



Amy Browning/The BATTALION

### Walking away a winner

Beth Yohe, a junior speech communications major from Garland, snags an apple from the apple bobbing tub at the MSC Film Society booth set up in front of the MSC Wednesday afternoon. She won a chance at a pair of free movie tickets.

## Violent thunderstorm rips through McAllen

McALLEN, (AP) — A violent thunderstorm stunned people with its suddenness as it swept through Hidalgo County, tearing up property from poor rural neighborhoods to one of McAllen's fanciest hotels.

"At first I thought it was going to be a little rain, then all of the sudden the roof took off and fell on its side," said Ramon Banda, whose Tuesday night dinner was interrupted by severe winds and rain. "Everything turned over. I've never seen anything like this before."

Residents were cleaning up Wednesday.

Although the National Weather Service didn't confirm reports of small funnel clouds, county officials said the twisted damage looked more like a tornado's aftermath than that of a thunderstorm.

"You can't have that roof way over there without a tornado," County Judge J. Edgar Ruiz said, pointing to the roof of the Alton Senior Citizens Center, which was lodged into the awning of Junior's Supermarket.

Part of the supermarket's roof also collapsed.

The storm struck without warning, leaving downed trees and power lines, shattered windows and damaged signs across an area from McCook to Pharr in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

At least 15 homes lost roofs

in Alton "colonias" — poor, rural communities lacking basic services.

There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

"Everything is ruined," said Noelia Olivarez, who returned from a visit to relatives to find the roof, porch and walls missing from her mobile home north of Alton.

"We had a big porch and everything was tied down. It just flew away," Mrs. Olivarez said Wednesday by telephone from an Alton shelter.

Phyllis Krekel of Columbus, Ohio, was bruised in the head by a 2-by-3 foot piece of Plexiglas that fell from the atrium of McAllen's Embassy Suites Hotel. Lex Gemas, also of Columbus, suffered lacerations in the incident.

"If they had stayed three more seconds, it would have been a very different story," said their friend, Dein Boyle of Columbus.

The storm temporarily knocked out power to much of McAllen. Lightening apparently took out the emergency generator at Rio Grande Regional Hospital in McAllen, leaving the 220-bed facility without electricity for about three hours.

Ocker said the thunderstorm developed near Jim Hogg County and traveled east through Zapata, Alton, Mission, McCook, Edinburg and McAllen and weakened once it crossed into Mexico.

The Student Law Counsel and the Office of Professional School Advising

present

The 1994

## Law School Caravan

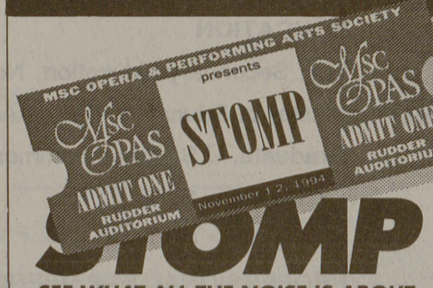
Monday, October 31

Noon to 4 p.m., MSC Flag Room

Over 60 law schools will be present. Don't miss this opportunity to meet with representatives from the top law schools in the U.S. Great door prizes!

Admission is free!

November 1-2, 1994 8:00 p.m. Rudder Auditorium



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Seniors Tuesday & Wednesday, November 8 & 9, 1994  
COLLEGE STATION HILTON HOTEL  
GRAND BALLROOM - 6:20 P. M.

Graduate Students\* Thursday, November 10, 1994  
CLAYTON WILLIAMS ALUMNI CENTER - 6:30 P. M.

All December '94 graduates are invited  
Complimentary tickets may be picked up in the MSC Hallway, November 1, 2, & 3 (9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

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Aggies for Gov. Ann Richards & Aggies for George Bush

Present

## THE GREAT DEBATE

45 minute Debate followed by Q&A

Thursday, October 27th  
7:00 p.m.  
MSC 225/226

Moderated by Dr. Kurt Ritter

Come find out where you stand!