

Bush, Kerry spar over Iraq and economy

By Calvin Woodward
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Kerry accused President Bush on Monday of sending U.S. troops to the "wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time" and said he'd try to bring them all home in four years. Bush rebuked him for taking "yet another new position" on the war.

Iraq overshadowed the traditional Labor Day kickoff of the fall campaign and its time-honored emphasis on jobs, as Kerry delivered some of his harshest rhetoric against Bush's handling of the war and highlighted its economic costs. The Democrat set, for the first time, a tentative time frame for completing a withdrawal that Republican opponents say is too soon even to begin.

"We want those troops home, and my goal would be to try to get them home in my first term," Kerry said, speaking to a fellow Vietnam War veteran at a campaign stop in Pennsylvania who had asked about a timetable for withdrawal.

Bush, campaigning in southeast Missouri, described Kerry's attack as the product of chronic equivocation combined with a shake up of his advisers.

"After voting for the war, but against funding it, after saying he would have voted for the war even knowing everything we know today, my opponent woke up this morning with new campaign advisers and yet another new position," Bush said in prepared remarks.

"Suddenly he's against it again. No matter how many times Senator Kerry changes his mind, it was right for America and it's right for America now that Saddam Hussein is no longer in power."

Both sides sparred over employment, too, in tours of the heartland by the presidential candidates and their running mates covering eight states in all.

Speaking at the Minnesota State Fair, Vice President Dick Cheney declared low taxes are the key to robust employment. Kerry asserted that an employment surge over the last year has been driven by jobs that pay poorly and offer worse benefits and less security than jobs of old.

The Labor Department put out a rosy report on employment, declaring "prospects for job creation remain bright," and noting gains in most sectors in recent months.

Bush is struggling to escape the distinction of being the first president since the Depression-era Herbert Hoover to finish a term with job losses. With 1.7 million jobs created over the last year, the economy is still down 913,000 jobs overall since he took office.

With the quantity of jobs rising, Kerry turned to their quality. "If you want four more years of your wages falling ... if you want four more years of losing jobs overseas and replacing them with jobs that pay \$9,000 less than the jobs you had before, then you should go vote for George Bush," Kerry said in Pennsylvania.

**TEXAS A&M
 ICE HOCKEY TEAM**
 Informational Meeting
 Wednesday, September 8, 2004
 at 9 p.m.
 Room 281 Rec Center
 Team Website:
www.tamuicehockey.com
 or contact Nick Hansen
 at tamuicehockey@hotmail.com
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Gates
 Continued from page 1A

Cox wing to the Wehner building and the opening this fall of the Chemical Engineering Building.

In the upcoming year, a task force will be named to make recommendations on whether to expand the Honors Program or to create a separate Honors College.

Alternative tuition plans will also be explored this year. Options include charging fixed-rate tuition based on a minimum number of semester credit hours, charging variable tuition rates based on a variety of factors and guaranteeing tuition rates to entering freshmen for a four-year period.

Gates also announced a re-examination of summer school for the coming year. The goal is to see increased summer enrollment and make the sessions more useful to students in completing degree requirements.

Hildebrand said he would like to see more students on campus during the summer.

"In the past, it has not always been a feasible option because of costs, work and trying to get away from summer rent," Hildebrand said.

Gates said one option to consider in increasing enrollment is offering discounted tuition during the summer.

Amanda Rogillio, a senior English major, said discounted tuition is an excellent idea that would give Blinn College some summer competition.

"The lure of Blinn is that the tuition and books are cheaper, most of the same A&M professors teach there, and no matter the grade, it doesn't count toward your GPR," Rogillio said.

Gates said another option to increase enrollment is offering more summer courses.

Rogillio said this change would make a difference for students trying to meet final requirements for their degree plan.

Gates said the key to maintaining A&M's success is to focus on priority issues of improving quality education.

"It's a matter of keeping our eye on the ball," Gates said.

Fish Camp 50th Reunion
 Weekend Events
 Friday, September 10, 2004

5 p.m. - 12 midnight Fish Camp History Display in the Memorial Student Center Flag Room
 Visit a display celebrating 50 years of history with Fish Camp. Sign the official 50th Anniversary Guest Book and leave thoughts for future Fightin' Texas Aggie Freshmen Classes.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Welcome Reception at The Association of Former Students
 Kick-off the reunion weekend with refreshments, fellowship, and Fish Camp history sharing.

8 p.m. First Yell featuring Bill Cosby at Reed Arena
 Tickets through the MSC Box Office at (979) 845-1234

12 midnight Midnight Yell Practice at Kyle Field
 Attend Yell Practice with current and former Fish Camp members; don't forget to wear your favorite Fish Camp shirt. Meet in Cain Park at the Eagle Statue at 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 11, 2004

8 a.m. - 12 midnight Fish Camp History Display in the Memorial Student Center Flag Room
 Visit a display celebrating 50 years of history with Fish Camp. Sign the official 50th Anniversary Guest Book and leave thoughts for future Fightin' Texas Aggie Freshmen Classes.

2 hours before Game Fish Camp Reunion Tailgate Party at Simpson Drill Field
 Plan to attend a fun filled Fish Camp Reunion tailgate party. There will be a designated area for Fish Camp Reunion participants. Meal tickets will be sold individually at the tailgate party.

2:30 p.m. Texas A&M Aggies vs. Wyoming Cowboys Football Game
 Tickets are sold through the Athletic Ticket Office at (979) 845-2311



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Fall Rush 2004

Wednesday, September 8th: INFORMATIONAL
 Wehner 159, 7:30 P.M. (Professional Dress)

Thursday, September 9th: FUDDRUCKERS
 Come enjoy dinner on us, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Sunday, September 12th: CAPTURE THE FLAG
 Research Park, 2-4 P.M.

Monday, September 13th: GUEST SPEAKER
 Wehner 1017, 7:30 (Business Casual)

Wednesday, September 15th: VOLLEYBALL @ THE REC
 Come by for free ice cream and volleyball, 6-8 P.M.

PBL RUSH
 It's everywhere you want to be.

Come by and see us at the MSC Open House on September 5th!!! 2-6 P.M.
 Check us out on the web @ <http://www.aggiephi.com>
 Rushes must attend at least 3 events to be eligible for an interview

Questions? Call Kelly DeCook (817) 301-5115 or Jason Wannacott (979) 450-1753