

THE BATTALION

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Vote

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"This extremely important district election, a nationally watched race, because conservative voices need to be heard."

Hahn said the College Republicans will be registering voters Wednesday at Rudder fountain.

Tom Peterson, vice president of Y2M, a company that focuses on the college and recent graduate market, and College Publisher, a technology provider for campus newspapers, helped sponsor the online press conference. Peterson said youth voting is important.

"Young people have such a powerful impact on what is happening now and in the future, and if they are active now they will be in the future," Peterson said.

Greene said the street teams, or groups from Rock the Vote that make presentations at high schools and college campuses, are the heart and soul of this organization.

"The peer-to-peer work that they are doing across the country is what is driving increasing engagement in this election from this generation," Greene said.

Greene said 70 percent of students who are registered turn out to vote. She emphasized voter rights, such as the right to vote if they are in line before the polls close, the right to request a provisional ballot if their name is not on the voter registration and the right to request a new ballot if they make a mistake.

"We need to push the youth in the direction they need to go, and we hope everyone will vote in the 2004 elections," Peterson said.

Duncan

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financed through a Corps fund-raising project. The project allowed donors to sponsor newly constructed columns and outfits logos.

More than 40 columns and 40 outfits were sponsored, said retired Lt. Col. Buck Henderson, coordinator of external support of the Corps.

Plaques bearing the donors' names will be displayed under the outfit signs and on columns.

Cadets are generally pleased about these new changes.

"There are more food selections, and the place looks better," Friedli said.

The Dining Hall will also host many events, including Corps formals and presentations. Most recently, it hosted Military Weekend and the 30th anniversary of Women in the Corps of Cadets ceremony.

A re-opening event will be held during lunch at Duncan Thursday, and students are invited to take a peek at the new facility.

"A lot of students don't feel like eating there," Zawieja said. "Some didn't know they could."

With the improved facilities, Food Services workers say they hope Duncan will become a more attractive place for dining.

"Come check it out for yourself," Zawieja said.

Language

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Golsan said students will study history, politics and art, among other classes, giving them a broader cultural studies program rather than simply traditional literature.

Victor Arizpe, head of the Department of Hispanic Studies, said this split allows his department to better assess the students' experience and ensure that they are getting a challenging curriculum.

"It allows us to focus, to develop specific programs for them," Arizpe said. "It gives us the opportunity to develop, to enhance the undergraduate experience in terms of the current course offerings (and) potential development of new offerings."

Although Department of Modern and Classical Languages faculty have been dis-

cussing a split for several years, the recommendation for the split came three years ago from an external review team comprised of experts from the University of Texas, Georgia Institute of Technology and Vanderbilt University, Golsan said.

"It just kind of reached a point given the evolution of the department and the evolution of Texas and the world, that this was a much more natural division," Golsan said.

Arizpe said the split was the natural next step in the creation of the department because the Spanish section was looking to implement a doctorate program.

"There is a need for an interdisciplinary approach to issues that relate to the Hispanic population," Arizpe said.

Brannon Kroll, a graduate assistant teaching Spanish, said the split will allow Texas A&M to be recognized for being more culturally adept.

"The split will allow for more choices in upper level undergraduate courses, and hopefully it will provide more funding so that you can hire more teachers to teach the lower level classes," Kroll said.

Ralph Schoolcraft, associate professor of French, said the split allows for a more equitable division of resources, but also places the Euro Studies Department in a vulnerable position.

"We're now an extremely small unit," he said. "And that means we're also a small dot on the radar in the college's overall scheme of things."

Schoolcraft said the advantage is that Euro Studies can focus all its energies on finding solutions to the problems it faces due to its small size.

"All in all, the split allows each department to focus more on its own areas," Kroll said.

Merge

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department is the principal initiator of the UBM program. He said the program was created for undergraduates because there has been an increasing need for research in biology undergraduate programs.

"(The opposing opinion) speaks volumes for the need for this program, because nothing I do in my laboratory or in my classes can be understood completely without a mathematical basis," Cassone said. "We need to train students to think (about) biological questions from mathematical perspective. And a hope

our students will go on and go to the graduate schools and become professional scientists, taking advantage of what they learn in this program."

Newton said the National Science Foundation is hoping to permanently change the current biological curricula in the U.S. universities, adding more mathematical emphasis in biology, as biology increasingly involves mathematics.

"The potential here is very real. We are excited about the program from both biological and mathematical stand points. We expect more students will come in down the main stream," said Dr. Albert Boggess, head of the Department of Mathematics.

Enrollment

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seek additional ways to make our student body more reflective of the population of the state."

Perry said minority enrollment is higher this year because 2,300 socioeconomic-targeted scholarships have been created and that more than 50 percent of those scholarships have been given to students in those underrepresented areas. He said more than \$12 million has been reallocated to underwrite many of these scholarships, outreach efforts, recruitment and retention efforts for first-generation and disadvantaged groups.

"Some of it came from existing funds that already were being reallocated," Perry said. "Some percent of it also came from tuition increases. It's a combination of funds from different sources."

Kimberly Dyess, a junior civil engineering major, said it is a good idea if some of her tuition goes toward scholarships for disadvantaged socioeconomic groups.

"I think if a scholarship is earned by someone, regardless of race, then it sounds like a good thing," Dyess said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wavering voters opposed to Iraq, leery of Kerry

WASHINGTON — In an election where most voters have already chosen sides, the presidency could be decided by a small slice of America in the mushy middle — wavering voters who are more likely than others to question President Bush's honesty and think the

war in Iraq was a mistake.

An Associated Press poll of 1,329 "persuadable" voters, conducted by Knowledge Networks in advance of the presidential debates, suggests these people are deeply conflicted about change in the White House. While they have problems with Bush, they also have doubts about Democratic Sen. John Kerry's leadership skills and believe Bush is best suited to protect the nation.

One in every five voters is persuadable — including about 5 percent who tell pollsters they don't know who will get their vote and about 15 percent who say they are leaning toward one candidate but could switch to another. In past elections, as much as one-third fit that description, but most of the nation was quick to pick sides this year in the aftermath of the disputed 2000 election.



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7 p.m.
Wednesday, September 29
Room 206, MSC

SPEAKERS
David Peterson, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science
Paul Kellstedt, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science
Kurt Ritter, Professor of Communications

For more information, contact 845-1514 or visit <http://wiley.tamu.edu>

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