

FORECAST

Mostly cloudy, chance for showers, highs in the 70s

OPINION

Should the United States allow college scholarships based on race?
-Battalion columnists debate the question

Page 7

INSIDE

MSC GREAT ISSUES sponsors symposium on current women's issues

Page 2

SPORTS

No two in a row UT gets revenge on Lady Aggies

Page 5

The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 94 College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" 8 Pages Monday, February 17, 1992

International delegation meets to discuss trade agreement

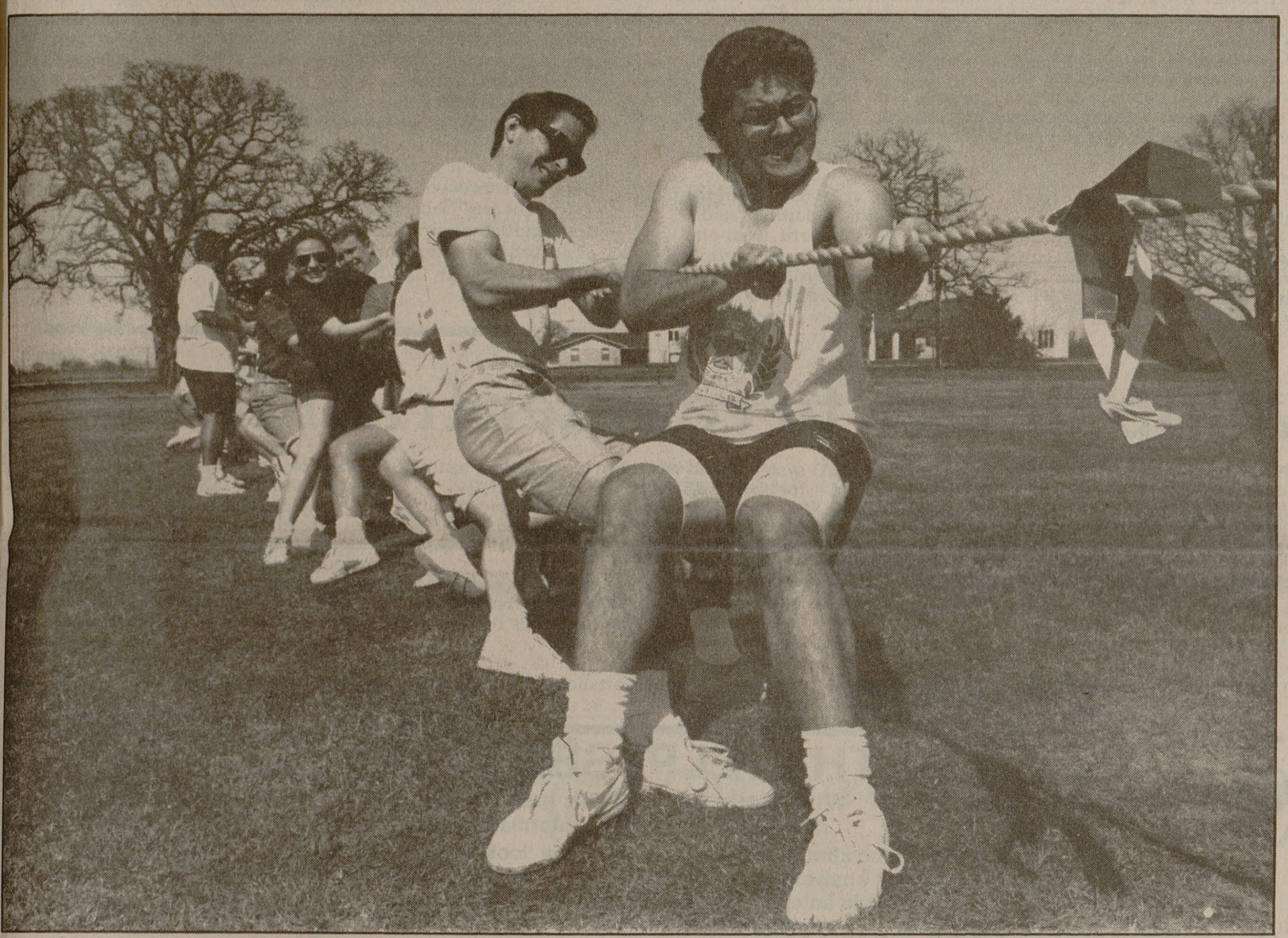
WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of negotiators will meet behind closed doors this week in Dallas to grapple with the tough issues standing in the way of a North American free trade agreement. Expectations are high that U.S., Mexican and Canadian negotiators will be able to substantially resolve — or at least lessen — differences on thorny issues affecting the agricultural, automotive, energy, financial and textile sectors.

Richardson, D-New Mexico. But government officials, while expressing optimism about the pace of the talks, are downplaying the results they hope to achieve from the week-long sessions. Negotiators hope to refine the rough draft produced last month by reaching common ground on many "bracketed" areas of disagreement. The differing positions staked out by each country are included in brackets in the draft. At this point, "practically everything that's major" remains in brackets, said Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the

Senate Finance Committee. The U.S. Trade Representative's Office won't reveal how many areas remain in brackets, although Trade Representative Carla Hills has conceded "there are many." "Our hope is to try to remove a substantial number of brackets," said Timothy O'Leary, a Hills spokesman. "Realistically, will we be able to remove them all? It would be nice if that happens, but probably unrealistic to expect it that way." A senior U.S. trade representative concurred.

"In Dallas, we have a lot of hard work to do and the hope and expectation is that we can make a lot of progress," he said on condition of anonymity. "I expect we will end up the week with some hard political issues not resolved and the ministers will have to grapple with those." Bentsen, whose committee oversees trade issues, said the Dallas talks probably won't provide the breakthrough needed to write a final text. "How fast they can take those brackets off, I wouldn't hazard an estimate of time, but it's going to take

some," said Bentsen, D-Texas. "It's not one of those things that's going to be resolved this month, I don't think." Hills regularly insists politics plays no role in when she will submit an agreement to Congress, although many political observers say she must produce a final text by April if lawmakers are to consider it this year. But an administration official said the White House is carefully monitoring the mood on Capitol Hill, gauging whether rising protectionist sentiment and the upcoming elections may torpedo passage of a trade pact.



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Pulling together
Dwayne Purvis (front) and Brian McWalters (second back) lead Eppright Hall's tug-of-war effort against the Off-Campus Aggies at the 5th Annual Off-Campus Aggie Olympics held Saturday at Central Park in College Station. Eppright Hall won the competition.

Israelis kill pro-Iranian in Lebanon

Shiite Muslims vow revenge for death of Hezbollah leader

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli helicopters blasted a convoy Sunday carrying the leader of the pro-Iranian group Hezbollah, killing him and his wife and son. Shiite Muslim leaders vowed revenge and called for a holy war against Israel. The dramatic strike, which could damage the Middle East peace process, capped a day of Israeli air attacks on south Lebanon that left eight other people dead and 29 wounded. The Israeli strikes came less than 48 hours after a raid on an army camp inside Israel, in which three Israeli soldiers were hacked to death. Hezbollah said its leader, Sheik Abbas Musawi, 39, his wife, Siham, and their 5-year-old son, Hussein, the youngest of the couple's six children, were "martyred" in what it called "a cowardly air attack." The terse statement issued at the group's headquarters in Beirut gave no other details. In addition to Musawi and his

family, four other people were killed, and 18 were wounded, police said. They said eight of the wounded were in "very critical condition." Hezbollah, or Party of God, was considered the umbrella group for the Shiite Muslim holders of Western hostages in Lebanon. It opposes the Middle East peace talks, the next round of which are to begin Feb. 24 in Washington. In Jerusalem, the Israeli military acknowledged it had carried out the attack on the convoy, but suggested it had not specifically targeted Musawi. It said it "turned out" the Hezbollah leader was in the convoy, which was carrying militia leaders from a meeting in the south Lebanon village of Jibsheet. The attack on Musawi's convoy followed air strikes earlier Sunday on Palestinian refugee camps at Ein el-Hilweh and Rashidieh, in which police said four people were killed and 11 wounded.

A&M student fights city council

By Reagon Clamon
The Battalion

A Texas A&M student continues to doubt the wisdom of a recent College Station City Council decision to not build a recycling center on Wellborn Rd. Christi Ross, a senior communications major, presented a petition containing 593 signatures of Bryan — College Station residents protesting the council's recent decision to the College Station City Council last Thursday. The petition asked the council to reconsider its decision. Ross gathered the signatures after the city council abandoned its plan to build the \$60,000

center, following a recommendation from the city's planning and zoning commission. "I'm still kind of upset," Ross said. The city claimed Northgate residents opposed the new facility. But Ross said she heard nothing but good things about it from friends and acquaintances who lived and worked on Northgate. "We got 593 signatures from people that didn't like the city's decision," Christi Ross said. "About twenty of those people were just from Northgate."



Christi Ross

Ross said city officials did not have an exact count of residents' complaints about the center. Ross said she was worried mostly for the future of the handicapped employees of Junction 505 who were supposed to be employed at the new recycling center. "My main concern was the people," Ross said. Mayor Larry Ringer, at Thursday's city council meeting, said the city would try to find jobs for any Junction 505 employees left without work because of the city's decision. "We are working with Junction 505 to see if the city can employ these people," Ringer said. Even if all the employees of Junction 505 get jobs, Ross said it is a shame that the project didn't work out the way it was planned.

Gambling addicts play perilous game

By Sharon Gilmore
The Battalion

More suicides result from gambling addiction than any other psychological problem. People from all walks of life — including college students — can become addicted to legal or illegal gambling. In Bryan, legalized gambling, in the form of Brazos Bingo, takes place on Briarcrest and East 29th Street, Tuesday through Saturday. "Some people drive two and a

half to three hours to play bingo on Friday and Saturday nights," said Liz Pohl, a bookkeeper for Brazos Bingo. As many as 350 people may attend bingo on weekends and 250 people on weeknights, she said. Players spend as little as \$10 to \$15 or as much as \$50 to \$60 in one night. One Texas A&M student said she won \$950 last semester, but lost about \$500. "I went to bingo about twice a week last semester and spent around \$30 each time," said Lisa

Vine, a junior parks and recreation major. David S. Wachtel, a clinical psychologist at the Center for Compulsive Behavior in Houston, said 75,000 to 100,000 people in Houston are gamblers. Wachtel said by the time the average gambler seeks treatment, he or she is about \$70,000 to \$100,000 in debt. A person may go to bingo every night so they don't have to deal with family and as a result everyone gets caught up in the problems, he said.

Dr. Valerie Lorenz, executive director of the National Center for Pathological Gambling, said about three percent of all adults are compulsive gamblers. She said patients who come into her clinic suffer from severe depression and anxiety that causes chronic headaches, migraines, stomach knots and — for students — failing grades. Most college students who gamble are males involved in sports and race betting, Lorenz said. She said the center's gam-

See Groups/Page 8

Adoption in the '90s: A new direction

Editor's note: This is the first in a 3-part series in The Battalion on adoption in Texas and how it has changed over the years. Today's article focuses on how open adoptions are replacing the confidential adoptions of the past.

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

Adoption, as defined by Webster's dictionary, is "The taking and treating of the child of another as one's own," but no definition, no matter how complete, could accurately convey the emotional power of this word. Out of the entirety of the English language, there are very few words that stir up as much passion and controversy. In reality, though, the definition of adoption is changing. In the past five years, "open," or "disclosed" adoptions, once considered a dangerous taboo, have replaced "closed" or "confidential" adoptions as the preferred form of placement in Texas. Jan Deets, director of family services at Alternatives in Motion adoption agency in Humble, said the shift towards more openness has had positive effects for everyone directly involved in an adoption. "Today's openness is absolutely much better than the closed system," Deets said. "The closed adoptions never prepared families for reality. When a child said 'Mom, tell me about the lady that gave me up,' the mother couldn't, because it was a secret." Because the closed system of the past forced birth mothers to deal with the pain and guilt of pregnancy and loss silently, their well being has received increased attention from the same agencies that once told them to "forget it ever happened." Birth mothers are encouraged to go for counseling as soon as they contact an agency so they will be able to make the best deci-

See Adoption/Page 8