


**FORECAST**



**WEDNESDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
Lows in 50s  
Highs in 80s

**OPINION**

Public officials have wasted far too much money on campaigns  
—Lori Saddler, columnist

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**LIFESTYLES**

**'THROW UP'**

Combination comedy and juggling act hurls A&M performers into the spotlight

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**SPORTS**

Four more Aggies find places in final rounds of NFL draft

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# The Battalion

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## TCA's refranchising hinges on company's corrective actions

By Jason Loughman  
The Battalion

TCA Cable and the Cities of Bryan and College Station are one step closer to renegotiating TCA's franchise, as the cities consider the cable company's schedule for correcting operational and safety concerns outlined in a highly critical report issued by a consulting firm.

Allegations in the 59-page report included elaborations on performance complaints aired by Bryan-College Station residents and Texas A&M students.

The "Report on the Performance and

Compliance of TCA Cable" was presented to the College Station City Council March 25 by Municon, a company jointly hired by the cities to assist them in franchise negotiations with the company.

During public hearings conducted in February, subscribers argued that some of TCA's rates were unjustifiably high.

Many of the complaints in the public record centered around TCA's policy of charging customers \$3.25 monthly for the use of additional cable outlets.

Rogers said the monthly fee is assessed to cover costs for signal leakage monitoring and repair as a result of the additional outlets.

However, the report stated, "The cost to the company of repairing signal leaks would appear not to exceed \$1 per year per subscriber. There is effectively no cost for monitoring the situation since it is done 'automatically' as the technicians drive throughout the system in the course of their daily activities."

The report also mentioned technical concerns, such as antiquated cable, and cable that is not fire-rated.

Larry Monroe, owner of Municon, said the report details a history of violations of the current franchise agreement by TCA.

Mary Moore, representing Bryan in the

refranchising process, said once the cities agree to TCA's schedule for correcting some of the technical issues described in the report, both parties can begin informal negotiations.

The overall refranchising process, mandated by the Cable Act of 1984, would then continue with the cable company submitting an initial proposal, and end with the cities voting on the final, negotiated draft of that proposal.

Moore said she is "looking forward to a very good proposal," and a franchising agreement could be completed "possibly some time this summer."

Randy Rogers, general manager of

TCA, said the report focused on negative aspects of the company while ignoring areas in which its performance was good.

"Only the first 10 pages show where we are in compliance," Rogers said. "The rest of it is basically a character assassination."

When asked about the charge that multiple outlets did not cost the company more to monitor, Rogers declined comment.

"I really don't care to address a whole lot of it more right now except to say that we're looking at it, and we're considering

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## Balkan states form 'new' Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Lawmakers from hard-line Serbia and Montenegro voted Monday to create a smaller Yugoslavia from what's left of the former six-republic federation.

The United States and the 12 European Community nations boycotted a proclamation ceremony staged by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, which included hoisting a new Yugoslav national flag — the last in Europe to drop the Communist star.

Milosevic pledged the formation of a new Balkan state would halt an ethnic war that has claimed more than 10,000 lives since June and resulted in the secession of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Macedonia has broken from the federation too but has not gained the same recognition as the other new states because of opposition by EC member Greece, which fears its own northern Macedonia region could be coveted by an independent Macedonia.

The West, weary of Balkan strife and wary of Milosevic's pledges of peace, is demanding concrete action from Serbia to curb violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina and relinquish territory captured by Serbs there and in Croatia.

The 51-member Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe has threatened to expel Yugoslavia if violence in Bosnia is not halted by Wednesday.

## Thomas hearings affect '92 politics

WASHINGTON (AP) — She's not on any ballot, but Anita Hill seems to have become a force in the politics of 1992.

Her treatment at the hands of the Senate Judiciary Committee last October during hearings on Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court still resonates. In Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa, women are seeking seats in the Senate as a result — two of them hoping to oust members of the Judiciary panel.

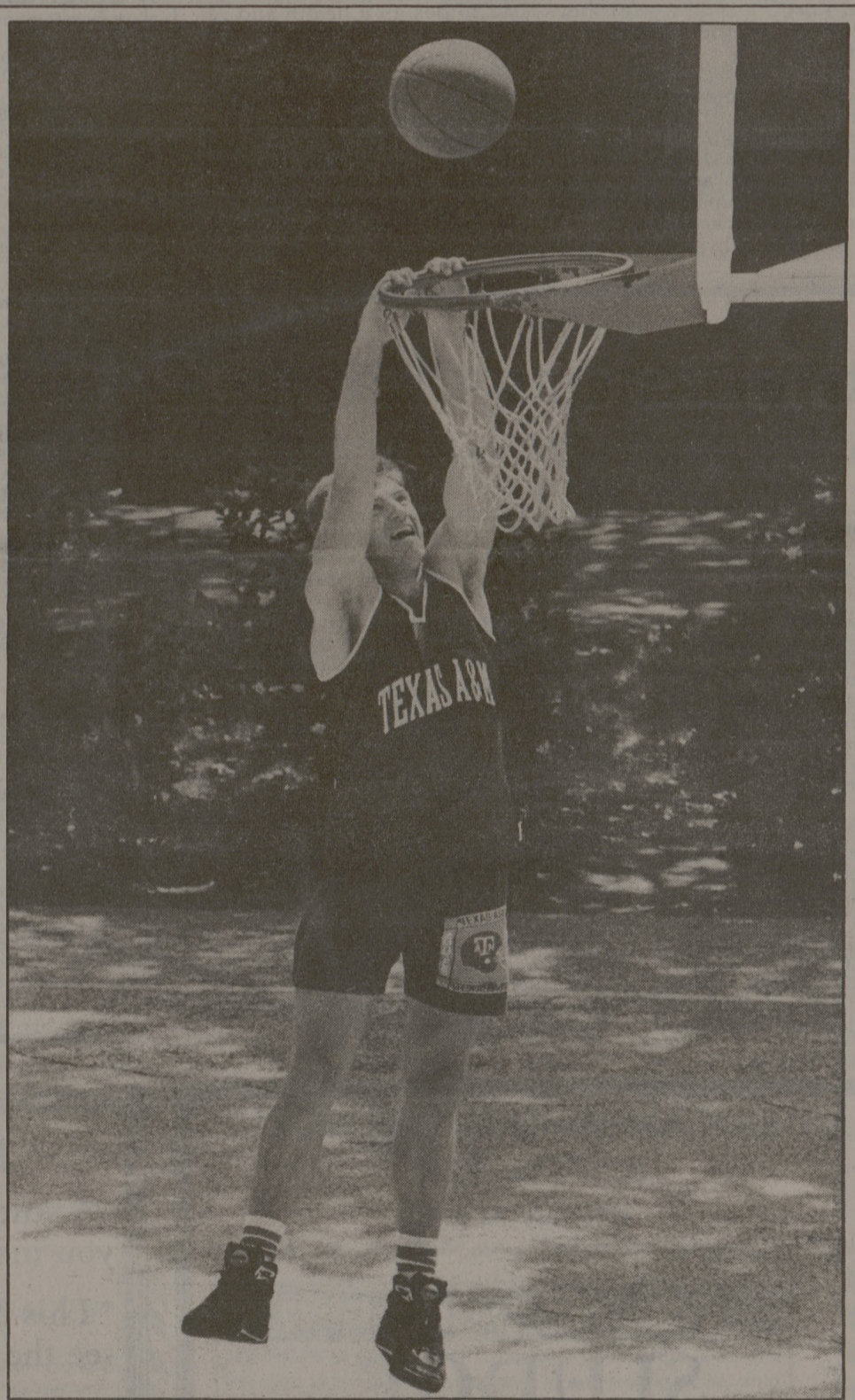
Political scientist James Foster believes the hearings one day may be regarded as pivotal, comparable to the Supreme Court's school desegregation decision of the 1950s or the civil rights struggle of the 1960s.

"I saw a group of pampered, privileged white men closing ranks against a black woman," says Foster.

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Hill



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

## Slam dunk

Rex Henard, an agriculture economics major, proves that white men can jump while playing basketball outside Schuhmacher Hall.

## Cease-fire fails to end violence

### Rival groups continue combat as interim government forms

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Rival Muslim guerrillas battled to a standoff Monday over the southern approach to Kabul and ignored a reported cease-fire agreement as they fought for control of the Afghan capital.

A convoy carrying members of a guerrilla-led interim government that supported more moderate factions left Pakistan for the 120-mile journey over rugged roads to Kabul.

The rebel leaders planned to formally replace the fallen regime of President Najibullah.

A truce that Pakistan's government said was agreed to between the leaders of radical fundamentalists and more moderate guerrillas went unheeded. Red, green and yellow tracer bullets and flares illuminated the sky above Kabul into the night.

Roughly 90 percent of the city was under the control of a coalition commanded by Ahmed Shah Masood. It failed to dislodge the radical fighters of his bitter rival, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, from their strongholds.

Both sides fought with tanks, rockets and machine guns. Masood's fighters were supported by soldiers and even a warplane from Najibullah's military.

Masood and Hekmatyar both want to establish an Islamic state, but they differ on how strict the theocracy should be.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, Javed Hussein, said the leaders agreed to a truce. He did not release any details, but Pakistan's state news agency said the agreement was mediated by Pak-



Rival Muslim factions fight for control of southern access to Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, ignoring a reported cease-fire agreement.

STEPHEN TREXLER/The Battalion

istani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and senior Saudi Arabian officials.

The 50-member interim governing council originally had planned to fly to Kabul on a Pakistani military plane.

The leaders decided to go overland because Hekmatyar's troops threatened to shoot at any plane approaching the capital.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Masood's forces seemed to have fared best in fighting that began Saturday after rebels advanced into the capital.

"Hekmatyar seems outclassed militarily and isolated politically," she said.

She said the Afghans should seek a political solution involving a broad-based transition government.



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

"Desert Traders," painted in 1858 by Otto Pily, hangs in the Sterling C. Evans Library on the first floor near the reference section.

## Students petition to remove art

By Reagon Clamon  
The Battalion

An angry group of students, upset over a painting displayed in the Sterling C. Evans Library which depicts a semi-nude woman being sold as a slave, are petitioning to remove it from public view.

Amy Owen, a senior English major, said she is helping with the petition drive because she feels the painting shouldn't be displayed in a public place. The painting, entitled "Desert Traders," hangs over the copy machines near the reference section on the first floor of the library.

"When they show a woman who is being sold as a sex slave — which is basically rape — that's when I have to say something," Owen said.

"I don't think it should be in a public place

like that. To me, it's just condoning the act," she said.

Owen said what the group is promoting is not censorship.

"I am not for censorship at all, but it's not an

**"When they show a woman who is being sold as a sex slave — which is basically rape — that's when I have to say something."**

—Amy Owen, senior English major

art museum," Owen said. "It's in a public place — a place that's supposed to be a home to all students."

Owen said she never even noticed the painting till she first read the petition that was being passed around.

"I read the petition and I said, 'Are you

crazy? In our library?" she said. "I actually went to go look at it and I was just appalled. It makes me mad that I never noticed it before."

Owen said when students gather enough signatures, they will give the petition to the on-campus branch of the National Organization of Women, who will turn it over to library officials.

Dr. Irene B. Hoadley, director of the library, said there have been other protests since the painting was first donated by Carl "Polly" Krueger in 1952.

"We occasionally get complaints that the painting is degrading to women," Hoadley said. "But, we will not take it down."

Hoadley said she felt the painting should be treated like a controversial book.

"I feel students need to be exposed to all different kinds of information," she said. "There

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