

**FORECAST**  
**Tuesday**  
 Partly Cloudy  
 High 85°

**OPINION**  
 "Early registration for graduating seniors would make life a little easier on everyone."  
 — Ellen Hobbs  
**page 2**

**SPORTS**  
**Back on track**  
 Texas A&M baseball team sweeps twinbill from Rice to climb back into SWC race  
**page 5**

**INSIDE**  
**Wolf Pen Creek**  
 Architects' designs and engineers' plans for phase I of the College Station project are nearing completion.  
**page 3**

# The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 131 USPS 045360 8 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Monday, April 15, 1991

## State submits school funding plan

AUSTIN (AP) — The last time the state faced Texas Judge F. Scott McCown in court, he gave officials a stern warning: This time, they must reform the school finance system so that all children are treated equitably. When the state returns to court Monday, it will be with a plan designed to do that by shifting hundreds of millions of dollars in local property tax revenue from wealthier to poorer school districts. It's a new step, and a frightening one for some Texans. Some critics have called the plan socialistic. But unless they enjoy being the target of righteous anger, they don't do it more than once in the hearing of Senate Education Committee Chairman Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur.

Here are important events in the course of the school finance case:  
**July 13, 1984** - Gov. Mark White signs House Bill 72, the education reform measure passed by lawmakers in special session in an attempt to equalize school funding.  
**Oct. 2, 1989** - The Texas Supreme Court unanimously declares the school finance system



unconstitutional and calls for lawmakers to devise a new one.  
**Feb. 27, 1990** - Legislature begins meeting in special session to address the court ruling. It is the first of four special sessions.  
**June 7, 1990** - Gov. Bill Clements signs Senate Bill 1, a reform measure giving schools an additional \$528 million in state money this school year.



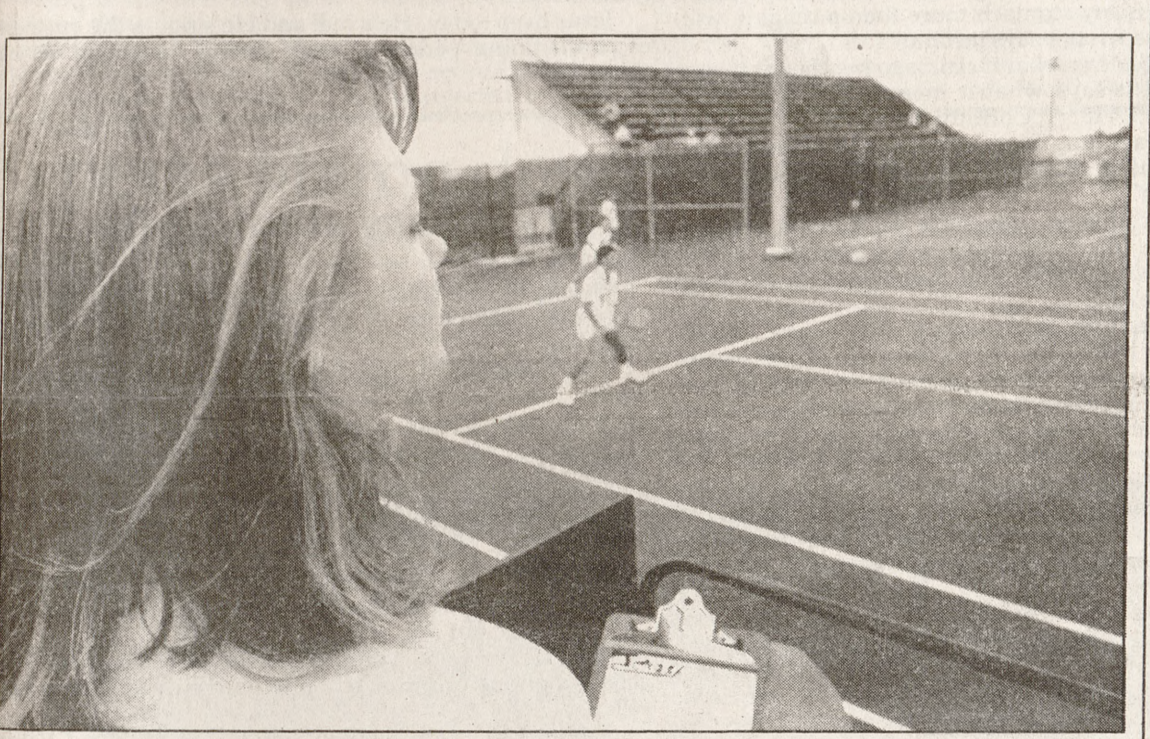
**Jan. 22, 1991** - Texas Supreme Court again rules the public school funding system unconstitutional and gives lawmakers until April 1 to come up with a new one.  
**March 26, 1991** - With the Senate poised to vote, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock releases figures showing the compromise bill would cost nearly \$14 billion

"It just crawls all over me for somebody to describe that as socialism," he said. "Socialism is where the state owns the means of production and tries to make everybody equal in what they have. "What this does, it takes the wealth of the state as a whole and tries to give every citizen an equal shot or opportunity to have the same level of education."

## Roads close today

Several roads on Texas A&M's campus will be closed indefinitely beginning today to allow for repair and reconstruction projects. Houston Street was expected to be closed from Joe Routh Boulevard to the entrance to Parking Area 48 (the new visitor lot) earlier this morning. Faculty and staff members assigned to Parking Area (PA) 46 adjacent to the Read Building are asked to use PA 48 until the first phase of Houston Street reconstruction is completed. They should access PA 48 from Houston Street via George Bush Drive. When entering the parking area, individuals holding PA 46 permits should take a visitor

ticket, which will be validated at no cost when leaving. Completion of the Houston Street reconstruction is scheduled to coincide with the completion of the University Center Parking Garage, scheduled for opening late this summer. A companion project to the Houston Street reconstruction is the repair and reconstruction of Throckmorton Street from Lewis Street to George Bush Drive. This section of Throckmorton will be closed at various times during the reconstruction period. Southbound traffic on Throckmorton will be required to detour by way of Lewis and Bizzell streets when "road closed" signs are posted on Throckmorton.



**Hosting the Hogs**  
 Cheryl Williams, a member of the 30-Loves, keeps score during a men's doubles match Sunday at the A&M-Arkansas dual match. The meet continued Sunday despite being rained out Saturday.

# Chancellor Schwarzkopf?

Regent calls reported offer 'speculation'

**"We're conducting a search, but we made it a policy not to disclose people we are interviewing ..."**  
 — Regent Ross Margraves

By Mike Luman  
*The Battalion*  
 Operation Desert Storm Commander Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf is considering an offer to become chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, the Dallas Morning News reported Saturday. Ross Margraves, chairman of the A&M Board of Regents, said Sunday the report was speculation, but did not deny contacting Schwarzkopf about the position. "We're conducting a search, but we made it a policy not to disclose people we are interviewing — whether it's John Doe, Gen. Schwarzkopf or whoever," Margraves said. State Comptroller John Sharp, an A&M graduate, said in a Saturday wire report that University officials contacted Schwarzkopf about the chancellor

position and both parties seem interested. Sharp also said he has heard plans for an A&M representative to travel to Europe and discuss the job with Schwarzkopf. Margraves said he did not know where Sharp got the information. He called the report speculation, and said Sharp has no affiliation with the Board's search committee. "Until those we are considering for the position elect to discuss it themselves, we have asked the Board to keep all information confidential," Margraves said. Sharp said he believes Schwarzkopf will be attracted to the job because of A&M's strong military tradition. "From Schwarzkopf's point of view, I am sure the military part of A&M is something that is appealing to him," Sharp said in

the wire story. "It produces the largest amount of military officers of any school in the nation outside the military academies." Schwarzkopf, 56, recently announced his plans to retire from the Army within a few months. He is expected to return to Tampa, Fla. in a month. A 32-year Army veteran, Schwarzkopf is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. If reports are true and Schwarzkopf accepts the job, he will replace Interim Chancellor Ed Hiler. Hiler has held the chancellor position since December when former chancellor Perry Adkisson resigned. The position pays \$63,036 a year, and usually is supplemented by private income sources. Chancellors also receive a house in the Bryan-College Station area with utilities paid.



## Rainy weather proves no match for annual Big Event volunteers

By Troy D. Hall  
*The Battalion*  
 Rainy weather on Saturday did not hamper Big Event, the annual Texas A&M service project to repay the Bryan-College Station communities for their support of the University. "Big Event is the students' way to show the University's appreciation to the community," said Suzanne Greever, Big Event promotions coordinator. "Big Event makes individual organizations look good, while making A&M look good." She said this year's Big Event was the largest in its nine-year history. The committee had not received final numbers, but Greever estimated more than 1,000 people attended the kickoff at Olsen Field where students participated in an Aggie yell practice and the formation of a human American flag. She estimated more than 3,000 people worked throughout the community on 115 projects. Many of the projects were coordinated through the city governments of Bryan and College Station. Several A&M organizations worked on demolishing and refurbishing the exterior of 15 houses and storage sheds in the east gate area of College Station. Greever said the houses were given a complete facelift, while Corps of Cadets groups demolished a few abandoned storage sheds in the targeted east gate area. The Horticulture Society spent the day landscaping the Crestview Retirement Community, while A&M sororities cleaned up along several major Bryan-College Station streets. Another group went to the Still Creek Boys Ranch near Kerten to paint buildings, build a storage shed and clean the pool. While weather was not a major factor in the project, there were some temporary delays. "A good percentage of the jobs were completed Saturday," Greever said. She said the few projects not completed would be finished by the weekend. The Big Event Committee thanked students and campus organizations for the success of the project. "Everyone in the community we talked to appreciated the hard work," she said.

## Top stories from Friday's Battalion

**Editor's Note:** Because of Friday's power outage on campus, *The Battalion* ran only a limited number of papers. The following is a summary of Friday's major local stories for readers who might have missed them:  
 □ Texas A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum restructured the 12th Man Kickoff Team, deciding to use only one player to represent the student body, rather than fielding an entirely non-scholarship kickoff team.  
 □ Three A&M faculty members testified before the Committee for a Discrimination-Free Campus on Thursday, saying they approve of President Mobley's decision to remove sexual preference from the University's anti-harassment and discrimination policies.  
 □ An A&M student worker quit her job in the Department of Physics after she was forced to choose between selling review materials, and grading papers and calling roll in the same class.  
 □ Three trade officials from the United States, Mexico and Canada said President Bush must get permission from Congress to freely negotiate a trilateral trade agreement or the agreement will fall through. The three men were in town for the MSC Wiley Lecture Series.

# Circuit fault causes interruption in campus power

By Bridget Harrow  
*The Battalion*  
 Electrical power to most of Texas A&M's main campus went out Friday when a fault occurred in a major circuit supplied from the University's utilities plant. The power outage occurred at about 7 a.m. when a circuit breaker did not operate properly, causing the backup main bus-duct and generator breakers to open, said a statement released by A&M's Office of Public Information. Dick Williams, associate director for maintenance and modifications at A&M's Physical Plant, said in the statement that all generation sources from the Utilities Plant were shut down. There also was a momentary loss of power from Brazos Electric, which was restored after a few minutes, he said. Brazos Electric supplies supplemental power to the main campus but has a capacity to serve only a portion of the main campus, Williams said. Some classes and scheduled tests were cancelled as a result of the blackout. Power was restored to many campus buildings by 2 p.m. Williams said other buildings near the original power fault were brought back on line by 3:30 p.m. when the damaged circuit connection was repaired. Some buildings, such as Zachry Engineering Center, were unaffected because they have individual auxiliary power generators. A&M's phone registration system, however, was completely shut off because of the power outage, Assistant Registrar Willis Ritchey said. Friday was supposed to be phone registration for sophomores with last names beginning with H through O. "Phone registration lines were working at 6 a.m. and were available for 55 minutes," Ritchey said. Phone registration was extended until midnight Friday and opened up Saturday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. to accommodate students who were unable to register during the power outage. Williams said the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents appropriated \$4 million for the purchase of two powerful transformers to improve power reliability to the main campus. The transformers should be in place within 18 months.