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**B M/W, 5-6pm**  
 Oct 19, 21, 26, 28, Nov 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23

**D M/W, 6-7pm**  
 Oct 19, 21, 26, 28, Nov 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23

**Intermedlate Aerobic Exercise**

**F T/Th, 6-7pm**  
 Oct 20, 22, 27, 29, Nov 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24

**Beginning Aerobic Exercise**

**H M/W, 7-8pm**  
 Oct 19, 21, 26, 28, Nov 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23

**J T/Th, 5-6pm**  
 Oct 20, 22, 27, 29, Nov 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24

**K T/Th, 7-8pm**  
 Oct 20, 22, 27, 29, Nov 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24

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# A&M traffic panel offers opportunity to appeal tickets

By Deborah West  
 Reporter

Nine people presented cases to one of the Texas A&M Traffic Appeals Panels on Tuesday. Each panel is an objective body of students, faculty and staff. The three panels are divorced totally from the campus police department, Interim Vice President for Operations Jim Ferguson said.

"The appeals process works very well," Ferguson said. "The ticket is either successfully appealed and the \$10 fine is dropped, or the appeal is denied."

Charles Aris, a senior on the panel, said, "We work well together. We don't disagree too much because most cases are cut-and-dry."

After receiving a ticket, a person has ten days to file for an appeal at the campus police department.

Ferguson said, "We have the panels meet on different days each week to give the students an opportunity to pick a time that best fits their schedule."

The panel will have a full docket for the next three weeks because of backlogged cases from summer and fall, Ferguson said.

During each 10-minute case, the panel asks for the facts, discusses and clarifies the issues and renders a decision. The chairman votes when there is a tie, Aris said.

Chairman Gene Voelkel said, "The panel will dismiss a ticket if it was given under certain extenuating and mitigating circumstances."

Student Buster Desselles, said, "The panel treated me and my case very professionally. They were very courteous, fair and friendly."

Every appeal is unique. People appeal every type of traffic ticket, Ferguson said. "Some people are calm and cool when they present their case, and others are not," he said.

"All of the people are different," Ferguson said.

Aris said, "Every once in a while, there is a case that is really ridiculous. It really keeps you laughing." One graduate student appealed a ticket because he felt the 30 minute parking limit at the MSC was unfair. "He needed 40 minutes to eat a proper and nutritional breakfast," Aris said.

"We don't accomplish everything we want to," Aris said. "I don't feel the panel's recommendations are taken seriously, even though most of the people on the panel know more about the parking situation than the police do."

"People come in time after time with the same problems, and we give the same recommendations, but things are rarely corrected." Last year, the panel felt the big spaces used for recreational vehicles during football games should be divided into two places for weekday parking.

"The police arbitrarily ticket one of the two cars parked in an RV space," Aris said.

"I don't know how they can tell who parked there first, and who to ticket," Aris said.

# Official: New law to improve status of notaries

By Clark Miller  
 Staff Writer

A Texas law that went into effect Sept. 1 will try to improve the status of the state's notaries public, a state official said Monday.

Hugh Lea, general council for the Texas Notary Public Association, said the new law will require Texas notaries to keep complete and accurate records of all customers.

Notaries public authenticate legal transactions and documents, including birth certificates, transfers of car titles and real estate deals.

Texas lawmakers were forced to regulate the notaries public because of the growing number of civil suits filed against them, Lea said.

Eugenia Godfrey, a College Station notary public, said most lawsuits occur when people commit fraud — they claim to be another person

and sign documents using that false identity.

Godfrey, who has been a notary public for more than 30 years, said notaries public need to check for proper identification cards that have names and signatures on them to ensure the right person signs a document.

Lea agreed, saying civil suits occur when these precautions aren't followed, which is why the new law forces notaries public to get the name and signature of their clients in their records. Getting the signatures may protect notaries if they are sued, Lea said.

Earl Farmer, a notary in Pasadena, said he believes the law is needed.

Because of the loose regulations, Farmer said, some notaries public don't keep adequate records.

If it is enforced, the new law will change this problem, he said.

Lea said he doesn't think enforcement of the law will be a problem because the threat of lawsuits will force the notaries public to keep better records. He added that there may be spot checks on notaries public if the TNPA thinks the law isn't being followed.

Lea said it's important to penalize those ignoring the law, and it's important to protect notaries public from lawsuits.

"The law will bring about dramatic change," Lea said.

Lea said the TNPA is holding classes throughout the state to inform notaries public about the new law. Lea said anyone thinking of becoming a notary public should attend these classes.

The TNPA will hold classes at the Colleton Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in Bryan on Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

## Weather Watch

**Valid:** Noon Wednesday  
**Sunset Today:** 7:20 p.m.  
**Sunrise Thursday:** 7:09 a.m.

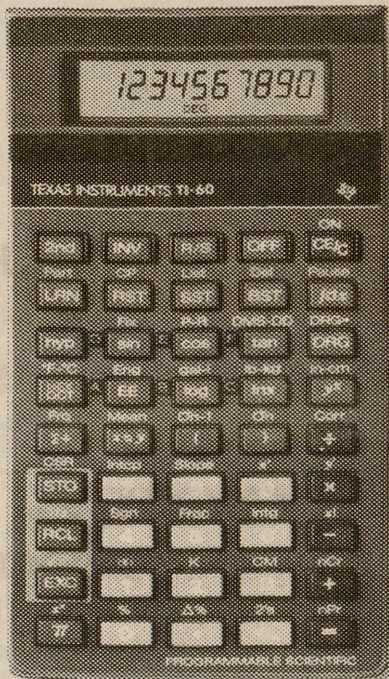
**Map Discussion:** The primary feature today through Thursday will be the low pressure system over Iowa and the trough of low pressure extending southwestward to Del Rio, which will produce heavy rain and thunderstorms locally. Some will reach severe limits. As the trough edges eastward, our chance of rain will increase for today.

**Forecast:**  
**Today:** Overcast skies will prevail through the morning while the afternoon will be mostly cloudy, warm and humid with a high temperature of 93 degrees and southerly winds of 8 to 14 mph. A 20 percent chance of rain.  
**Tonight:** Decreasing cloud cover and mild with a 20 percent chance of rain. Light winds from the south. Low temperature Thursday morning 74 degrees.  
**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy and thus slightly cooler with a high temperature of 92 degrees, south-south-westerly winds of 10 to 15 mph, and a continuing 30 percent chance of rain.

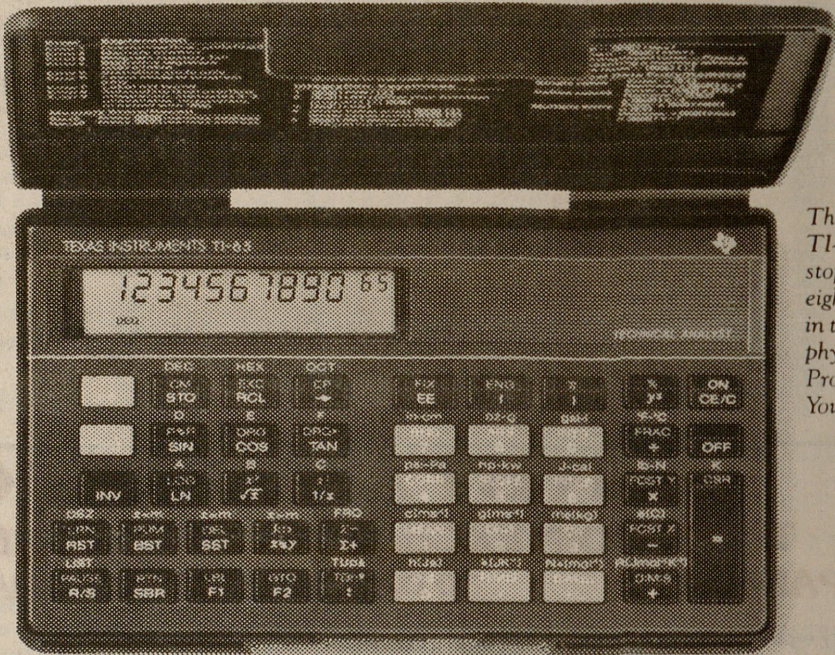
**Weather Fact:** An "area of high pressure" refers to a maximum of atmospheric pressure (in two dimensions) relative to surrounding pressures. Wind will always flow clockwise around a "high" in the northern hemisphere.

Prepared by: Charlie Brown  
 Staff Meteorologist  
 A&M Department of Meteorology

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