


FORECAST




Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers

OPINION

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"Have you done anything wrong? Are you having problems getting your life together? Do you not get enough attention?"
— David Nash on America's talk show topics

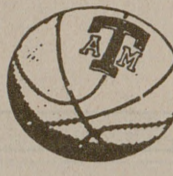
LIFESTYLES



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Comedian Ron Shock jump starts audiences with his storytelling comedy.

SPORTS



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Aggies lose opening exhibition game to Marathon Oil 96-83.

The Battalion

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Professors express displeasure about Bonfire at Faculty Senate

By Chris Vaughn
The Battalion

Annual concerns about bonfire resurged Monday during Texas A&M's Faculty Senate meeting.

Several professors expressed displeasure over bonfire during Committee of the Whole, but the annual tradition had its defenders. Committee of the Whole, conducted at the conclusion of regular business, offers senators a chance to voice concerns or problems not on the agenda.

Dr. Ben Aguirre, a professor of sociology, said bonfire is a good tradition and

should be preserved, but he said bonfire was more appropriate in its early years when it was constructed of trash.

"Now we have the technology to build this humongous thing, irrespective of the consequences," Aguirre said. "I believe it is a misuse of technology and a mismanagement of our resources."

Aguirre said the enthusiasm and spirit of those building the current bonfire would be better served if it was spent repairing dilapidated homes or building houses for the needy.

"To continue the current practice of destroying trees at the rate we are now is a terrible disappointment to me," he said.

But Dr. Max Stratton, a senior lecturer of health and physical education, said bonfire does more good than harm. He said the tree-clearing improves the health of other trees and the tradition provides leadership opportunities for students.

Stratton also told the Senate that its members need to be more tolerant.

"It is not right to say, 'It seems foolish to us, therefore, it is barbaric,'" he said. "This is something the students want."

Dr. Larry Hickman, a professor of philosophy, disagreed, saying almost everyone is tolerant of bonfire. Hickman, who lived near Duncan Field for several years, said Southgate residents are tolerant, even

though many must hose down their houses, deal with loud noises for weeks and clean soot off their cars.

"But blaring country music from loudspeakers from dusk to dawn at Duncan Field isn't very tolerable," he added.

A Faculty Senate committee studied the bonfire issue last year and compiled a report calling for a tree-planting campaign to replace trees and a reduction of the size of bonfire. Many of those recommendations are now in place, including a campaign to plant trees each spring at the cut site.

Bonfire also is gradually being reduced in size and will be moved next fall

to the Polo Fields in front of A&M's Systems Administration Building.

Other issues raised during Committee of the Whole included:

- A proposal by Dr. Michael Greenwald, an associate professor of theater arts, to establish a committee to investigate complaints against Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, and a committee to adjudicate appeals on parking tickets.
- A proposed resolution by Dr. Carroll Messer, a professor of civil engineering, to congratulate former A&M student and baseball player Chuck Knoblauch, who was named American League Rookie of the Year last week.



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Model Citizen

Kathy May, a junior environmental design major from San Antonio, works on a model of St. Joseph's

Hospital while watching "Highway to Heaven" Monday afternoon in the Langford Architectural Center.

Up to 5,000 infected each day

Heterosexuals cause spread in 75 percent of all AIDS cases

GENEVA (AP) — Heterosexual sex has caused the infection of 75 percent of people with the AIDS virus worldwide, and the infection is now rising in Western countries, the World Health Organization said Monday.

The majority of the heterosexually infected people are in the developing world, particularly in Africa, and it still remains only a small percentage of cases in North America and Europe, the Geneva-based agency said in an extensive report.

The U.N. group says up to 5,000 people are infected each day around the world, and officials fear an increase in pregnant women infecting their babies.

Concern about heterosexual transmission of the AIDS virus was heightened after basketball star Magic Johnson announced Thursday he had the HIV virus and said he had no homosexual affairs.

In the United States, 3 percent of men and 34 percent of woman

who contracted the virus did so from a person of the opposite sex, according to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

"It is not easy to change sexual behavior, but hopefully with more people like Magic Johnson coming out and talking about their illness everyone will realize they are at risk and take more care," said Dr. Michael Merson, head of the U.N. health agency's AIDS program.

Merson said tests of possible AIDS vaccines are planned for Thailand, Uganda, Rwanda and Brazil — nations with some of the highest AIDS rates. The tests — which will involve several thousand volunteers — mark a departure from previous approaches favoring early testing on animals.

About a dozen potential vaccines to slow or halt the onset of AIDS are being tested in the United States and Europe, and several more may be available.

Merson advised against hav-

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Aristide remains in exile Haiti's leaders provide list of abuses

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Political and military leaders opposed to Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Monday gave foreign envoys a long list of supposed abuses by the deposed president, parliamentary sources said.

The head of the Organization of American States delegation said he was trying to convince Aristide's opponents to allow the return of Haiti's first democratically elected leader.

Aristide, 38, a former parish

priest who is extremely popular among the masses but despised by the military, was deposed in a Sept. 30 military coup, after only seven months in office.

On Monday, Aristide was in Cochabamba, Bolivia, to meet with pro-democratic supporters from Latin America.

The 14-member OAS team held a two-hour talk with interim Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat, who described the session as "cordial" but declined further

comment. The diplomats later met with the military chief, Brig. Gen. Raoul Cedras.

The country's provisional government hopes to persuade the OAS to drop its demand that Aristide be reinstated and halt an economic embargo of Haiti, according to parliamentary sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said parliamentary leaders and Honorat presented the delegates with a list of abuses allegedly committed by Aristide.

EC criticizes efforts of U.S., Japan

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Community on Monday accused the United States and Japan of shirking their responsibility to nurture budding democracies in Eastern Europe with cash.

"It is still very difficult to get the United States on board," Henning Christophersen, the EC Finance Commissioner, told reporters. "The Japanese are more forthcoming, but the result so far is a lack of commitments from non-community members."

Christophersen spoke as senior officials from 24 wealthy nations met to evaluate a multi-billion-

dollar program of economic, technical and food aid for Eastern Europe's new democracies.

The 24 countries have committed \$32 billion in grants and credits to help rebuild the former Communist nations.

EC officials complained that the 12-nation European Community should only be shouldering half the total.

In their wide-ranging session, the officials of the so-called Group of 24 also suspended Yugoslavia from its aid programs to protest the civil war there.

The United States, Canada and 12-member European Community

already have announced plans to cut off aid to Yugoslavia and impose trade sanctions.

Yugoslavia wasn't invited to the meeting, but four East European nations — Albania, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — sent representatives for the first time. They were admitted to the program earlier this year.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania also are beneficiaries.

The United States had given \$2.1 billion through June, the last month for which detailed statistics were available. Japan had given \$1.6 billion.

Lottery substitutes taxes

Economists see benefits only for the short-term

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

Although Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a state lottery November 5, Texas A&M economists warn the lottery won't be a cure-all for the state's budget woes.

Dr. Art James of the A&M economics department, said the lottery, at best, is a temporary substitute for taxes. The expected \$375 million revenue from the lottery's first year of operation will be used to stave off controversial tax bills.

"They've gone to the lottery in lieu of passing a state income tax — political suicide in Texas," James said. "This allows the government to spend more for the services the public demands, without forcing the public to pay more."

Dr. Morgan Reynolds, an expert on state revenue at A&M, agreed that most benefits would be of the short-term nature, and said most Texans would probably not notice them.

"The lottery might free up some money, but the state's not about to start repealing taxes," he said. "Even the advocates of the lottery have downplayed expectations to some extent. There haven't been any overly buoyant claims."

The biggest criticism opponents have with the lottery, James said, is that it acts as a regressive tax, because lower-income people are drawn to it by the chance of instant fortune.

"If it (the lottery) was presented to the voters as a regressive tax, it would be overwhelmingly re-

jected," he said. "The lottery's appeal is that no one is required to play."

That appeal is also the lottery's weak point, said James. Since no one is required to play, the lottery income is not guaranteed.

"Other states have shown that lotteries do best in their first few years, then their growth levels out," he said. "If a lottery doesn't continue to grow and keep pace with state spending, there will be tax problems down the road."

Reynolds agreed, pointing out that despite its potential benefits, the lottery is no sure thing.

"Lotteries are designed to bring in money for the state, but I read recently where one state lottery is operating at a deficit," he said. "Texas, however, is contracting out to an experienced private firm to run the lottery. If there's a right way to run a lottery, Texas is doing it the right way."

James said despite everything, the lottery could be a very useful tool for helping the state get over the budget crunch.

"If the state uses the lottery as a device to get through the recession, to hold down taxes until oil and other industry starts to boom again, they've done taxpayers a big service," he said. "Unfortunately, I don't foresee any kind of boom in the near future."

Reynolds said many groups are willing to give the lottery a chance, but are taking a wait-and-see stance.

"There is some strong skepticism in Texas about the lottery," he said. "Two years from now we're probably going to see all the old tax issues."