

FORECAST
Mostly cloudy
Windy and warm
Highs in 70s
Lows in 60s

OPINION
"This year it looks like I'll be standing for the Libertarians."
-Jason Loughman, Columnist
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INSIDE
TAX SHORTCUTS
Accounting professor points out tax options students may have open to them
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SPORTS
UPS AND DOWNS

- Baseball wins two of three
- Men's tennis team remains undefeated
- Lady Aggies come up short against Houston

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The Battalion



ROBERT REED/The Battalion
 Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton gives campaign speech in B-CS

By Jayme Blaschke
 The Battalion

The Brazos Valley got a taste of big-time politics Friday when Hillary Clinton, wife of Democratic presidential hopeful Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas, spoke to a packed house at the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitor Bureau.

Clinton, on the last leg of a whirlwind tour of east Texas, with stops remaining in Waco and Fort Worth, ripped President George Bush for ineffective leadership while presenting her husband as the best choice for America's future.

"For more than 12 years now, Presidents

Reagan and Bush have conducted an experiment which says the hard work of getting and keeping jobs and education and all the other central issues is not the work of the president — it is the work of a thousand points of light," Clinton said. "That is not adequate leadership for the challenges confronting us."

"What Bill brings to this race is not only a record of accomplishment, but also one of getting his own hands dirty trying to solve these problems confronting the nation," she said. "He has a plan on how we can deal with these problems, if we are ready to do so."

More than a decade of "trickle down" economics has done nothing more than

make the rich richer and the poor poorer, Clinton said. Her husband would offer a major plan to revitalize America's economy, something Bush has failed to do.

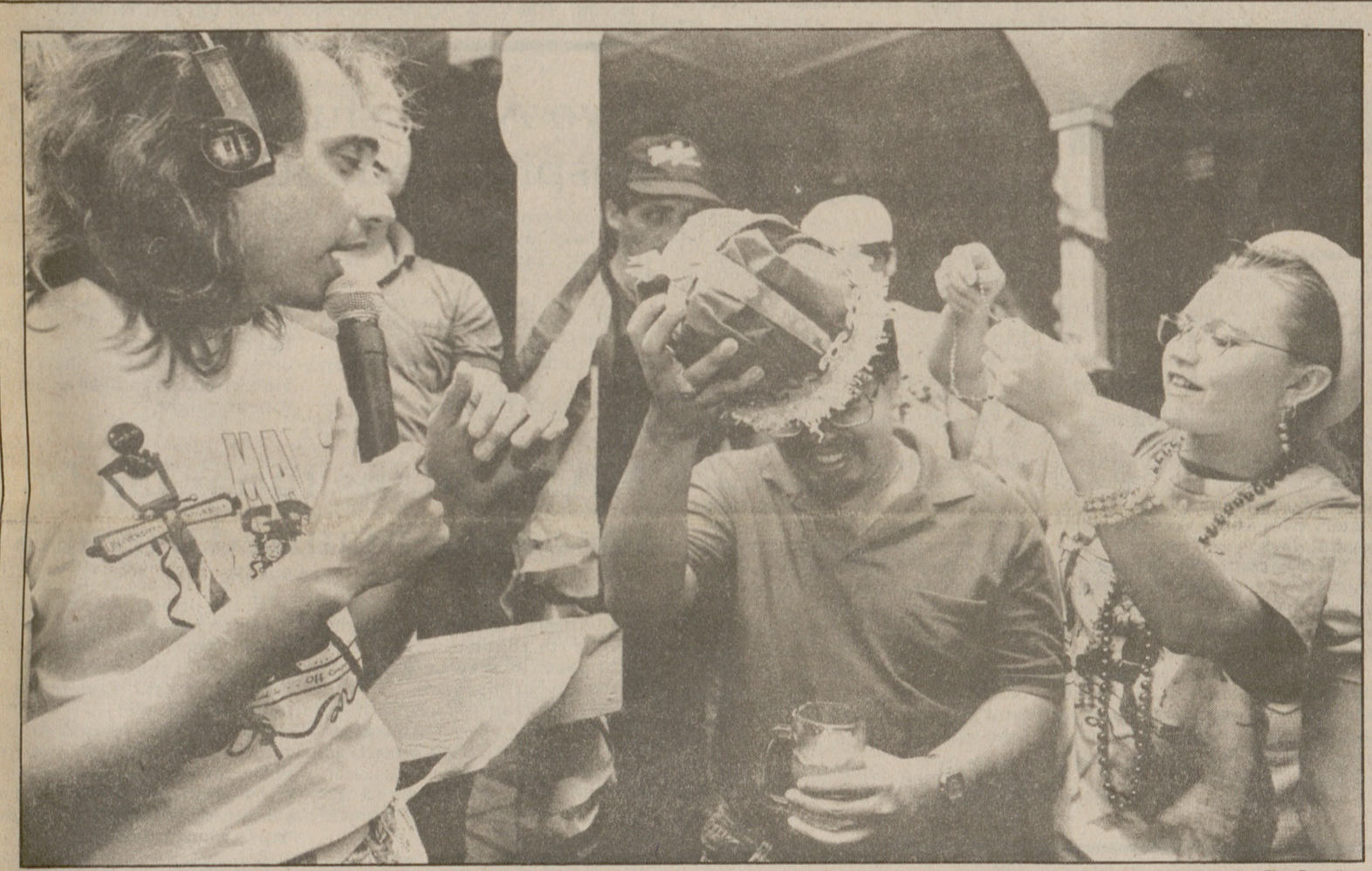
"The number one issue is the economy, and Bill Clinton is the only candidate in either party who has a comprehensive economic strategy to end the short-term recession, but more importantly, to lay the groundwork for a long-term restructuring of this economy," she said.

The Clinton plan would eliminate tax credits for corporations relocating out of the country, and replace them with credits for creating new jobs within the United States, she said. Providing job skills and training and improving education also would be

major components of the economic plan. The North American Free Trade Zone also is a priority, not only because of the impact it would have on Texas, but on the entire nation, Clinton said. As president, the Arkansas governor will support the Fast Track free trade negotiations, but only if certain conditions are met.

"He will not support a free trade agreement that does not have appropriate labor safeguards, environmental safeguards, and is not in America's best interest," she said. "He could not support an agreement that was not fair to American workers, American products, and the American economy."

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Long live the king

Jason Perez, center, an electrical engineering graduate student, is crowned king of the Northgate Mardi Gras celebration by Teri Heimer, left, a junior marketing major from San Antonio, and a local radio disc jockey. The event was held Saturday night.

Democrats debate issues

Candidates curtail personal attacks, focus discussion on health care, taxes

ATLANTA (AP) — Paul Tsongas' economic policies drew repeated fire from rivals Sunday in a Democratic presidential debate that included spirited disagreements over health care but far fewer personal attacks than the wild free-for-all of the night before.

The Georgia forum was the first of two debates Sunday leading into Tuesday's eight primaries and caucuses.

Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton opened fire on Tsongas early, contrasting his plan for a middle-class tax cut by raising taxes on the wealthy with Tsongas' proposal to raise taxes on the rich but use that money for a capital-gains tax break.

"The question is not whether the middle class gets a tax cut," Clinton said. "It's whether you want to give it to the middle class

or people who buy stocks."

Tsongas answered that businesses needed help to repair the economy. "We have to take our money, the precious resources that we have and put it into venture capital," the former Massachusetts senator said.

Former California Gov. Jerry Brown, in another colorful debate performance, poked fun at Tsongas' theme that he's "no Santa Claus" ready to offer politically popular giveaways.

"I'd say your Santa Claus sack is pretty empty," Brown said. "Lollipops for business are no better than lollipops for the middle class."

Brown renewed his call for a universal flat tax, saying the current tax code was a "4,000-page tax morass that feeds on the corruption of selling loopholes for campaign contributions."

Tenants criticize apartment pet policy

By Jennifer Matlack
 Special To The Battalion

Tricia Eakins' four-month-old kitten, Jaws, may join the growing ranks of homeless animals in College Station.

Polo Club Apartments does not allow residents to keep pets. Eakins, like several other Polo Club residents, received a \$20 fine and a notice for pet eviction last Wednesday.

Eakins, who has lived in Polo Club since June 1991, found Jaws about three months ago. "He had no home, so I took him in," Eakins said. "If I can't find him a home by Sunday, I'll be forced to give him to the animal shelter."

The notices were given to all residents of Polo Club who were found in violation of their leases. The contract clearly states, "absolutely no pets," manager Russ Godwin said.

Some pet owners, when notified to get rid of their pets, simply abandoned them. Some

abandoned cats are now living underneath the apartment buildings.

Denise Fulfer, humane educator at the Brazos Animal Shelter, said the best thing residents can do is find a home for their animals through careful screening of potential adopters.

"The last thing we want to recommend is turning (pets) loose at their apartment door," she said.

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Republican campaign ignites amid flurry of accusations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The sizzling battle within the Republican Party heated up Sunday with one of President Bush's prominent supporters accusing challenger Patrick Buchanan of flirting with fascism.

The charge by former Education Secretary William J. Bennett came as Bush and Buchanan campaigned in Georgia for that state's critical primary on Tuesday.

The campaign became more vitriolic during the past week as Buchanan accused the administration of investing in pornography and Bush called his challenger "a disappointment to all Americans"

for opposing the Persian Gulf war.

Bush supporters insist the president will be the party's nominee and many of Buchanan's conservative backers have conceded he has little chance of wresting the nomination from the incumbent.

But these conservatives see the race as a battle for the future of the Republican Party, with Buchanan forcing Bush to move to the right and then emerging as leader of a resurgent conservative movement.

Bennett, appearing on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley," was asked whether he

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Saudi king progresses toward sharing power

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's absolute ruler, King Fahd, took a tentative step toward sharing power Sunday by announcing the long-promised creation of a 60-member advisory council.

The Majlis al-Shura will have no political power. Yet its creation by royal decree marked a radical step toward the possibility of pluralism in the Islamic kingdom ruled by the Al-Saud family since 1932.

The country's monarchs have been promising political reforms for three decades. Pressure for change, though, accelerated after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, leading to the deployment of hundreds of thousands of non-Muslim troops into this traditionally closed society.

Many Saudis now hope for a written body of law, akin to a con-

stitution, to adapt the country's legal system to 20th-century life. Today, the country is still governed by 7th-century sharia, or Islamic religious laws.

Sunday, a royal decree broadcast on state television said council members will be named by the king to a four-year term.

No date was given in the decree or in a statement by Fahd on the official Saudi Press Agency for the council's formation or first session.

Fahd said council members would be Saudi nationals aged 30 or more, apparently to be drawn from the kingdom's oil, religious and academic communities. He gave few other details.

He also said the council would be complemented by a body of political administrators similar to provincial governors, but did not elaborate.

A&M club flies high

American Helicopter Society takes students for ride

By Melody Dunne
 The Battalion

If you're into vertical flight, the Texas A&M chapter of the American Helicopter Society is the organization that can really get you off the ground.

About 30 people — mostly members of the society — had the opportunity to ride in a three-person helicopter at the AHS spring picnic Saturday.

The group plans to have a helicopter ride at least once a semester, in addition to their planned speakers and tours.

Mike Birdsell, director of maintenance at the Flight Mechanics Lab, piloted the 15-minute flights from his house north of Bryan.

Before the groups took rides, he explained the technical side of flying helicopters.

"The helicopter blades provide lift by

rotating 500 to 600 miles an hour," Birdsell said.

Birdsell said pilots have to work four different controls at once to keep a helicopter in the air.

"I don't know what kind of guy ever thought of this stuff (vertical flight)," he said. "It's like balancing an egg on a stick."

Birdsell warned riders not to think something was wrong if the helicopter shook or was louder than they expected during the ride.

"Helicopters are one of the safest machines around," he said. "They're safer than a plane. I'm biased because I've flown both."

Birdsell said pilots rely on charts and depend on radios when they get off course, but awareness of landmarks plays an important part.

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DARRIN HILL/TheBattalion

Mike Birdsell, Director of Aerospace Maintenance, discusses helicopters Saturday.