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**FORECAST**

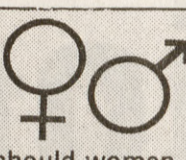
**Tuesday**

Cloudy  
High in mid-80s



**OPINION**

"Should the movement seek to make the sexes equal in a world created by men or should women refuse to conform to a world they were not allowed to help create?"  
— Tim Truesdale



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**SPORTS**

**Spring cleaning, almost**

A&M baseball team just misses sweeping Arkansas for the first time since 1977.

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**INSIDE**

**"Whether justice was done"**

Journalists from the alternative media urge Americans to doubt the reasons for fighting the war

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# The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 116 USPS 045360 10 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Monday, March 25, 1991

## Gov. Richards to address Spring 1991 graduates

**By Mike Luman**  
*The Battalion*

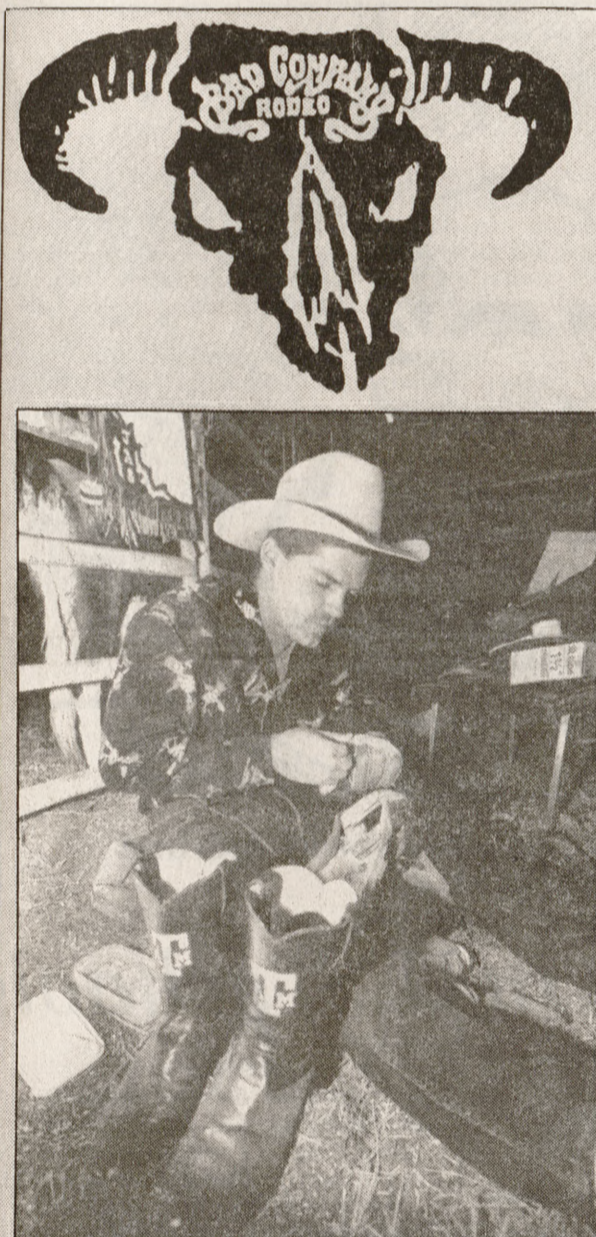
Gov. Ann Richards was confirmed as a spring commencement speaker during Friday's Texas A&M University System Board of Regents meeting. University President William Mobley, who contacted Richards, said she is scheduled to speak during the 2 p.m. May 10 ceremony. State Comptroller John Sharp will speak during the 7:30 p.m. May 10 ceremony, he said. The May 11 commencement speaker remains undecided.

In the first meeting for new regents Alison Leland and Mary Nan West, the Board approved a package of campus fee increases, including a graduate tuition rate hike. Resident graduate tuition will rise to more than double the present rate of \$20 per semester credit hour by 1993, the new rate depending on the minimum amount set by the Texas Legislature at the time. Non-resident graduate tuition will rise to more than \$160 per credit hour by 1993. Regents also approved several campus construction projects, including a \$1.3 million Easterwood Airport run-

way upgrade. The Board awarded the contract to Palasota Construction of Bryan. William McKenzie, during his last meeting as board chairman, said he expects the Federal Aviation Administration to pay all but 18 percent of the runway renovation. Regents considered and rejected three new plans for the proposed Lo-Trak project. McKenzie said he was not satisfied with any of the proposals. "We have agreed to give a substantive amount of time and money to this project, but if I had to go with one of these proposals I would not," McKenzie said.

The Board also accepted a \$452,352 construction bid by the Bryan firm Young Brothers, Inc. for repairs to Houston and Throckmorton streets. Action was delayed on a west campus expansion of A&M's library facilities. Under the delayed plan, a \$9 million library building would be constructed near the new College of Business Administration building. Regents approved preliminary design of the west campus College of Business building in January. In other business Friday, the Board approved the establishment of the Institute for Marine Life Sciences at Texas

A&M at Galveston. Mobley said the institute will bring together experts from the A&M system to study the effects of industry on coastal waterways. The institute will promote conservation of endangered species such as Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, and study long-term results of farming of marine animals, he said. The Board also approved a licensing agreement between the System and TechSource Development Corp., a Houston-based company, to work together for commercial development of a potential AIDS therapeutic treatment.



KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

### Bad to the bone

John Shirra, a junior agricultural science major at Texas A&M, applies rosin to his glove in preparation for the bareback riding event in the qualifying round of the annual Bad Company Rodeo Saturday night (left). Shirra's ride enabled him to compete in the finals on Sunday (above), where his combined score won him the victory. This win clinched him the Southern Region bareback riding championship in collegiate rodeo.

## Regents elect new chairman

**By Mike Luman**  
*The Battalion*

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on Friday elected Ross Margraves Jr. Board chairman and Douglas DeCluitt vice chairman. Margraves, Class of '63, said his goal will be maintaining quality education at universities in the A&M system while battling legislative budget shortfalls. "Things like administration and upkeep are important, but the students are our primary purpose for being here," Margraves said. "The goal is to provide the best quality of education possible." Margraves' election, however, comes during a crisis in Texas higher education funding, as former state Sen. Kent Caperton made clear to the Board Friday. Caperton, now a lobbyist for higher education interests, said state universities face an immediate \$800 million budget shortfall with the budget situation expected to worsen. "It's very sobering," Caperton said. "I don't see a solution ahead. I see a major train wreck." Caperton said A&M must find

new ways to cut expenses to offset the "staggering" budget shortfall. He said A&M realistically might be able to trim only a fraction of operating expenses paid by state funds. Margraves, a partner in the Houston law firm of Margraves, Kennerly and Schueler, P.C., said finances undoubtedly will dominate his attention as Board chairman. "A great deal of my time will be directed toward finding ways to increase finances of this System, sort of getting the most bang for your buck," Margraves said. Caperton's analysis of the financial situation is accurate, and the key to surviving the financial crisis is for the Board not to make mistakes, Margraves said. "We need to see every dollar spent is spent wisely, and make sure we don't pay for anything twice," he said. Margraves said his intent is to formulate plans with A&M's regents to get the most "mileage" out of University funds. "I think we just need to be smarter in decisions and money we spend," he said. "The Texas

**See Margraves/Page 4**

## Hutchison resists state tax proposal

**By Greg Mt. Joy**  
*The Battalion*

A proposed state income tax would take away an important advantage Texas has in attracting corporations, said State Treasurer Kay Bailey Hutchison Friday at Texas A&M. Hutchison spoke during a meeting of the College of Business Administration Development Council. She said the lack of a state income tax is one of the few advantages Texas has over other states. "When you ask a new business why they moved to Texas, they will usually give you two

reasons," she said. "One is the central location of our state, and the ability to get to either coast in the most efficient ways. Second is that there is no state income tax." Only six other states do not have a state income tax, Hutchison said. If one was implemented, Texas would lose economic development, she said. "In fact, a study of the last eight states to adopt a tax shows that all but one have already increased the tax in the last 10 years," she said. The lack of an income tax has helped businesses overlook

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## Land Commissioner connects environment, economic gain

**By Mack Harrison**  
*The Battalion*

Environmental solutions are intertwined with economic improvement, the Texas Land Commissioner said Saturday in Texas A&M's Rudder Auditorium. In the keynote address to The Oklahoma and Texas Environmental Meeting (TOTEM), Commissioner Garry Mauro said environmental concerns are changing the way economies operate, and regional businesses and government agencies must follow national trends. "This area of the country must get in on the beginning, using our initiative, resources, technology, brainpower and universities in ways that first change our economy and environment and then create economic growth and jobs for our states," Mauro said. "We either do that or we will be left behind." Mauro gave the Mexican government's decision to close down the March 18 Refinery in Mexico City for public health reasons as an example of chan-

ging business practices. "Mexico's experience also proves it's better to act before the situation is out of control," he said. However, the environment and the economy do not have to be enemies. Helping the environment does not mean hurting the economy, he said. "That's no law of nature," Mauro said. "It's a product of failed vision." Environmental cleanup also can be a catalyst for tremendous economic growth, he said. For example, converting from fossil fuels to natural gas not only reduces air pollution, it also benefits Texas' and Oklahoma's economies, Mauro said. Texas has 27.5 percent of the nation's natural gas reserves and Oklahoma ranks second in reserves among the 48 continental states, he said. "A nationwide environmental cleanup emphasizing natural gas would mean hundreds of thousands of new jobs for our region," Mauro said. "Billions of dollars in annual

**See Mauro/Page 6**

## Environmentalists gather for first TOTEM conference

**By Mack Harrison**  
*The Battalion*

Environmentalists from Brownsville to Bartlesville, Okla. converged on Texas A&M this weekend for The Oklahoma and Texas Environmental Meeting (TOTEM). Students and speakers from Texas and Oklahoma met for the first time to share ideas from their respective communities. Participants attended activities that included workshops, speeches, concerts and fieldtrips. More than 130 people had registered for the conference by Friday evening, with more participants arriving the next day, said Mary Albert, TOTEM public relations chairwoman. "There's a lot of people coming into town just for Saturday," Albert said. The Texas Environmental Action Coalition played host

to the regional conference. Bryan-College Station residents also participated in TOTEM, she said. Sixteen local restaurants offered discounts to TOTEM participants, and local groups participated in an ecofair Sunday. "We feel like the communities and A&M have given excellent support," Albert said. Scott Hantman, conference coordinator, said the conference was going "super." "I'm so happy everything's going as planned," he said. "We've got a good turnout." TOTEM also offered a unique activity Saturday morning. Marchers in the "Think Green" Silent Walk journeyed from Rudder Tower to the field between the O&M Building and the Langford Architecture Center. The walk emphasized per-

**See TOTEM/Page 4**

## Train collision leaves student hospitalized

A Texas A&M student remained in Humana Hospital in serious condition following a collision with a Union Pacific train near the corner of Wellborn and Cain roads. Witnesses say Debbie Noel Wilks, 27, did not notice the northbound train that struck her

Chevy 5-10 pickup about 2 a.m. Saturday. Wilks was heading east on Cain Road about one-half mile south of College Station. D. P. S. Officer Bobby Gideon said Wilks had a .02 blood alcohol level, the equivalent of one beer. Wilks was alone in the car.