

THE BATTALION

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A Texas A&M Tradition Since 1893

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JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Utah quarterback Alex Smith looks to connect in the first quarter during the Utes' 41-21 win over Texas A&M Thursday at Rice-Eccles Stadium in Salt Lake City, Utah. Smith threw for 359 yards including

two touchdowns. Smith also scored on a 37-yard run in the second quarter and rushed for a total of 107 yards. The Aggies' home opener is Saturday, Sept. 11 against the University of Wyoming.

Same song, second verse Strong Utah pounds weak Aggies 41-21

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M football team looked like a different team running out on the field Thursday night in Salt Lake City. It had new white shoes, new white face masks and the jerseys had no names on the back. The mountains looming in the background were almost symbolic of the climb the Aggies were beginning Thursday to regain respect.

But after being defeated 41-21 by No. 20 University of Utah in front of a sold-out Utah crowd and national television audience, it appears that nothing is different from last year's squad and that the team is still struggling to climb the first rock of that symbolic mountain.

"We made too many mistakes to beat a good team on the road," said A&M head coach Dennis Franchione. "We had way too many miscues to ever let us get any kind of control of the game."

The first three plays of the game seemed to have promise for A&M. A Utah rushing attempt was shut down for no gain and two passes fell incomplete. The next play wouldn't be so promising, though. Utes junior Alex Smith hit sophomore wide receiver Steve Savoy on a short

eight-yard slant, who then took the ball another 70 yards up the sideline to the end zone. It was almost reminiscent of last year's Sept. 6 game against Utah at Kyle Field, when A&M senior wide receiver Terrence Murphy ran 80 yards up the sideline to score on the first play of the game.

"That's Division-I football for you," said A&M freshman defensive lineman Jason Jack. "They've obviously worked hard, they're good players, and they did everything right on that play."

The Aggie offense had just as many problems as the defense did. After completing his first pass of the game, junior quarterback Reggie McNeal threw seven consecutive incomplete passes.

Sophomore running back Courtney Lewis didn't look any more comfortable, only getting 14 total rushing yards by halftime. The game was supposed to have special meaning for A&M's Murphy,

who only needed two receptions to become the all-time receptions leader in school history. Murphy got his two receptions consecutively about halfway through the second quarter, but the moment went largely unnoticed.

"We were very inconsistent, very up and down," Franchione said. "I've seen Reggie throw better; I've seen the guys have better hands. This will just be a learning experience — a tough one — but still something to learn from."

The Utes looked strong on every aspect of the field, from the first quarter to fourth. The

defense constantly broke through A&M's offensive line, sacking McNeal two times and pressuring him numerous times.

The defense even shut down an A&M attempt to score in the end of third quarter, when A&M was on the 3-yard line facing a fourth down.

"That's what we live for as a

"We made too many mistakes to beat a good team on the road. We had way too many miscues to ever let us get any kind of control of the game."

— Dennis Franchione
head football coach

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Student fees increase despite referendum denial

By Sara Foley
THE BATTALION

Students are paying 29 cents more per credit hour for the Student Service Fee, despite the Student Service Fee increase referendum failing to pass during student body elections last spring.

The Student Service Fee Advisory Board (SSFAB) recommended the increase to finance \$305,762 of state-mandated salary increases and the reserve funds to support CARPOOL and the A&M Child Care Center. In the spring, SSFAB recommended a 65-cent increase that surpassed the current state cap on the fee, requiring a referendum vote that the majority of the student body voted against.

"We could have raised it to \$12.50, and we all determined unanimously that we were going to stick with what we told the student body from the very beginning. That was the reason we requested the referendum in the beginning, because there are state-mandated salary increases," said SSFAB Chairman Jim Carlson.

The Department of Child Services, which in previous years received grants from the College of Engineering, the College of Education and federal grants, did not receive any grants this year. With the increase in the Student Service Fee, the A&M Child Care Center will receive \$35,000 for tuition supplement assistance.

"We recommended (trying) to find the money to fund the Department of Child Services," Carlson said. "The reason behind that is the students that are in need of those services are so tight on money, they need scholarship services."

Due to increasing car insurance rates, CARPOOL also received an increase of \$5,000 in funding.

Student Body President Jack Hildebrand said the increases were justified.

"No student, including me, enjoys any increase in fees, but the way I understand it, this is a state-mandated increase," Hildebrand said.

The SSFAB's closed-door deliberations when considering funding increases have generated some debate.

"The closed-door policy is in contravention of the most basic principles of democratic governance and is to be condemned," said Aggie Watch President Mark McCaig.

Carlson said the closed-door policy is necessary for the benefit of those on the SSFAB.

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Student Service Fee Increase

Students are paying 29 cents more per credit hour in Student Service Fees.

■ \$305,762 will go to state-mandated salary increases

Money from reserve funds will go to:

■ \$5,000 to CARPOOL

■ \$35,000 to A&M Child Care Center

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SOURCE: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PRESIDENT GATES AND DEAN BRESCIANI

Local Republicans rally support for W

By Sara Foley
THE BATTALION

Local Republicans rallied in support of President Bush at the College Station Conference Center Thursday night, as he accepted the Republican nomination for president at the conclusion of the Republican National Convention in New York City. The group also cheered in support of local congressional candidate Arlene Wohlgemuth.

Former Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris, who served during the 2000 recount, was in attendance to support Wohlgemuth.

"I thought it was important enough to leave the convention to be here to show support for Arlene. These grassroots ef-

forts are vital," Harris said.

Nick Anthis, a senior biochemistry major and director of publicity for the Aggie Democrats, said it was appropriate that Harris was at the rally.

"(Harris is) one of the reasons that Bush is president, so it's no surprise that they're honoring her (at the rally)," Anthis said.

Wohlgemuth, who is running against incumbent Chet Edwards, served under Bush during his time as governor and said she wanted an opportunity to work with him again.

Anthis said he strongly disapproves of Wohlgemuth as a congressional candidate, that she has no record to stand on and is using the Bush-Cheney ticket to get into office.

"It's no surprise that (Wohlgemuth) is try-

ing to ride in on the Bush-Cheney coat tails," Anthis said. "Bush and the Republican Party, they're all words and no action. Just like the Wohlgemuth campaign."

Harris said the president's speech would remind Americans of Bush's accomplishments as president.

"When the American people recognize what has been accomplished and where we've come from since the beginning, they're going to recognize what an incredible leader (Bush) is," Harris said. "I want to have the opportunity to help (Bush) with his agenda. He has led the country well over the last four years and he deserves four more years," she said.

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NCAA changes rules on hostess programs

By Erin Price
THE BATTALION

Since 1985, the mission statement for Aggie Hostesses (AH) has been "recruiting the finest for the future of Aggie football." However, in early August, the NCAA put an end to such groups around the nation, according to Jeff Howard, managing director of public and media relations for the NCAA.

"The main point of this legislation is to ensure that these high school and junior college recruits get the same treatment as other perspective students to the university," Howard said.

The amendment to recruiting rules set forth by the NCAA that passed Aug. 5 states that student hosts to the recruits may only be current student athletes or students who provide campus tours to prospective students in general, Howard said.

"The Aggie Hostesses will no longer have an active role in recruiting," said Nancy Maly, senior office associate for football recruiting and AH sponsor. "We are going to have different game-day activities for the girls that are centered on supporting the football team, rather than hosting the young men."

The ruling has come in the wake of the 2001 recruiting scandal at the University of Colorado, where prospective high school students were lured by sex, drugs and alcohol, according to a report by Colorado's board of regents in May.

Lauren Roche, a senior biology major and recruiting coordinator for AH, said she has been contacting other hostess groups in the Big 12 to see how they are handling the change.

"The Aggie Hostesses have worked extremely hard over the years to

Recruitment Rule Changes

A 2001 recruiting scandal at the University of Colorado caused the NCAA to make changes to its recruitment rules. Those who can be involved in recruiting are:

- Non-gender specific campus groups
- Current student athletes
- Students who provide campus tours



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SOURCE: JEFF HOWARD, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PR FOR NCAA

fight against stereotypes," Roche said. "We just hope that our organization can find a way to coexist with new NCAA regulations so that we can continue to support Texas A&M University and its football program."

The ruling aims to prohibit gender-based groups being involved in recruiting activities on official and unofficial visits, according to the

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Senior A&M student dies of unknown causes

By Luke Jackson
THE BATTALION

Ronald Ian Hord, a 21-year-old senior psychology major, died Aug. 17 in his hometown of San Angelo, Texas, of unknown causes, police said.

"San Angelo's Police Department doesn't have enough information to make a concluding statement presently," said Lt. Curtis Milbourn of the San Angelo Police Department.

Chris Bradley, a senior ocean engineering major and friend of Hord's, said Hord had a

gift of making people laugh.

"Everybody loved him, he was a funny guy," Bradley said. "He always knew how to lighten the mood of a place — (he was) very social," Bradley said.

Bradley said Hord was an outgoing and involved Aggie who participated in several extracurricular activities, including the "Brazos Benefit Bash," "Texas Highway Clean Up" and "Share the Spirit," a program in which Aggies sponsor young children afflicted with cancer to travel from Houston to College Sta-

tion so they can experience Aggie life by going to games, meeting athletes and participating in Aggie traditions.

During his freshman year at Texas A&M, Hord was a founding father in the Alpha Mu Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) and remained active throughout his remaining college career. Hord managed the Fiji house, helped coordinate community-based events through his fraternity and was in charge of the Fiji "Graduate-Brother relations" board.

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