


**FORECAST**

**Wednesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
High 80



**OPINION**

"I'm sure a good time was had by all and, amidst the growling, chirping, howling and slurping — an Eco-warrior was born."  
— Larry Cox

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**SPORTS**

**Clean Sweep**

A&M beats Rice to complete series sweep and move into a tie for 4th place in the SWC

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**INSIDE**

**EDITORS NAMED**

Editors named for Battalion, Aggeland and Aggievision staffs

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# The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 135 USPS 045360 8 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Tuesday, April 16, 1991

## College Republicans protest use of fees for Forum speaker

By Timm Doolen  
The Battalion

One Texas A&M student organization is protesting the use of student services fees to bring nationally known liberal activist Cesar Chavez to the University on Wednesday night.

Scott Kibbe, former chairman of the A&M College Republicans, said Monday if student services fees are to be

used, then the groups bringing the speakers should give equal opportunity to all sides of the issue.

Chavez's speech is sponsored by MSC Political Forum, Great Issues and the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture (CAMAC).

Chavez will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Rudder Auditorium.

Kibbe and MSC representatives meet today to determine if the College Republicans will be allowed to have a ta-

ble outside Chavez's speech to present an opposing point of view.

Chavez gained national recognition for his years of struggle to unionize and secure better working conditions for farm workers.

Rob Fowler, MSC executive vice president for programs, said the MSC strives to bring an overall balance of programming throughout the year.

Kibbe said another problem with Chavez's speech is that the \$5,000 fee

used to bring him to campus is going to the United Farm Workers, a union consisting mostly of migrant farm workers.

Delia Muñoz, chairwoman of CAMAC, said the UFW is Chavez's agent, and it is not unusual for money to go to the agent of a speaker.

Kibbe said he would not be upset if there was a balance of speakers or if student services fees were not used.

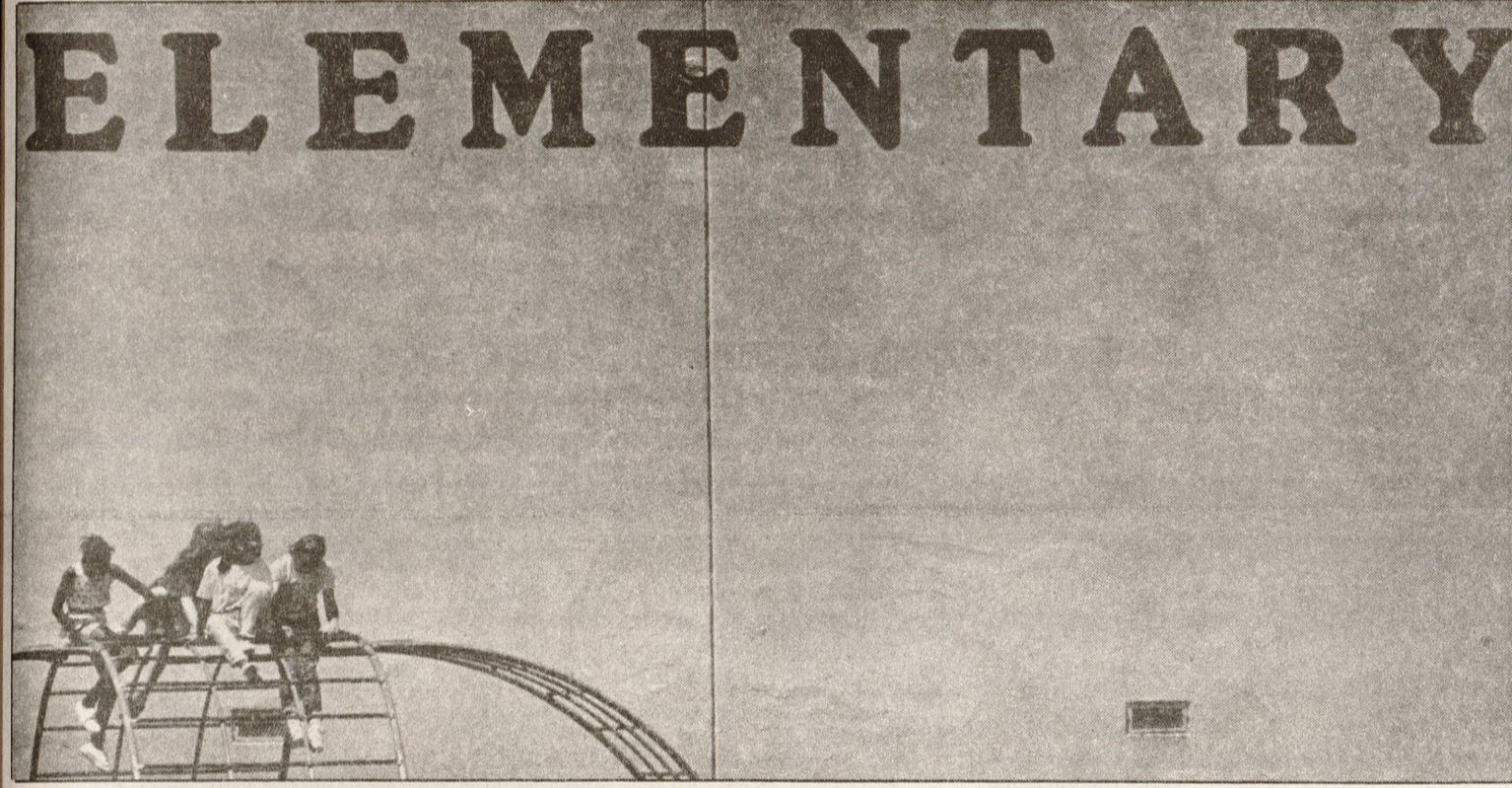
"We're not against Chavez coming

to campus," Kibbe said. "The problem is if they're going to pay this kind of money, there should be a balance."

Fowler said students and faculty have reacted positively to the program, which is intended to be educational, not political.

Kibbe said he wants the MSC to make an honest commitment to bring in other speakers of varying political background.

## Governor signs bill into law



### Court would consider challenges, judge says

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards signed the \$1.3 billion school finance bill into law Monday, about 20 minutes before the court hearing began. State District Judge F. Scott McCown said he got copies with "the ink hardly yet dry."

Lawmakers have battled over the reform plan since late January, and they missed the Supreme Court's April 1 deadline for action.

McCown said Monday he will presume Texas' new school finance law is constitutional, allowing state education aid payments to go out as scheduled later this month.

However, he emphasized that the court keeps its jurisdiction over the issue. He said any challenges to the school finance law would be considered, even if they are not filed for several years.

"Should the Legislature somehow depart from Senate Bill 351 (the reform measure), or should it not be funded, or should expe-

rience show two or three years from now that it hasn't worked, the court continues to retain jurisdiction to make its judgment effective," McCown said.

The law, designed to meet a Texas Supreme Court order to even out funding to school districts, would shift hundreds of millions of dollars in local property tax revenue from wealthier to poorer school districts.

It would cause an estimated \$400 million increase in local property taxes and cost the state \$1.3 billion over the next two years.

Rich and poor school districts said they are studying the measure to decide whether to oppose it in court. McCown said he would quickly set a hearing if a challenge is filed.

Lawyer Al Kauffman of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, representing poor school districts, said there were problems

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### Monkeyin' around

Tyewanika Davis, Ginger Shugart, Monica Loza and Leslie Killough, fourth graders at South Knoll Elementary School, play on the monkey

bars during recess Monday. Monday's signing of the school finance bill allows for the continuation of scheduled state aid payments to schools.

JAY JANNER/The Battalion

## Expert says reform bill fails to instruct schools on spending of funds

By Jayme Blaschke  
The Battalion

One Texas A&M business professor said he believes the new school reform bill signed by Gov. Ann Richards today does little to improve the overall quality of education in Texas.

"The new plan definitely helps some districts at the lower end of the spectrum — those that are so poor that anything would improve their situation," Dr. Jared Hazleton said. "Unfortunately, this bill doesn't tell districts how

to spend money. More money alone won't solve the problem. That money must be wisely spent."

Hazleton, an expert on public school financing and director of A&M's Center for Business and Economic Analysis, said Texas still faces major problems in its public education system.

He said the bill tries to correct inequities in school finance by redistributing property tax revenue and committing more state money to education.

Many poorer school districts, however, are not satisfied with the plan and might file suit against it, Hazleton

said.

"Right now I don't know whether the court will permit the plan to stand," Hazleton said. "The biggest problem is while the bill increases the money available to poorer districts, it doesn't cap the spending of rich ones."

Because spending caps are not set, richer districts could go back and increase the property tax in their area, giving them more money to work with, he said.

Although the state would redistribute a percentage of the extra income among the poorer districts, the richer

districts ultimately have more money, Hazleton said.

"The judge said the case would be continued to September," he said. "Unless the case was appealed, the new finance plan would be upheld."

"As of today there had been no motions filed, but no one really expects the plan to make it to September unchallenged," he said.

If the plan is challenged, it probably will be rejected by the state court because of the lack of spending caps, Hazleton said. The court has implied in previous rulings it considers the lack of

spending caps unconstitutional, he said.

"The bill goes some way toward fixing the problems of the educational system," Hazleton said. "But as long as the state depends on property tax for school revenue, there will be inequity."

He said continued reliance on property tax at the Capitol translates into higher property taxes at the local level.

"Sooner or later the property tax will have to be replaced with some other form of revenue, such as a state income tax," Hazleton said.

## Endangered digs?

Archaeologist: War may have damaged sites

By Bridget Harrow  
The Battalion

Allied bombing of Iraq during the Persian Gulf War may have caused damage to any one of a half million excavation sites within the country, a prominent archaeologist said Monday.

Dr. McGuire Gibson, a professor of Mesopotamian archaeology at the University of Chicago, spoke to about 100 Texas A&M students and faculty members about his archaeological digs in Iraq — mainly in the city of Nippur, which is located in the south of Iraq between the cities of Baghdad and Bastrop.

Gibson's presentation was sponsored by Interdisciplinary Program in Religious Studies.

"Before, when I spoke to an audience about my work, I would have to show where Iraq is," Gibson said. "Now it is well-known."

Gibson said before the Persian Gulf War he hoped to help bring a Mesopotamian exhibition containing 200-to-300 artifacts to the United States in 1992. He said the exhibition — on display at the Iraq National Museum — contains jewelry found in the tombs of the queens of Assyria that is supposed to be more elaborate than anything found in the tomb of the Egyptian king, Tutankhamen.

"We are still hoping to bring it to the United States sometimes, but it's going to have to be negotiated for a very long

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## University relocates cars to allow for reconstruction of two streets

By Jayme Blaschke  
The Battalion

People who parked their cars on Houston and Throckmorton streets Monday morning found empty spaces awaiting them when they returned later in the day.

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, said the University moved the vehicles so construction could begin on the two streets.

"This past weekend PTTS tried calling the owners of the cars that were parked there to let them know they needed to move, but I think there were about a half dozen we couldn't reach," Williams said.

"We blocked off the streets and began towing cars at 9 a.m., relocating them to the lot behind the police station."

The towing should amount to little more than an inconvenience for students, he said.

The University is paying the towing expenses so students should not worry about being billed

for the move.

"Most students understand these things happen from time to time, but if any students have problems finding their cars, they should call UPD," Williams said.

Reconstruction plans for Houston and Throckmorton streets were approved during the March meeting of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents meeting.

The streets will be widened and repaved in preparation for the opening of the new parking garage.

During construction, Houston Street will be closed from Joe Routh Boulevard to the entrance to Parking Area 48.

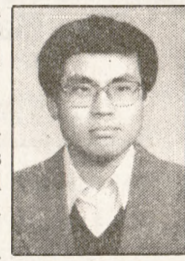
Throckmorton Street will be closed from Lewis Street to George Bush Drive.

Williams said he hopes both reopen by the end of summer before students come back in the fall.

Until the first phase of reconstruction is completed, faculty and staff members assigned to Parking Area 46 should use PA 48, and on-campus students can use PA 89 behind the police station, Williams said.

## Graduate student dies on campus

Funeral and memorial services for a Texas A&M graduate student who died last week on campus are scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Calloway-Jones Funeral Home in Bryan.



Hou Huiwen, 28, a graduate student in chemical engineering, collapsed Thursday afternoon after moving a 160-liter, steel liquid nitrogen tank from the Physics Building to the Joe Richardson Petroleum Engineering Building.

An ambulance was called and Hou was taken to a local hospital, where he died 15 minutes later.