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FORECAST



TUESDAY
 Partly cloudy
 High 84
 Low 55

OPINION

Has the 20 minutes between classes helped students? —Brian Boney and Tanya Williams

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INSIDE

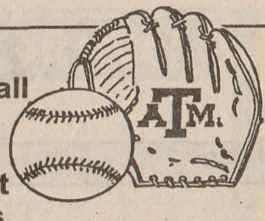
Q deadline

Tuesday is the last day to drop a class; students need to check with their colleges for specific procedures

Page 2

SPORTS

A&M baseball team goes cold on the road against Red Raiders, loses 2 of 3

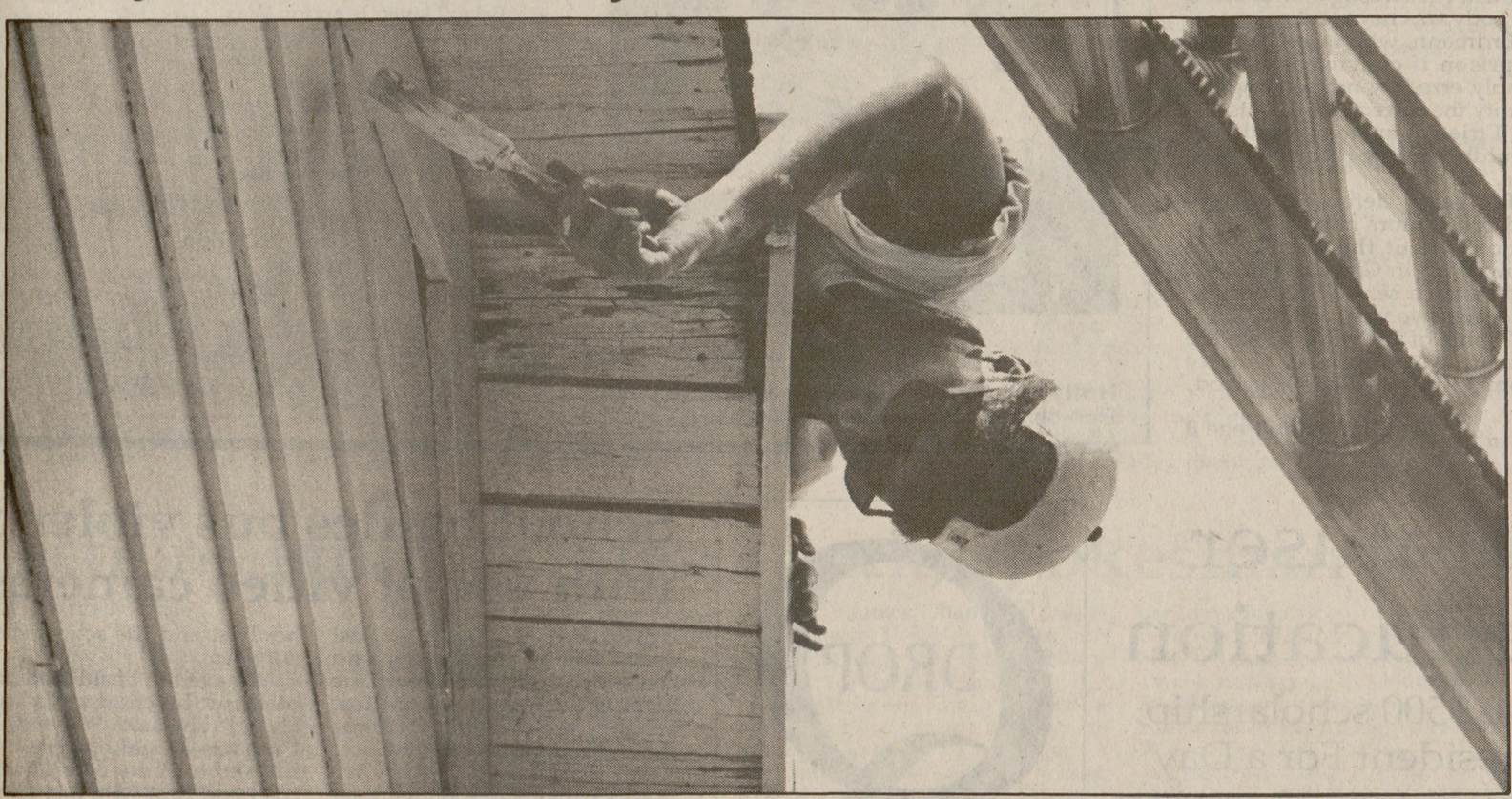


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The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 124 College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" 10 Pages Monday, April 6, 1992

Every nook and cranny



Brian Cooper, a freshman civil engineering major, paints a house on Holleman Drive Saturday as part of the Big Event. BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Big Event lets students give back to community

By Tanya Sasser
The Battalion

The Big Event, Texas A&M's largest service project, provided a way for students to give something back to the Bryan-College Station area as over 3,000 students spent Saturday working to improve the community.

Nicole Newbury, assistant director of the Big Event, said the volunteers and student groups worked hard to make the project a success.

"We completed about 165 projects overall, and we had a really good response from everybody," she said. "The central headquarters was at the Lincoln Recreation Center, near Holleman, and that was the target area where we completed projects for the city."

Kelly Russell, director of the Big Event, said the Big Event Committee collaborated with the city of College Station on many of the projects.

"We had about 50 projects in conjunction with College Station," Russell said. "A lot of these were painting projects, and they seemed to go really well."

Newbury said a large number of residents called and expressed a need for help with general maintenance.

"We had a lot of people call and want cleanup of yards and houses," she said. "We also participated in some apartment cleanup."

Russell said several groups painted bleachers and helped with the general cleanup of various little league fields in the community. One group went to "Camp Howdy," a Girl Scout camp, and helped clean out and organize the entire camp.

Cellular One, a sponsor of the Big Event, donated cellular phones so committee members could keep in touch with the groups at their various work sites.

"The phones were a big help because people were able to report any problems and keep in contact with committee mem-

See Committee/Page 3

Iran attacks rebel camp inside Iraq

Air strike sparks violence against embassies in Europe

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian warplanes bombed an Iranian rebel base near Baghdad on Sunday, the first air strike by Iran on Iraqi territory since a 1988 cease-fire halted their eight-year war.

Iraq claimed its forces shot down one out of eight Iranian fighter-bombers and captured the two-man crew. State-run Baghdad radio, monitored in Cyprus, called the raid an act of "blatant and unjustified aggression" and warned Iran of "grave consequences."



Iranian warplanes strike at Iranian rebels inside Iraq Sunday. Iraq claims to have downed an Iranian jet. STEPHEN TREXLER/The Battalion

Rebel supporters in Europe responded by attacking Iranian embassies in at least six countries.

The air raid marked a sharp deterioration in relations between Iran and Iraq, which have not signed a peace treaty to formally end their 1980-88 war and have been waging increasingly strident propaganda campaigns against each other.

Tehran said the air strike was in retaliation for a raid by guerrillas of Mujahedeen Khalq, or People's Holy Warriors, on two villages in western Iran on Saturday. It also blamed the Mujahedeen for recent attacks on Iranian diplomats in Baghdad.

But the raid may have been an attempt by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani to shore up support five days before parliamentary elections, in which he is trying to crush opponents of moves to improve relations with the West.

The air attack was the most serious clash since March 1991 when units of Iran's Revolutionary Guards crossed the border during Kurdish and Shiite Muslim rebellions and clashed with Iraqi troops and their allies.

Mujahedeen Khalq, the largest exiled Iranian opposition force, said one of its fighters was killed and several others wounded when its base near Khalis, 30 miles inside Iraq and 40 miles from Baghdad, was showered with cluster bombs on Sunday morning. It de-

See Elections/Page 3

Yeltsin fights for power

Critics protest president's economic policies

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin said Sunday he will fight efforts in Russia's parliament to trim his powers and will use his full authority to press ahead with painful economic reforms.

"Only one way can exist today — the continuation of radical reforms," he told a gathering of supporters.

His comments came on the eve of a crucial session of the Congress of People's Deputies that will debate a new constitution to replace the political system left by the Communists. Parliament leaders are demanding that Yeltsin relinquish some powers and ease the hardship caused by his market reforms.

Barely four months after presiding over the death of the Soviet Union, Yeltsin could face a political firestorm during the session of the 1,048-member body, which convenes Monday in the Grand Kremlin Palace.

But a key Yeltsin aide, State Secretary Gennady Burbulis, said pro-reform groups agreed tenta-

tively Sunday to form a parliamentary bloc to defend the president. He said the bloc included a majority of lawmakers, but that could not be confirmed independently.

In return, Yeltsin agreed to consult with the bloc in making government appointments and formulating policy.

That is the closest he has come to joining a political organization since quitting the Communist Party in 1990.

Acknowledging criticism from lawmakers, Yeltsin said he would continue to shuffle his Cabinet and to make "partial corrections" in his reforms, which sent prices soaring. At the same time, farm and factory production has fallen.

Opponents from the right and left are demanding changes in the reforms and the repeal of the special powers Congress granted him to rule by decree.

More than 2,000 Yeltsin critics demonstrated Sunday in Manezh Square next to the Kremlin.

One speaker denounced Yeltsin and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, saying: "All that was possible to sell has been sold, all that was possible to betray has been betrayed."

Outside the concert hall where Yeltsin spoke, protesters formed a "corridor of shame" leading to the entrance, calling women "whores" and men "Judases" or "traitors" as they entered.

A group of young men tried to block some people from the hall. At least two fist fights broke out, but no serious injuries were reported. Police sat in buses nearby and did not interfere in the demonstration.

"All that was possible to sell has been sold, all that was possible to betray has been betrayed."

— A protester at a demonstration over Yeltsin's and Gorbachev's reforms

MARCH TO THE BRAZOS

A&M Corps of Cadets does it for Dimes



Senior Justin Hester, top right, talks to freshmen about his first March to the Brazos. ROBERT J. REED/The Battalion

By Julie Polston
The Battalion

Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets held its annual March to the Brazos Saturday in an effort to raise money for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

Organizers said the event is a way for cadets to show their devotion to A&M and the outside community.

"I love the Corps," committee chairman Rob Ferris said. "I just want to give the babies in the United States a fair chance in life."

Ferris said cadets go out into the community and raise money from door-to-door donations to benefit the March of Dimes.

The outfit that raises the most money adds its name to a trophy especially for the event. Ferris said individual incentives for fund raising also are awarded, including round trip tickets and hotel accommodations to Orlando, Fla.

March to the Brazos has raised more than \$500,000 for the March of Dimes since 1977.

This year's event is expected to raise more than

See Cadets/Page 4

Sheriff's deputy accuses police officers in brutal beating

HOUSTON (AP) — Police internal affairs and the Texas Rangers are investigating an attack on a San Jacinto County sheriff's deputy and her husband by several men, including three Houston police officers, authorities said.

Deputy Edna Kennedy and her husband, Dennis, were taken to Huntsville Memorial Hospital Friday night after the attack at the Hill Top Icehouse in Point Blank, about 75 miles north of Houston.

Dennis Kennedy's eyes were swollen shut and his face was lacerated in the attack, while the back of Mrs. Kennedy's head and her face and lip were split open.

Kennedy's wife said a Houston police-

man put a gun in her mouth and told her "you're fixin' to bite the bullet," then called her an expletive, as her husband lay beaten a few feet away in the parking lot.

"I thought my husband was already dead," she told the Houston Chronicle in Sunday's editions. "I started doing my Hail Mary prayers. I said my children's names. I just felt like they were fixing to kill me."

After state police and sheriff's deputies arrived, the officer, two other Houston police officers with him and five or six of their friends — all of whom the Kennedys say were involved in the assault — were

questioned and released.

Houston Police Department spokesman Robert Hurst said the internal affairs division is investigating because a shot was fired. The names of the officers, who reportedly were in the area for a fishing tournament, were not released.

San Jacinto County Sheriff Lacy Rogers said he was turning the investigation over to the Texas Rangers.

"All I want is to be sure justice is done because they should have gone to jail," said Mrs. Kennedy, a 10-year veteran with the sheriff's department, a certified officer and secretary to the county sheriff.

"This wasn't a barroom fight," she

said. "My husband was ambushed."

The officers and their friends had come into the icehouse just before midnight Friday, said Lon Watts, the owner's son. Watts said he saw no fights in the bar, but Dennis Kennedy said the men exchanged threatening words with some patrons while playing pool. Kennedy walked out with one patron who he said was afraid to leave alone because of the men.

After the patron drove away, Kennedy turned to go back toward the bar. He said the men circled him and attacked. Kennedy's face was beaten beyond recognition, witnesses said.

Mrs. Kennedy came out of the icehouse

five minutes into the fray. She said she pulled her gun and identification from her purse and identified herself as a San Jacinto County sheriff's deputy. The men moved away from her husband, but she said she was suddenly struck from behind and a hand grabbed her gun, causing it to fire.

As she was forced to the ground, she said the men said they were Houston police officers but did not show any identification. The officer pulled her hand behind her back, holding her face down on the parking lot, she said. He then turned her over and stuck the barrel of a gun in her mouth, splitting her lip.