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FORECAST

Wednesday

Cloudy High 85



OPINION

"Don't buckle up because the law tells you to. I agree, it's a governmental intrusion into your private life. But do it anyway, because the damn things work." — Larry Cox

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SPORTS

Successful tune-up

12th-ranked A&M baseball team destroys TSU 14-3, 15-0 in non-conference twinbill.

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INSIDE

TOEJAM WONDER

Musician overcomes handicap to become accomplished guitarist.

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The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 118 USPS 045360 8 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Wednesday, March 27, 1991

Election allows students to decide future of cable TV issue

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

Texas A&M residence hall students will vote today and Thursday on the hotly contested issue of whether to install cable in every dormitory room for a yearly student fee.

The TCA Cable referendum proposes a \$20 charge per dorm room resident. The charge would be added to housing rent, and students would receive 34 basic cable channels. Cable service would be active all year, beginning in the 1992-93 school year.

If students vote in favor of the proposal, Business Services and the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents must approve the change.

Residence Hall Association president Kyle Jacobson said he recognizes both sides of the issue, and although the extra charge seems unnecessary, it benefits students wanting cable.

Jacobson said students with cable might be paying for other students who are "stealing" cable by splicing into cable wires. He said students

"stealing" cable services would not want to pay \$20 so all students get a good rate.

"It's a burden that people who don't have cable have to face," Jacobson said.

However, some students said they have legitimate reasons for believing cable is an unnecessary expense.

DJ Coughran, a senior resident of Keathley Hall, doesn't think it's fair for all residence hall students to subsidize cable.

"I don't think cable is a necessary

part of college life," Coughran said.

Coughran said if students strongly favor cable, a better proposal can be made. She said an automatic payment from A&M to TCA Cable will lower the quality of service because the company won't see any reason to be competitive.

"I think if there's more pressure, the prices will go down," Coughran said.

Freshmen and sophomore members of the Corps of Cadets are not allowed to have TVs in their rooms, so the \$20 will be a wasted expense for them.

"For anybody it's a waste," said Robert Grygar, a freshman in the Corps. "When do you have time to watch TV?"

Other residence hall students said the proposal is fair and will benefit most students.

Shelley O'Neal, a sophomore resident of Legett Hall, said students will get a better cable rate through the proposal. She said even students who don't have their own televisions will

See Students/Page 4

Ag leaves desert heat for warmth of family

By Liz Tisch
The Battalion

After 15 months in the Saudi Arabian desert, Maj. Robert Siegert, Class of '74, returned home to College Station Tuesday evening to find waving flags, colorful signs and open arms from family and friends.

Siegert, a former member of the Aggie Band, was operations officer for the 210th Field Artillery Brigade during the 100-day war with Iraq.

The major, dressed in his Desert Storm fatigues, said it was good to be home as he hugged his tearful 13-year-old daughter Jennifer.

Before her father's arrival, Jennifer said she was anxious to finally talk to him.

"Communication with my dad was really hard," she said. "He did not receive a lot of the mail that I had sent him."

Siegert, looking tired but happy, told the crowd he was not expecting this type of welcome home party.

"To see all the yellow ribbons gave me a warm feeling inside," he said. "All this support has made a big difference in the soldiers' morale."

Siegert's father, a retired colonel after 30 years of military service and a Vietnam veteran, agreed.

"When I fought in the Vietnam War, the soldiers did not feel much support from the nation," Siegert's father said. "The war I ex-

Major Robert W. Siegert is greeted by his grandmother Lillian Clary, (right) Tuesday evening. His daughter, Jennifer Siegert, (below) looks down the street from her house in anticipation of his return.



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KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

State official evaluates cleanup of Bee Creek following contamination

By Sean Frerking
The Battalion

Texas Water Commission field investigator Joy Watson will return to College Station in a few days to evaluate cleanup efforts at chlorine-contaminated Bee Creek.

A half-mile section of the creek near Pepper Tree Apartments, 2701 Longmire Drive, was contaminated with chlorine Monday after 15,000 gallons of pool water emptied by Mobley Pool Co. drained into the creek.

Bee Creek flows directly into Carter Creek, which flows into the Navasota River.

Watson, a field investigator in the Waco divi-

sion of the TWC, said Tuesday her office had received test results from the creek and found "elevated levels of chlorine" in the water.

The higher-than-normal amounts of chlorine might have caused the death of fish in the area, but her department could not assess what killed the fish until further tests could be conducted, she said.

Texas A&M scientists in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are analyzing fish tissue to determine the exact cause of death, she said.

"Right now, we don't know what it was," Watson said. "It could have been a lot of things. But with the evidence we have, it (the cause of death)

See TWC/Page 7

Official urges boycott of grapes

Spokeswoman cites working conditions

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion



Rebecca Flores Harrington

She said they make about \$3,000 a year for about six months of work. Little or no field sanitation is provided for workers, and no guarantees are given that pesticides will not harm workers.

Harrington said many workers bring their children to pick fruit, which exposes them to dangerous pesticides such as Captain, Parathion, Phosdrin, Dinoseb and Methyl Bromide.

She said companies told the workers the pesticides were safe

— "if it is good for the plants it must be good for the workers too."

But she said research into the pesticides has not resulted in discovering if the pesticides are safe or not.

After giving a brief background of her organization's struggle against fruit companies in California, Texas and Florida, she showed a short film urging people to boycott grapes.

The film depicts life in California for the grape pickers, including several families whose children had developed cancer, most likely due to pesticides.

Harrington said all grapes should be boycotted, even if they are grown "organically."

She said California law allows the use of synthetic chemicals on fruit that is labeled organic.

Pesticides contaminate water, land and air, she said.

She said it is more difficult in Texas than in California to iden-

tify how much pesticide is used because Texas companies do not have to report pesticide use to Austin.

However, Texas does have a law that calls for companies to post signs near fields which have been sprayed recently.

But the law is weak because it only applies to pesticides with a seven-day or more waiting period before the fields are safe, she said.

"We need to recognize we have a lot of strength in what we choose to buy," she said.

Strawberries, peaches and other soft fruits also should be avoided, because the pesticides permeate the skin, she said. Fruits with thicker skins, like apples and oranges, keep pesticides from penetrating the fruit.

Cesar Chavez, a national figure in the fight against pesticides, will be speaking April 17 in Rudder Auditorium.

Summer sections closed

The following is nearly a complete list of courses that have been closed indefinitely for the summer terms.

Section numbers beginning with a "1" are first summer session courses, and those beginning with a "2" are second summer session courses. Courses followed by an asterisk have all sections closed.

ANTH 205 . 100	HIST 226 . 202
ECON 202 . 102,200	HIST 345 . 100*
ECON 203 . 100	HIST 368 . 100*
ECON 311 . 100	HIST 402 . 150*
ECON 323 . 102	JOUR 214 . 101
ENGL 103 . 101-104, 201,202	JOUR 273 . 100*
ENGL 104 . 101-103,107,110,111,113,114	POLS 206 . 101,201,202
ENGL 203 . 102,201,202,204	POLS 207 . 101,201,202
ENGL 210 . 100,200*	POLS 331 . 100,200*
ENGL 212 . 100	POLS 442 . 100*
ENGL 221 . 100*	PSYC 107 . 102,103,202,203
ENGL 227 . 100*	PSYC 307 . 100
ENGL 228 . 101,202	PSYC 315 . 200
ENGL 231 . 101,200	PSYC 345 . 100*
ENGL 301 . 101,102,106,109,110,113-115,117	PSYC 351 . 100*
FREN 101 . 100*	PSYC 485 . 100,108,115,120,124,131,133,136,144,200,208,215,220,231*
FREN 201 . 100*	SCOM 403 . 101-103,107,110-113,203
SPAN 101 . 101,102,103*	SOCI 205 . 103,104,201,204
SPAN 201 . 101,102,103*	SOCI 304 . 100*
HIST 105 . 101,200	SOCI 315 . 100
HIST 106 . 100	THAR 110 . 200