regents meeting this Thursday in MSC 292.

YCT 'Tuitionville' protests tuition increase

By Michael Player
THE BATTALION

In a scene reminiscent of 1930s Hoovervilles, the Young Conservatives of Texas have established a temporary encampment called "Tuitionville" located in the fountain area across from the Chemistry Building in protest of the future tuition increase.

Tuitionville was constructed Monday, and will be occupied on a 24-hour basis until 4 p.m. Wednesday. The town consists of cardboard box houses with signs bearing statements such as "The end is near" and "Already work for tuition."

"We want to get the word out about the drastic increase in tuition and draw attention to the Texas A&M University

System Board of Regents meeting that will take place on Thursday," said Weston Balch, director of the Tuitionville demonstration. "The main reason that we are doing this is that we believe that the student voice has not been heard."

Balch said A&M President Robert M. Gates is proposing a 33 percent increase in tuition from last fall, and that is not the gradual increase that was promised by administrators.

Balch said Gates has commented on the lack of student attendance at the previous tuition hearings held earlier in the semester, and that this demonstration is one way the YCT can get the attention of the student body and try to get more students to attend.

"The hearing held on Jan. 27 was very

well attended by students, and most of us felt that the questions and concerns voiced by the students were adequately and appropriately addressed," said Rodney McClendon, chief of staff for Gates. "It is important to note that the \$19.50 raise comes after the cuts we made and more administrative cuts will be made to ease the burden for students and parents."

Balch said the e-mail that was sent to students' neo accounts prior to spring break concerning Gates' hearing on Thursday was probably overlooked by many students, so the YCT chose this kind of demonstration because it felt that it would draw more attention to its cause.

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Moving Right Along

Transportation Services will move to a location off University Drive to make room for 447 new faculty members.

Other departments planning to move during the following months include:

Departments	Where Moving	When
Office of Vice President for Student Affairs	Koldus	April
Office of the Registrar	Off Campus	May
Department of Student Life	Cain Hall	June

GRACIE ARENAS • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: COUNCIL FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SBP candidates set campaign goals for 2004 election

Hildebrand aims to maintain traditions

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Jack Hildebrand said the cornerstones of his campaign for student body president are to focus on ways to maintain Texas A&M's traditions and increase efficient communication between students and the administration through the student government.

"I want students outside of student government to understand what's going on; communication is definitely important," he said.

Hildebrand, a senior accounting major and the vice president of Student Government Association's finance committee, said he not only wants incoming students to come to A&M for a great education, but also to come

here for additional reasons.

"Academics is important, but I would like to make sure that people come in and see the University's uniqueness; I don't want A&M to be just another state school," he said.

Hildebrand said all student money should be accounted for. "We need to see results and evidence of where and what student money is going," he said.

When it comes to diversity and admissions, Hildebrand said the merit system that is in place right now is the right way to go, but there are other ways to increase diversity on top of the admission process. He said the idea of diversity has developed a negative connotation, and he



HILDEBRAND

hopes he can change that.

"I would like to see collaboration of resources to speed up the process. It is the job of student government and other student organizations to educate students on diversity," he said.

Hildebrand said he would like to see Bonfire back on campus to keep traditions alive, and he would like to see every student at the opening ceremonies of the Bonfire Memorial Nov. 18.

"I am all about what the tradition is all about," he said, "As long as it is done the right way,

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Carter to focus on community outreach

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

Narietha Carter said that if elected student body president, she would focus on community outreach, finding solutions to pressing parking problems and

emphasizing globalization over diversity.

"I want to have a lot more of the students to reach out and affect change on campus and in the Bryan-College Station area," Carter said.

Carter, a senior English major, said she would install a mentorship program where faculty and administrators would

mentor students, and then those students would go out into the community and mentor families and other students.

"I feel like students can really go out and affect change in the community," Carter said.

Carter also plans to alleviate campus parking problems by working with Transportation Services to get every student an assigned parking lot where they could park every day. Carter said the parking assignment situation would work on a seniority system, with seniors having the first pick of parking lots.

"Every student should be promised a parking spot," Carter said.



CARTER

Carter said she will work to change 30-minute parking spots to 45-minute parking spots, and will attempt to change some 24-hour reserved parking areas that are never filled into 45-minute parking areas, especially near the Memorial Student Center and the Academic Building.

Carter said she wants to focus on globalization within Texas A&M and push the study abroad program.

"I think that globalization is definitely going to take the place of diversity," Carter said. "Globalization is much more important, because globalization allows our students to be more marketable and more accepting when its time to go into the work force."

Carter said A&M is currently

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STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS 2004

Second in a series of candidates running for student body president