

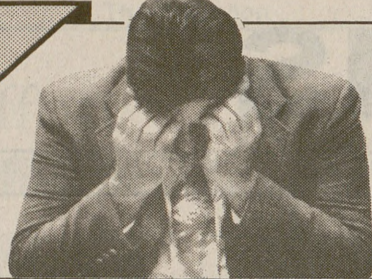
March 23  
falls  
No. 1  
NIO (AP)  
from the  
among show  
rs, placing  
National

**FORECAST**



Mostly cloudy  
Chance of showers  
Highs in 70s  
Lows in 60s

**SPORTS**



**A TOUGH WINTER**  
A&M basketball team survives despite sanctions, adversity  
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**OPINION**

The United States must play a leading role in halting deforestation  
—Battalion Editorial Board  
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# The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 118 College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" 10 Pages Friday, March 27, 1992

## Eight senators lose positions for violating absence policy

**By Michael Sullivan**  
*The Battalion*

Eight senators — including two candidates currently running for office in the upcoming student elections — were relieved of their positions in the Texas A&M Student Senate Wednesday for violating its unexcused absence policy.

John Ansbach, a junior economics major campaigning for student body president, said he never found out about the rescheduling of the senate meeting, which had originally been scheduled for April 1.

"I have not been formally notified by the speaker pro tem con-

cerning my removal," Ansbach said. "I was told there was some memo placed in every senator's box (concerning the date change)."

"I check my box every day and never received a memorandum," Ansbach said.

However, Patty Warhol, speaker pro tem of the senate, said she informed student government members of the schedule change.

"I wrote a memo notifying the senators of the meeting, which I personally placed in each senator's box," she said.

Ansbach said, however, that the speaker of the senate is supposed to have an aide contact each

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## Legislators prepare for special session

**By Tanya Sasser**  
*The Battalion*

As the Texas Legislature prepares to meet in special session, area legislators are doing their homework to find a solution for the state's school financing problems.

Sen. Jim Turner, D-Crockett, has his work cut out for him and he plans to hold a series of meetings with school superintendents to gather ideas and solutions regarding the heavy issue of school finance.

The purpose of Turner's upcoming meetings is twofold, said Kevin McHargue, Turner's press secretary.

"He wants to get the superintendents' ideas and opinions on how to address school

finances," McHargue said. "At the same time, he wants to convey to the superintendents what's being floated around in Austin."

Sen. Turner will meet with representatives of 96 school districts, including Hearne, Georgetown, Huntsville, Brenham and Crockett. McHargue said Bryan-College Station representatives probably will attend at least one of these meetings.

Rob Giesecke, spokesman for Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said Ogden will be attending the special session when it is held.

"He's got a plan of his own that he's proposing," he said.

Giesecke said the issue of school finances is a "tremendously complex issue."

"It's a statewide problem and it needs a

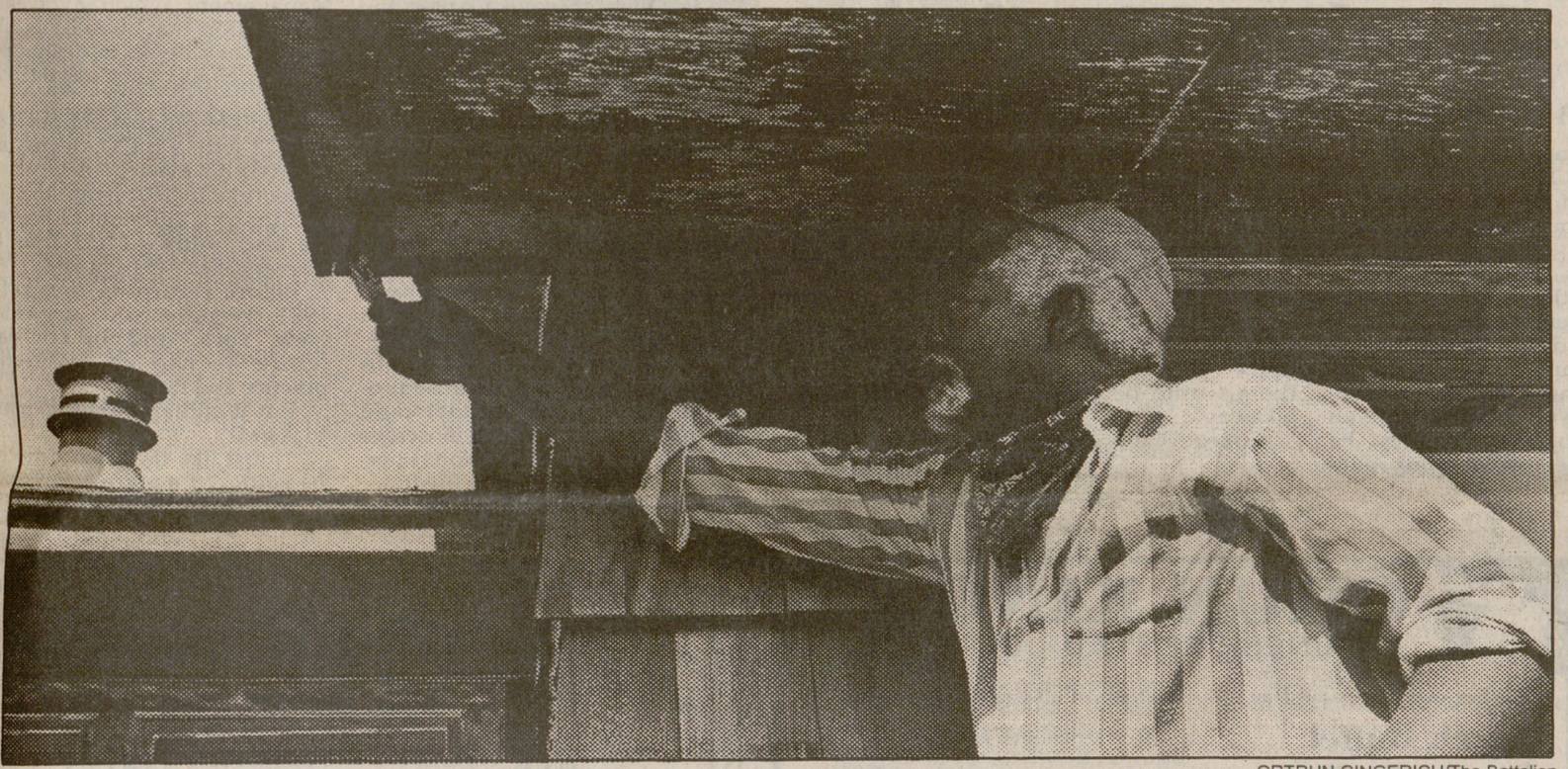
statewide solution," he said. "A lot of people will be hurt and a lot of people will be upset, no matter what we do."

McHargue said Turner is concerned about what type of effects certain proposals will have on schools at the local level.

"He wants to get their [the superintendents] feedback on how to deal with the school finance issue," McHargue said. "It's sort of a localized version of statewide efforts."

McHargue said Turner plans to solicit ideas and discuss proposed solutions in these meetings.

"Sen. Turner wants to see if there are specific concerns and issues that need to be discussed," he said. "He simply wanted to do it on a smaller scale."



ORTRUN GINGERICH/The Battalion

## A fresh coat

Ottis Johnson, a painter from the Bryan-College Station area, works on a house in Bryan. Spring is a busy season for painters since it symbolizes a fresh start. Johnson painted the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority house last summer.

## Pentagon cuts defense jobs

### National Guard, reserve units face severe troop reductions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon on Thursday targeted National Guard and reserve units in all 50 states for cuts eliminating nearly 140,000 jobs.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said the money is needed elsewhere, but a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee said the proposal will "cause great consternation, to say the least," on Capitol Hill.

Cheney contended the Pentagon is "not a social welfare agency. We are a military organization. . . . We have to focus on how we defend the nation with less money."

If Congress approves, 830 units will be cut, eliminating 139,488 slots in 1992 and 1993, with an estimated savings of \$2.1 billion. Through 1997, cuts would total 234,000 for a \$20 billion saving.

There are now 1.15 million re-

servists and National Guard members.

Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Pentagon news conference that the demise of the Soviet bloc sealed the fate of the reserve units, 80 percent of which were designed to supplement and support active-duty forces in Europe.

"If there is no mission for the unit, it shouldn't be in the structure at all," Powell said. "The Red Army is gone."

Under the proposal, the National Guard will lose 80,000 people and the Army Reserves 45,000, many of whom served in the Persian Gulf War.

The Navy Reserve will be cut by 10,500; the Marine Corps Reserve, by 2,700; and the Air Force Reserve, by about 740.

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## Libertarians garner support as result of voter dissatisfaction

**By Matori Jones**  
*The Battalion*

Minor or third political parties such as the Libertarians are receiving a small but significant increase in voter support — mainly due to voter dissatisfaction with Democrats and Republicans in this year's elections.

"Hard core support for the older parties is declining," said Keary Ehlers, vice-chairman of publicity for the Libertarian party of Texas.

Ehlers said Libertarians have received a significant increase of votes in state legislative races, even though their share is still in the single digits.

When the Libertarian party ran their first

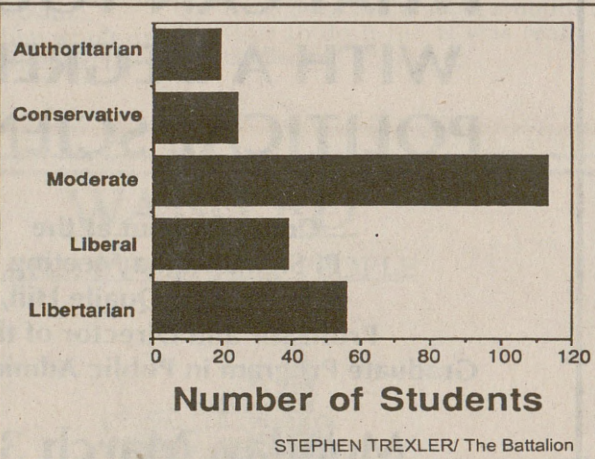
presidential candidate in 1972, they polled over one million votes or 1.4 percent of the votes. However, these results could be overly optimistic.

Problems that minor parties such as the Libertarians face include attracting and persuading voters to abandon years of voting for one major party or the other. The party also has to overcome an electoral system rigged against it.

Dr. Jon Bond, a Texas A&M political science professor, said there is only one example of a third party actually winning the American presidential race: the Republican party of 1860.

"Traditionally third parties acquire less than 2 percent of the votes," Bond said. "A

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STEPHEN TREXLER/The Battalion

## Opinion survey shows students hold moderate political views

**Matori Jones**  
*The Battalion*

A recent opinion survey conducted by the Libertarian Party shows that many Texas A&M students hold moderate views on civil liberties and free-market economics.

Calvin McKnight, Libertarian party member and survey distributor, said most students fall into the moderate category because

they are not really aware of or concerned with political activity in the first place.

In a polling sample of 251 A&M students, 56 students held libertarian views, 39 liberal views, 113 moderate views, 24 conservative views and 19 authoritarian views.

Students who participated in the survey gave their views on personal and economic issues.

Respondents were categorized

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Battalion file photo

## Season change ushers in inclement weather

**By Jayme Blaschke**  
*The Battalion*

Spring has arrived in Texas, and with it comes the possibility of severe weather.

Jake Canglose, civil defense coordinator for Brazos County, said everyone in Bryan-College Station should prepare a plan in case severe weather strikes the area.

"Locate the best available shelter in case of a tornado," Canglose said. "An underground shelter is best, but closets, bathrooms and small areas away from windows are good."

"It's important to stay away from windows and doors," he

said. "Get out of mobile homes — they offer no protection from tornadoes."

Marion Alcorn, a Texas A&M meteorologist, said tornadoes are more common in the spring because the weather patterns over Texas are in transition.

"We're moving from winter to summer, and the cold air masses are weakening as warmer air and the jet stream moves north," Alcorn said. "As the low pressure systems move north and cross over us, they cause severe weather and tornadoes."

The storms this spring, however, should not be as threatening as

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## Regents OK expansion

### Board approves plan to enlarge campus computing sites

**By Karen Praslicka**  
*The Battalion*

A computing facilities expansion for the University was approved by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Thursday.

The expansion will alleviate the problems of crowding and limited backup capabilities for the major computing units on campus, said James Davidson, a member of the facilities planning division.

The existing facilities for the Cray Y-MP2/116 supercomputer, and the two large VAX clusters on campus are inadequate, he said.

"The expansion will provide adequate space for all the machines to be in one area," Davidson said.

The Cray was installed in 1989 in the High Visibility Enclosure in the lobby of the Zachry Engineering Center. This facility was created by renovating a vending machine area and converting it into a computer machine room. The VAX clusters are located in the Computer Services Center.

The new facility will house these computing units along with the main University IBM computing system. It also will have a general access microcomputer and workstation lab and space for computer operation training and seminars.

Davidson said the facility will allow for a constant power supply for the computers.

The total cost is estimated to be about \$2.8 million. Davidson said the cost is high because there

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A 1990 tornado touches down west of Bryan. Several funnel clouds were sighted at the time.