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Special election commissioner **Ryan Trantham** reads off Yell Leader election results in front of the new E. King Gill statue

Ritchie.
Lawrence.
Lanz.
Alders.
Wilder.

Revote finalizes Yell Leaders

Ritchie replaces Cook in revote that garnered more eligible ballots

By Jennifer Reiley

► The votes are in, and a student who is not in the Corps will once again serve as one of A&M's five Yell Leaders.

The results of the Yell Leader revote were announced at the new E. King Gill statue Thursday. The revote comes after Yell Leaders nullified the original Feb. 19-20 election, citing questionable tabulating methods.

The results of the revote were the same as the original vote held by the Student Government Association, with one exception — cadet Ben Ritchie replaced cadet Kyle Cook.

Ritchie, who currently serves as a Junior Yell Leader, is joined by non-reg Steven Lanz as well as cadet and current Junior Yell Leader Zachary Lawrence. Cadets Will Alders and Chris Wilder will be Junior Yell Leaders for the 2015-2016 school year.

Ryan Trantham, special election commissioner and Memorial Student Center president, said more votes were cast in the revote than in original election, with 11,433 eligible ballots cast for Senior Yell Leaders and 9,612 cast for Junior Yell Leaders.

Trantham said he believes the vote reflected student body opinion.

"There were very clear breaks in the votes, very clear indicators that these young men were the students that the student body wanted to see as Yell Leaders for next year, so I was very pleased with that," Trantham said.

Lawrence said he was pleased that roughly the same number of people voted the second time around.

"It doesn't matter what the results were," Lawrence said. "The ultimate point of elec-

YELL LEADER ON PG. 2

ELECTIONS

Benigno remains SBP-elect

J-Court ruling opts not to overturn election commissioner's decision

By Lindsey Gawlik & John Rangel

Joseph Benigno will remain A&M's student body president-elect, after A&M's Judicial Court ruled no action would be taken to reverse the election commissioner's decision not to fine Benigno's campaign.

J-Court's Thursday evening announcement resolved several election issues that centered around a Benigno campaign video titled "Go(Pro) with Joe." Former SBP candidate Michael Murtha's team asserted Benigno should be fined for several election regulation and state traffic violations seen in the video — an argument struck down by the court's plurality opinion.

The court's plurality opinion also found no fault in Election Commissioner Emma Douglas' decision to not fine Benigno for his actions in the video. Murtha's team argued Douglas' actions were biased in light of her earlier decision to fine former SBP candidate Isaiah Tsau for election violations.

Judicial Court's Murtha v. Douglas & Benigno decision addressed four issues in total, but the case often saw the court's nine justices closely split on the ruling's specifics. In narrow 5-4 majorities, five voted in Murtha's favor on whether or not off-campus campaign-



The J-Court appeal involving SBP candidates **Michael Murtha** (left) and **Joseph Benigno** (right) ended in Benigno retaining his position as SBP-elect.

ing did occur and five voted not to reverse Douglas' actions as election commissioner.

"This is by far the longest, most complicated and closest decision in Judicial Court history," wrote chief justice Brenton Cooper in an emailed statement.

The court voted 8-1 that Douglas showed no bias toward Benigno when she did not levy fines against his campaign, but did fine

Tsau for election violations. The vote went 6-3 to side with Benigno on whether his alleged state traffic violations should result in levied fines from Douglas.

Though he said Benigno would be a qualified SBP, Murtha said he is disappointed and thinks the ruling sets a precedent in future elections that rules can be broken without

SBP ON PG. 2

M. BASKETBALL

A&M looks to bolster resume in season finale against Alabama

By Carter Karels

► By losing to Florida in Gainesville Tuesday night, the Texas A&M basketball team enters what might be a must-win scenario.

The last game of the regular season will be played at 1 p.m. Saturday in Reed Arena against the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Alabama (17-13, 7-10 SEC) comes into the matchup with consecutive defeats. The Crimson Tide's most recent one came at the hands of Ole Miss on senior night, when the Rebels overcame a halftime deficit to win. In the loss, Alabama senior Levi Randolph finished one shy of his career high, tallying 32 points.

Randolph leads the Crimson Tide in scoring with 15.3 points per game and has logged double-digit performances in all but three games. This includes his outing against A&M on Jan. 6 in the conference opener, in which he shot 3-for-7 from the field with 10 points en route to a 65-44 Crimson Tide victory.

The Aggies (20-9, 11-6 SEC) were without their leading scorer and rebounder at the time, Jalen Jones, because of a reported ankle injury suffered in practice. The current leading scorer, Danuel House, started SEC play sluggishly, racking his third single-digit scoring

ALABAMA ON PG. 2



Kourtney Roberson shoots a free throw in a home win over Auburn.

W. BASKETBALL



Injured junior guard **Jordan Jones** (left) joins the rest of the A&M women in singing the Aggie War Hymn after the win Thursday.

Aggies clear first hurdle on path to SEC championship

By Milkyas Gashaw

► The 5-seed Texas A&M women's basketball team got one step closer to an SEC tournament crown with a 57-47 victory against the 13-seed Auburn Tigers Thursday in Little Rock.

The Aggies (23-8, 11-6 SEC) showed the Tigers (13-18, 3-14 SEC) a balanced offensive attack, with the No. 18 club getting double figures from Achiri Ade, Courtney Walker and Chelsea Jennings and Courtney Williams, who led the Aggies with 14 points.

Tra'Ce Carter led the way for the Tigers with 14 points and nine rebounds while Katie Frerking had a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

With the victory, the Aggies are slated to play LSU at 2:15 p.m. Friday. The Tigers got the better of the Aggies Sunday in an 80-63 victory.

Williams said they will take a new approach against the Tigers.

"We have to keep our turnovers down," Williams said. "We have to be poised and start out fast. We can't just die down and be careless as the game goes on."

TEXAS A&M MEN'S BASKETBALL
vs ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

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