



## Kerry takes student questions

### Candidate addresses college student concerns, rising tuition

By Sonia Moghe  
THE BATTALION

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry held a conference call with college newspaper reporters Tuesday afternoon to answer questions and make a statement regarding President Bush's economic policies.

"In effect, Bush's tax cuts to the wealthy are a tuition increase to students," Kerry said. "The Bush administration made the choice to cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans and (in effect) cut assistance that goes to states."

The conference call had 130 participants and was part of Kerry's "Change Starts with U" college campus tour, where Kerry addressed issues important to America's youth.

Kerry said colleges' tuition rates have increased 28 percent over the past year because of tax cuts that reduced the amount of money going toward states and, as a result public, four-year universities.

Weston Balch, a freshman history major and co-chair of the Young Conservatives of Texas A&M, addressed the YCT's views on Bush and its vocal objections to the tuition increase.

"The organization (YCT) has not officially come out and endorsed Bush, but in comparison to Kerry he is the most conservative," Balch said. "It was the Texas A&M System Board of Regents and their loose fiscal policies and how they refused to look at students needs (that raised tuition)."

James E. Anderson, A&M political science professor, said the discrepancy between the YCT's support for Bush and its objection to tuition increases might be attributed to disjointed ideals.

"I think they're reacting to two different things," Anderson said. "They like George W. Bush, and they don't like tuition increases. They don't really make



KERRY

any connection between the two."

While economic policy was the main focus of Kerry's discussion, he also addressed his plan to create two new divisions for the U.S. military that would be paid for out of the existing Pentagon budget by shifting funds from other areas.

"(I want) more sensible policy where young people don't feel as if their leadership is making irresponsible decisions based on their presence in the military," Kerry said.

He also assured students that there would be no draft.

Kerry said the main purpose of his campus tour is to raise interest in the youth.

"We want students to begin to recognize their power in helping to decide the outcome of this election," Kerry said. "During the 60s and 70s, it was mostly young people that drove movements. We need to make issues that matter to people issues again."

## Donations accepted



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Janet Stouder, left, and freshman history major Sarah Lester sign up people to donate blood Tuesday afternoon near Rudder Fountain. The American Red Cross will be set up to collect blood

Wednesday near Rudder Fountain from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will also be donation facilities outside of Wehner and Sbisla dining hall.

## VanAlstyne seeks to lead student affairs

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

Lt. Gen. John VanAlstyne said that if appointed vice president of student affairs, he will not support a Bonfire that resembles the stack that fell in November 1999.

"You don't kill 12 young Aggies and go about things things the same way you were doing then," VanAlstyne said. "Every time someone says they want to have another Bonfire like the one in 1999, you need to

show them the pictures of what 12 field-shrouded bodies looks like."

VanAlstyne, currently commandant for the Corps of Cadets and candidate for the vice president of student affairs, addressed a crowd of more than 50 people Tuesday afternoon in the last of four open forums designed for the campus community to meet the candidates still in the running for the position.

VanAlstyne said that even though he comes from a military background, he will

not show favoritism toward the Corps.

"In the Department of Defense, all the people I worked for and most of the people I worked with were not in the military," VanAlstyne said. "Let me assure you, it is not my objective to be vice president of the Corps. If I am given the responsibility, I will be responsible for all students."

Student Body President-elect Jack Hildebrand said that VanAlstyne, if elected,

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## Court: Hildebrand not to be disqualified

By Melissa Sullivan  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Judicial Court unanimously voted Tuesday to not disqualify Student Body President-elect Jack Hildebrand for improperly disclosing campaign finances and prorating unused materials, but said that changes need to be made by the Election Commission before next year's election.

Jonathan Platt, a senior political science major and member of Will McAdams' campaign team, said Hildebrand failed to disclose shipping and handling costs of stickers and wristbands purchased online from a Lubbock-based company that were used in the campaign.

According to finance reports, Hildebrand purchased 1,000 wristbands for 22 cents apiece and 1,000 stickers for 6.89 cents apiece from Scarborough Specialties Inc. in Lubbock.

Only 750 of the wristbands and only 704 stickers were used, Platt said.

Platt said a petition was filed because the Election Commission was interpreting rules the way it wanted to and it

was not being fair.

Platt said the only reason Hildebrand was mentioned in the hearing was because the Election Commission audited his finance report due to his involvement in the runoff election.

Daniel Jones, chief justice of the court, said the court decided that it was wrong of the Election Commission to tell Hildebrand that he did not need to include the shipping and handling costs in the finance report.

"It wasn't fair to disqualify Mr. Hildebrand from the race because he would not have spent the money if the Election Commission told him not to," Jones said.

Corbett Walther, vice chief justice and a senior finance major, said the Election Commission also erred in allowing the practice of prorating unused election materials, even though no candidate was at a serious disadvantage.

"The main thing to stress is that Mr. Hildebrand did nothing wrong," Walther said. "He followed suggestions exactly like he was given."

The court also unanimously denied an appeal brought by

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## 'Phishy' e-mail scam deceives consumers

By Natalie Younts  
THE BATTALION

Students should beware of e-mails that appear to be from legitimate companies because the e-mails may have been sent by criminals "phishing" for personal information, said David Sustaita, senior information technology staff for Texas A&M's Computing and Information Services.

Phishing is a high-tech scam that uses spam to deceive consumers into disclosing credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security numbers, passwords and other sensitive personal information, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

The e-mails often appear to be from eBay, Citibank, Paypal or AOL, Sustaita said.

"Those are the most targeted companies because they have the largest population of users," Sustaita said. "So they can send out all these e-mails, and it's more likely that they're going to hit somebody that actually does have an account there."

Sustaita said the e-mails usually say that the company lost a person's personal information, such as credit card numbers or Social Security numbers.

"You'll never get an e-mail from a legitimate company asking you to update lost information," Sustaita said. "They never do lose this information."

If a person sends them his personal information, it could lead to identity theft, which is the number one crime reported by the Federal Trade Commission, and it is growing, Sustaita said.

CIS is not aware of any major problems caused by phishing at A&M, said Debra Dandridge, CIS assistant technical writer.

"It's a problem statewide, it's a problem nationwide, it's a problem worldwide," Dandridge said. "It's not insidious yet that we know of on this campus."

Jeff McCabe, associate director of CIS, said CIS is educating students by working with the residence halls to pass out pamphlets about identity theft.

Sustaita said the practice has been going on for years by different means of communication.

"Before e-mail was widely used, people were doing this on pen and paper," Sustaita said.

Dandridge said an operation has existed in Nigeria for years, where criminals send mass e-mails worldwide. The criminals get

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**Republican Runoff Elections 2004**  
District 17 Congress

**Candidates:**  
Dot Snyder and Arlene Wohlgemuth

Snyder Wohlgemuth

**County Commissioner, Brazos County Precinct 1**

**Candidates:**  
Lloyd Wassermann and Eric Caldwell

**272nd District Court Judge**

**Candidates:**  
Rick Davis and Shane Phelps

For complete election coverage, log on to [www.thebatt.com](http://www.thebatt.com)

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SOURCE: BRAZOS COUNTY

## Davis wins district court seat

By James Twine  
THE BATTALION

Incumbent District Judge Rick Davis pulled out a victory in a close runoff race over Shane Phelps for the 272nd District Court Judge position Tuesday evening.

During the first round of elections held in March, Shane Phelps was only 55 votes away from winning the position without the need for a runoff, but Rick Davis won the runoff election by only 275 votes.

"It feels great that we've won, but we are truly exhausted," Davis said.

Davis received 4,723 votes (51 percent) and Phelps received 4,448 votes (48 percent) in the runoff election.

Davis said he and his campaign team ran a grassroots effort and encouraged many voters who did not vote in the initial March election to vote this time.

"We got a lot of people out to vote that didn't vote before; we had a diverse, broad-based group that supports the work that I do," Davis said.

Phelps said he was the better candidate, and that the people were unsure of Davis' rocky three years as judge.

"I have an even temperament; I believe that I could have brought maturity and temperament to the position," Phelps said.

Davis said he wanted to let Aggies know that they should have an interest in who is the district judge because Aggies may have to present their cases or concerns to him.

"The students should have an interest in who is judge, because they need to know that the judge is going to be fair and even-handed," Davis said.

Also on Tuesday night, Arlene

See Davis on page 8

**Spam Scam**

Computer Information Services is warning students of e-mails being sent out by criminals looking for personal information.

- E-mails often appear to be from eBay, Citibank, PayPal or AOL
- The e-mails will state the company has lost its personal information
- If a person is skeptical, call the company and ask if it sent the e-mail and why