

FORECAST

Wednesday's
Forecast: Mid 90s
Isolated
Thunderstorms

LIFESTYLES

Summer Movies!
'Dying Young,'
'Jungle Fever' get
favorable reviews.

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Summer Health Fair 1991

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The Doctor Is
IN

OPINION

There are a smorgasbord of alternatives for meat, chicken, and other ecologically destructive animal products.

-Mike Worsham

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The Battalion

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Commission proposes tax credit for families with children

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan national commission on Monday unanimously recommended giving parents a yearly \$1,000 tax credit for each child, saying "the best way to help children is to help their families." But the proposal drew immediate skepticism at the White House.

The National Commission on Children, which for two years has studied the needs of America's youth, said economic security is crucial to protecting children from despair. It also recommended specific improvements in health care, education and moral training for children.

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater called the panel's report "a very constructive effort." But when asked specifically about the proposed tax credit for children, he said "I think big-ticket items for any purposes are going to have a very tough time being enacted."

The 34-member commission's 500-page report said that "Most American children are healthy, happy and secure." But "at every age, among all races and income groups in communities nationwide, many children are in jeopardy," it said.

It noted one of every five children is

poor, one in four is raised by only one parent, a half million are born annually to teen-agers ill-prepared for parenthood, and an increasing number are born impaired by their parents' drug and alcohol abuse.

The panel was unanimous in its support for the \$40 billion tax credit, but it reached no consensus on how to pay for it. It suggested various mixes of

spending cuts and tax increases as possible options.

The proposed \$1,000-per-child tax credit, which would rise with inflation, would replace the existing personal exemption for dependent children. Because it would be a refundable credit rather than an exemption, families that did not owe taxes would get a check from the government.

Present law allows all but the wealthiest families to exempt from taxation \$2,150 for each dependent child. That results in a tax saving of \$666.50 per child for families in the top bracket

— 31 percent — but only \$322.50 for the majority of families, which are in the 15 percent bracket.

For those families, the credit would be worth three times the amount of current exemption, the commission noted.

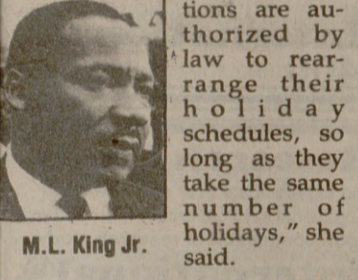
"Poverty is hard enough on adults, but it's devastating for children," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., who chaired the commission. "It robs many young people of health, hope and opportunity. ... The best way to help children is to help their families."

University considers King holiday

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Texas A&M administrators will decide if Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will be a holiday for the University later this summer, an A&M official said.

Patricia Couger, assistant vice chancellor for human resources, said the A&M system deals with holidays separately from the state.



"Institutions are authorized by law to rearrange their holiday schedules, so long as they take the same number of holidays," she said.

Texas presently has 12 official holidays.

Couger cited the fact that A&M has not made Labor Day a holiday in the past as a prime example.

The anniversary of King's birthday recently became a state holiday after Gov. Ann Richards signed the bill into law.

The new law allows state employees to celebrate King's birthday on the third Monday in January as a paid state holiday. It will replace Columbus Day, which will become an optional, unpaid holiday.

Each year, A&M's human resource department puts together a schedule of suggested holidays, and the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents votes on the schedule.

The holiday schedule will possibly be approved at the regent's meeting in July, Couger said.

A&M's office has not begun a proposed schedule yet because the state Legislature might pass additional legislation that affects holidays, she said.

"Someone may pass another bill that names another state holiday," Couger said. "We simply do not have all the information available to prepare holiday schedules yet."



Fore!
Trace Durham, a junior in high school from New Braunfels, takes a swing in golf camp. A group of about 15 men was practicing Monday on the polo field next to the System Administration Building.

Law erases voter card confusion

Bill makes resident status more clear

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

Confusion caused by voter registration cards should be completely eliminated now that House Bill 879 has become law, state Rep. Steve Ogden said.

Ogden, R-Bryan, said the law becomes effective Sept. 1 and should clear up problems that led to the disqualification of many votes cast at Texas A&M and the University of Texas during 1990 elections.

"The key to the bill is the elimination of the word 'permanent' from the card," said Ogden, who also sponsored the bill. "According to the old wording, George Bush couldn't vote from a hotel room in Houston."

The registration card's wording was modified and now conforms to the legal definition of resident, which does not use the word permanent, Ogden said.

A portion of the bill calling for county registrars to notify voters if their cards had been forwarded to another county was amended, Ogden said.

The law now calls for registrars to notify voters only if the card is sent to a non-contiguous county.

"The Travis County registrar said the original plan would create too much of a burden," Ogden said. "I didn't think that was correct, but I had to compromise."

A third portion of Ogden's original bill was eliminated. It would have created a section of the registration card asking applicants to fill in the city they wished to vote in.

"This would have created a way to double-check the cards," Ogden said. "If the county listed did not match the city, then we would know we had a problem. Unfortunately, the Senate didn't think it was necessary."

Ogden said the law would also clear up the language in the voting code, which erroneously listed falsification of voter registration cards as a felony. The offense is now listed as a misdemeanor.

In other legislation affecting A&M, a bill establishing a fee for a recreational sports center passed, paving the way for the construction of the \$40 million center, Ogden said.

"One of the most significant parts of that legislation was a part requiring that A&M students get first priority when using the center," Ogden said. "I wanted it to be clear that if the students pay for it, they will have the opportunity to use it when it is completed."

Ogden said projections call for construction to be completed by 1994, and that the student fee will not be imposed until the center is finished.

The University borrowed bonds to fund the center but could not secure them until the fee had been created. Ogden said it was important to him that the students be asked to pay only when they could actually use the center.

Several other fee bills were passed during this legislative session, including one that increased the building use fee and MSC fee.

"Several fees were raised," he said.

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Former student recalls war experiences

Editor's note: Michael A. Kelley, a Class of 1989 political science graduate, worked for The Battalion as a reporter in the fall of 1989. What follows is a chronicle of some of his experiences as an M1A1 tank platoon leader during the Persian Gulf War.

The night of Dec. 30, "C" (Charlie) Company 4th Battalion — the 66th Armor Regiment loaded up on buses in snowy Aschaffenburg, Germany.

As loved ones waved goodbye to each other, the Charlie Company "Hobos" went forth to join sister elements of the 7th Corps in freeing Kuwait, while adding

to the history books another American first — forward deployment of an already-forward deployed combat unit.

We rode to Rhein-Main Air Force Base in Frankfurt, just 30 minutes up the autobahn, where, at 4 a.m. the next morning, we boarded a C141 Cargo plane.

We flew eight hours, knee to knee in cargo-net seats, during which time all 65 men in the company tried to sleep while pondering thoughts of war.

I couldn't help but wonder which of us would return knee to knee and who would go home lying down — in a body bag.

Our company was an all-volunteer force, well-trained and equipped to defend Germany

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Analysis of the Persian Gulf War

from a Warsaw Pact threat.

We were a cohesive fighting force, making the thought of losing even one man painful and terrifying.

What bothered me was that, according to the history of war-

fare, at least nine of us — or 15 percent of our unit — were supposed to get killed. I've always hated statistics.

We touched down at King Fahd International Airport in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh. An Air Force sergeant opened the door to a bright, sunny day.

"If you hear sirens or alarms going off," he said in a deep, authoritative voice, "put on your protective mask and seek cover — you will be under Scud Missile attack. Welcome to Saudi Arabia, gentlemen."

As we off-loaded the plane, all we could see were sand dunes galore. We carried our gear to

buses, breaking our first beads of sweat in the process.

It was only 75 degrees outside, not hot, but certainly not freezing-cold Germany.

Saudi government buses took us past rows of Army helicopters and onto a highway surrounded by large sand dunes and an occasional palm tree.

As we were leaving the airport, traffic got held up by a herd of camels prancing across the roadway, giving all of us camera-happy GIs some photos to send home. So far this was classic Saudi Arabia — by the book.

We were taken to the port city

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CHIEF OF STAFF

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush gave another vote of confidence Monday to his embattled chief of staff, John Sununu, as the White House dampened speculation that his job was endangered by embarrassing new disclosures over free-wheeling travel.

John Sununu

For the first time, though, Sununu said he envisioned leaving his job sometime after the next presidential inauguration in January 1993. He had said he would stay as long as Bush wants him.