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FORECAST

TUESDAY
 Partly cloudy
 Highs in 80s
 Lows in 60s

OPINION
PRO/CON
Panhandlers: Should cities stop them from begging?
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SISTERLY LOVE
 A&M employee's partial organ donation helps her sister beat diabetes
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SPORTS
A&M routs Texas in Sunday's series finale, 11-5
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The Battalion

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Brown's tax plan will boost economy, A&M professors say

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

Former California Gov. Jerry Brown's flat-rate income tax proposal has become a controversial issue in the presidential campaign, but some Texas A&M economists believe the plan could be a positive boost for the economy.

Dr. Robert Reed, an A&M economist, said the flat tax would simplify the tax code, eliminating many loop holes.

"The tax would be assessed on everyone at a 13 percent rate, and almost all de-

ductions would be eliminated," Reed said. "I think Brown would allow for some deductions, like home mortgage payments, but overall there would be fewer exemptions."

Many economists support the plan because it would lower the overall tax rate and eliminate the corporate income tax, which would stimulate business, said Dr. Morgan Reynolds, an A&M economics professor.

"The flat tax is very pro-growth, pro-jobs and pro-production," Reynolds said.

"This plan would be great for capital

investment, and encourage additional labor supply.

"Brown's tax plan is a lot more effective for stimulating business than anything the Republicans have come up with," he said.

One of the major criticisms of the flat tax is that it would act as a regressive tax, because poorer people would have less disposable income after taxes than the rich, Reynolds said.

That is also a complaint of the value-added tax, a type of national sales tax that is a part of Brown's flat-tax proposal.

"The tax proposals are mildly regressive, depending how you look at them," Reynolds said. "The value-added tax does act as a national sales tax, so in the short term lower income people will support it more."

"Over a person's lifetime, though, an individual will spend about 90 percent of what they earn," he said. "The plan is only regressive in the short term, in the long term it evens out."

Despite the immediate economic benefits a flat tax offers, Reed said Brown's motives in promoting the plan are not completely business-oriented.

"Jerry Brown sees out there a huge army of tax lawyers and accountants that produce no social product, but absorb all these resources," he said. "He finds these parasites bothersome, and his tax plan would eliminate this class of non-producers."

Reynolds said tax lawyers would be the group to suffer the most if Brown's plan were adopted, and represented the biggest obstacle to the flat-rate tax.

"The drawbacks (of the flat tax) are mostly political, because Brown has to go against the tax lawyers," Reynolds said.



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Blushing Bride
 Lisa McLaughlin (left), Class of '91, waits to have her bridal pictures taken by a local photo company Sunday morning at the System Administration Building. Her friend Deanna Huddleston stands nearby to assist the bride-to-be.

Libya to cut ties to world

Plans to break off outside contacts 24 hours prior to effect of sanctions

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libya announced Sunday it will sever all contact with the outside world for the 24 hours before U.N. sanctions take effect in a confrontation over the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Arab leaders, meanwhile, continued efforts to find a way to head off the sanctions, which would include embargoes on arms sales and commercial air traffic to Libya.

The official JANA news agency distributed a statement saying Libya would cut all international travel and communication links Tuesday as a sign of mourning for a 1986 U.S. air strike that killed 41 Libyans.

The U.N. Security Council has given Libya until Wednesday, the sixth anniversary of the air raid, to surrender two alleged intelligence agents. The men are charged in the bombing of a New York-bound Pan Am jumbo jet in 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland that killed 270 people.

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi apparently chose to observe the air raid anniversary a day early to avoid the U.N. sanctions

overshadowing his gesture.

The Security Council is demanding Libya surrender the two Lockerbie suspects for trial in the United States or Britain and produce proof it has renounced all forms of terrorism.

The council also wants Tripoli to cooperate with France in trying four other Libyans accused of killing 171 people in the 1989 bombing of a French airliner over Niger.

Libya has agreed only to turn over the Lockerbie suspects to a neutral country — an offer rejected by the West. Gadhafi denies the men or his government had any role in the bombing.

Libya's foreign minister, Ibrahim al-Bishari, met Saturday with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in Geneva and said he offered proposals for ending the standoff. He refused to provide any details.

After a meeting in Tripoli with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt on Sunday, Gadhafi said they discussed new proposals to resolve the dispute. He did not elaborate.

Agents plan to keep tabs on Class of '92

By Melody Dunne
The Battalion

If you are a member of the Class of '92 and you want to tell your classmates that you got a job or got married, or even if you simply want to know where your five-year reunion will be, your class agents are the people to contact.

Kristi Lorson, Vanessa Matthews and Stephen Ruth have been elected Class of '92 Class Agents and are excited about representing their classmates for the next five years.

Matthews, a political science major from Atlanta, said the agents will be responsible for planning the five-year reunion and keeping tabs on their classmates jobs, weddings and address changes. The agents will also try to obtain financial aid for the University during their term.

Any information the agents receive from their classmates will be printed in The Texas Aggie, a magazine published monthly by the Association of Former Students.

Lorson, a journalism major, said that she is looking forward to putting together the Class of '92 newsletter that will be sent to classmates about three times a year.

"I'm honored to have this po-

sition," she said. "It will be an honor to do the best job possible in everything we do for our class."

Matthews said she was excited and proud of the Class of '92 because it is an extremely large class with so many outstanding members.

"There are a lot of people in the Class of '92 who really care about Aggieland," she said. "It's a special place to them."

Lorson said it has been very exciting participating in Class of '92 events this spring.

"Dr. (John) Koldus (vice president for Student Services) has supported our class by getting us together for many events," she said. "He's gone above and beyond to unite the Class of '92."

"Stephen (Ruth) has been outstanding as student body president," Lorson said. "He's known as the 'Howdy Man' because he says howdy to so many people."

Stephen Ruth, this year's student body president, said being elected class agent shows the loyalty and faith that his peers have in him.

"You get other awards, but when it comes from your peers is when it really counts," he said. "I will serve them to the best of my ability."

The class agents are responsible for

See Class/Page 3

Iranians predict election outcome

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The government predicted Sunday that backers of President Hashemi Rafsanjani would win a landslide victory in parliamentary elections, bolstering his drive to liberalize the economy and mend ties with the West.

The early results from Friday's election appeared to be a sharp setback for more radical followers of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who have dominated the 270-seat parliament, or Majlis.

Iran's official news media said 55 of the 123 candidates who won enough votes to capture a seat outright were members of the Society of Combatant Clergy-



Rafsanjani

men, whose leader is Rafsanjani.

The other 68 decided races were in remote areas and the affiliation of the winners was not immediately clear.

But the fact that the government-run news agency was predicting victory early indicated confidence that the measures Rafsanjani took before the vote to eliminate as many radical critics as possible proved successful.

A week before the election, the Council of Guardians, a 12-man review panel of religious and civilian legal experts, eliminated one-third of the 3,000 candidates.

About 13.5 million votes had been counted in 189 districts as of Sunday, with final results from all 196 districts expected within two days, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

The electorate is estimated at 30 million, with anyone over 15 in the population of 60 million allowed to vote.

With 10 percent of the potential 3 million votes counted in the key Tehran area, all but one of the top 30 vote-winners were members of Rafsanjani's society.

His most rabid opponents in parliament, Mehdi Karrubi, the speaker, and Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a former interior minister, were far down the list for deciding candidates for the runoff election.

Rafsanjani's supporters, pushing pragmatic government measures, clashed repeatedly in the previous parliament with radicals intent on emphasizing religious fervor at home and Islamic revolution abroad.

The radicals also wanted extensive state ownership of business, while the technocrats argued for a more open economy to deal with Iran's high inflation and unemployment and the lack of reconstruction since the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Pope plans to visit Denver for 1993 youth conference

DENVER (AP) — Pope John Paul II said Sunday he will travel to Denver for the Roman Catholic Church's eighth annual world youth day next year, his first U.S. trip in six years.

Denver edged out Buffalo, N.Y., and Minneapolis-St. Paul to play host to the papal visit, which will coincide with the weeklong youth conference in August 1993.

"I have selected the city of Den-



Pope John Paul II

ver, in the noted Rocky Mountains, in the state of Colorado, which has not been included on the itinerary of my previous apostolic trips" to the United States, the pope told 30,000 worshippers at an open-air Palm Sunday Mass in Vatican City.

Catholics rejoiced as they heard the news during church services across Colorado.

"I think it will be a dream come true," said Renee Fajardo of Denver.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said 17-year-old Tara Needbone of Northglenn.

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NOTICE

Department opens Spanish classes to everyone, disregards waiting lists

Because of numerous problems encountered by placing zero limits on all Spanish 101, 102, 201 and 202 classes taught in the fall semester, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages has decided to open these classes to everyone on a "first come, first serve" basis.

On April 14, all Spanish 101, 102, 201 and 202 classes will be open for telephone registration until the sections are filled. Once limits are reached, registration will end.

If anyone has already signed his or her name on a waiting list, he or she still must telephone register to get into the class since all previous waiting lists will be discarded.

This open registration applies only to the fall semester; all summer Spanish classes remain restricted to graduating seniors, and students must come to the modern languages main office in Academic 219 for registration.