

The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

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The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M students, administrators, faculty or the A&M Board of Regents.

The Battalion is an entirely student-managed branch of Student Publications, an independent entity that operates closely with the Department of Journalism.

The Battalion is published daily, except Saturday, Sunday, holidays, exam periods and when school is not in session during fall and spring semesters; publication is Tuesday through Friday during the summer session. Newsroom: 845-3313.

Subscriptions

Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year: 845-2611.

Our address: *The Battalion*, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.

Advertising

Advertising information can be obtained from the advertising department at 845-2696 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit the office at the English Annex.

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BATTIPS

The Battalion encourages its readers to contribute story ideas and suggestions by calling BATTIPS, *The Battalion's* phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people. Readers also are encouraged to offer any other suggestions that could improve the newspaper.

Avoid damaging rays of summer sunshine

By Michelle Herren
Special to The Battalion

Now that summertime is here, one pressing question is how to prevent sun damage.

Obviously, avoiding the sun completely is the best solution, but not a very practical one.

We can, however, try to avoid the sun during the worst hours of the day, or from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you are outside during these times, be sure to use a sun screen.

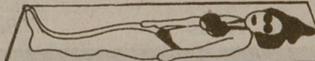
The SPF (Sun Protection Factor) number tells you how much protection you are getting from the sun.

A common myth is that if SPF 15 is good, then a higher number is even better.

That, however, is not necessarily true. If you multiply the SPF number by the amount of time it usually takes you to burn, you will have the length of time you are protected from the sun.

For example, if you usually burn in 30 minutes and you use an SPF 4, you can stay in the sun

for 2 hours. SPF 2 blocks about 50 percent of the sun while SPF 15 blocks 93 percent of the sun's harmful rays. After SPF 15, protection increases very little.



Another common myth is that you will not burn on a cloudy day. That simply is not true. More than 80 percent of the

harmful ultraviolet rays pass through clouds.

You also can sunburn through three feet of water while you are swimming or from the reflective rays off the water.

Another area that is important to protect is your eyes. Sunglasses stop a person from squinting and allow the pupils to widen, letting in more light.

There are sunglasses that are coated to provide protection

from UV rays. Uncoated glasses let in more harmful rays which can lead to serious eye problems.

Your best bet is to purchase sunglasses that protect the eyes against UV rays.

The damage to your eyes is cumulative, so start wearing protected sunglasses as soon as possible.

For more information on sun damage, stop by the A.P. Beasly Health Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday during Summer Health Day '91, or call 845-1341.

Board scolds principal for prom incident

NEWTON (AP) — The sister of a black student who was asked to leave the senior prom because he arrived with a white date is unhappy with the school board's decision to reprimand the principal.

Principal Lidney Thompson was reprimanded Monday by the school board after a closed-door session with Carrie Levias, the sister and guardian of James Weaver.

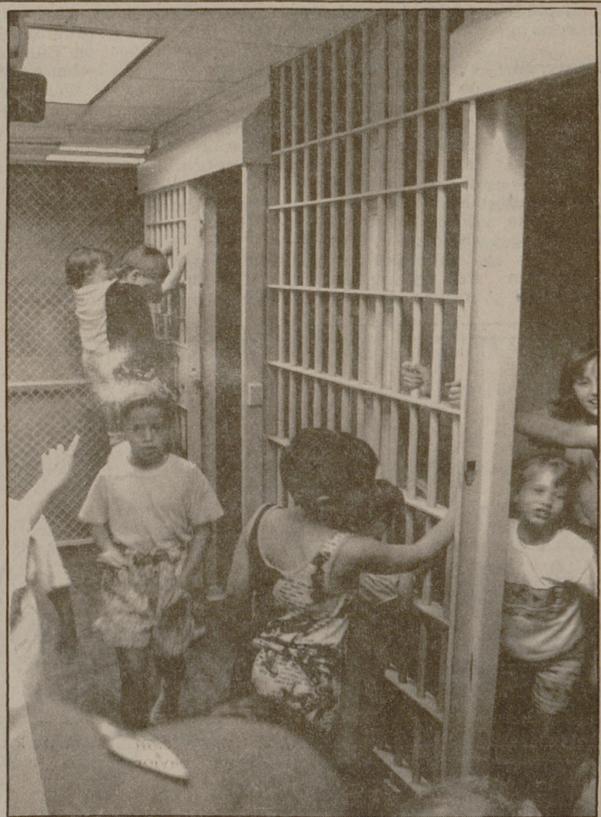
"A letter of reprimand has been written as dictated by our attorney and has been placed in Mr. Thompson's personnel file by me personally," said Thomas Inman, school board president.

Levias said she was unhappy with the board's decision because she had wanted trustees to fire or reassign Thompson.

Thompson had asked Weaver to leave the Newton High School prom in May after the 19-year-old senior arrived with companion Sara Moak.

Thompson said he asked the two to leave because he feared allowing a mixed-race couple into the prom might have sparked a fight between black and white students.

At a May 10 board meeting, the principal apologized for the prom decision, saying he made an "insensitive error" when he asked the couple to leave.



Wildly exploring the holding cell at the Bryan Police Station, these children in the Jack and Jill summer camp program enjoyed their tour of the facility Tuesday. Sgt. Walling lead them through with Melissa Corvyn and Kim Elliott controlling the kids.

School finance debated

Funding estimates higher than expected

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' new school finance law will cost \$1.67 billion in new state aid over the next two years, \$370 million more than a previous projection, an education expert said Tuesday.

Consultant Lynn Moak made the comment during a break in a court hearing before State District Judge F. Scott McCown. The hearing concerns wealthy school districts' challenge to the law, passed in response to a Texas Supreme Court order to even out funding available to school districts.

Lawmakers, who will meet in special session this summer to write a state budget, already face a projected \$4.7 billion deficit over the next two years.

That estimate assumed \$1.3 billion would be needed in additional state aid for schools, said Andy Welch, tax information director for the state comptroller. He said the estimate likely will be revised when the Legislature meets in special session.

The higher projected cost for the school finance law stems from an \$11 billion drop in property values, based on successful school district appeals to the State Property Tax Board, and changes lawmakers made to the measure shortly before it was

passed, Moak said. Moak, former deputy state education commissioner for research and development, has been working with Texas Education Agency staff and said he recommended the higher estimate to the TEA.

The estimate is "our best guess right now," said Kevin O'Hanlon, TEA general counsel.

The Texas Supreme Court twice has declared school funding laws unconstitutional.

The current \$14 billion-a-year system, scheduled to be replaced by the new law for next school year, allows wide funding disparities because of school districts' reliance on their own property wealth.

Before lawmakers approved the new law, McCown appointed Moak as an expert to update a school finance blueprint devised last year by former Supreme Court Justice William Kilgarlin. After the law was passed in April, McCown told Moak to keep the plan confidential.

The new law is designed to shift hundreds of millions of dollars in property tax revenue from wealthier to poorer school districts within new education taxing regions drawn largely along county lines.

State treasurer says income tax harmful

AUSTIN (AP) — One of the state's top Republicans, Treasurer Kay Bailey Hutchison, Tuesday said a proposed state income tax is the wrong idea at the wrong time.

Hutchison said such a levy would slow the economic recovery, scare away new business and strip the state of a key advantage in the competition for new jobs.

"The mere mention of an income tax probably has scared off some businesses considering a move to Texas," Hutchison said. "It's time to halt this runaway train before it does irreparable damage."

"The fact that Texas has no state income tax is one of the few state policies that sets us apart. It's our major drawing card in the area of economic development. Let's not give it away." The treasurer's remarks were made in essays authored for distribution to Texas newspapers.

Democratic Gov. Ann Richards has called the Legislature into special session July 8 to write and fund a 1992-93 state budget, work left undone in the

140-day regular session that ended May 27.

Revenue for the two-year period is projected to total \$52.3 billion, but legislative budget analysts have forecast a \$4.7 billion deficit if all programs are funded at current levels.

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and former Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, Democrats, have proposed instituting state personal and corporate income taxes to help finance the budget and provide local property tax relief.

Former Gov. John Connally, Republican chairing Richards' special tax committee, has recommended increasing the fuels tax and instituting a tax on businesses' gross receipts to raise additional revenue.

Hutchison said the Treasurer's forecast indicates that state government should end the current two-year budget period Aug. 1 with a \$300 million surplus.

In addition, she said, the state government income for 1992-93 is projected to increase about 7 percent over current spending levels.

What's Up

Wednesday

EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER: Eucharist and free community dinner at 6:15 p.m. at the Canterbury House, 902 George Bush Drive. Contact James at 822-4653 for more information.

LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP: Evening prayer at 6:30 p.m. at the University Lutheran Chapel.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

TAMU SAILING CLUB: General meeting at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder. Call Russell Powell at 822-6503 for more information.

Thursday

MSC SUMMER PROGRAMS: Sand sculpting contest registration through Friday in MSC 216. \$10 per team of 4 people. Prizes will be awarded. Call 845-1515 for more information.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDENT SERVICES: General meeting at 7 p.m. in Rudder 507 AB. Call 847-0321 for more information.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: General discussion at 6 p.m. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BECOME A PART OF FISH CAMP '91!

HQ CREW APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE
ROOM 209 PAVILION
DUE: MONDAY, JUNE 24

HQ Crew is a new, specialized team designed to run one of the most important operations at Fish Camp. They will be in charge of running the information center of camp and interacting with staff, freshmen, and visitors.

If you have any questions please come by room 209 Pavilion

M S C
AGGIE CINEMA
PRESENTS
TOP GUN
OUT THERE WITH THE BEST OF THE BEST.
Wednesday, June 19
9:15 pm
in the
Grove
50¢ w/ TAMU ID
\$1 w/o TAMU ID
Popcorn & Drinks Available