

# THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING



Dave House, THE BATTALION

**Sweeping Up** Erin Walker, an A&M employee for six years, sweeps away the leftover sand between Ireland and University Drive from the ice storm last week.

► **Campus**

**Memorial to be held for A&M fire victim**

A memorial service will be held Thursday night at 7 o'clock at the All Faiths Chapel for a Texas A&M student who died last weekend in an apartment fire. Paul Meloeny, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Seabrook, Texas, died of smoke inhalation early Saturday morning in his apartment. Information on funeral and burial services is pending.

**Aggie appears on talk show as 'hero'**

Eagle Scout and Texas A&M University student Rudy Gonzalez was featured on The Gordon Elliott Show Tuesday. The program, titled "Heroes of the Hood," aired on UPN/WB cable channel 17 (KAKW). Gonzalez, a sophomore business major and a former gang member, discussed how his life changed with the help of the Boy Scouts of America. Gonzalez's story was featured in the Nov. 13, 1996, issue of U.S. News and World Report.

► **State**

**Morales may give opinion on issue**

AUSTIN (AP) — Pressed by higher education officials for a legal opinion on affirmative action, Attorney General Dan Morales says he may give one but suggested some administrators want "political cover" on the issue. A legal opinion would carry the force of law, unlike guidelines Morales issued last year after an anti-affirmative action court ruling. Morales has been hesitant to issue a formal opinion, but said Tuesday he is seriously considering doing so. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the University of Houston have asked for an opinion regarding race-related financial aid, which is provided in state law. The attorney general said such an opinion would be general and resemble his guidelines. "A lot of time and a lot of thought and a lot of research went into the preparation of that document, and I would suspect that a formal opinion would not vary much at all from what we have already spelled out," Morales told The Associated Press. The guidelines came after the U.S. Supreme Court let stand a 5th U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in a case involving a former admissions policy at the University of Texas Law School.

**Legislature changes license requirements**

PLANO, Texas (AP) — Texas drivers soon will be helping the state track down deadbeat parents. Beginning Feb. 3, anyone applying for a Texas driver's license or a renewal must show proof of a Social Security number. Only drivers renewing their licenses by mail will be exempt. The requirement, approved by the legislature in 1995, is part of Texas Attorney General Dan Morales' effort to enforce court-ordered child support payments. By cross-referencing Social Security numbers in driver records with the Social Security numbers of delinquent parents, Morales' office hopes to find valid addresses for people and make them pay. "I think it will help immeasurably," said Alicia Terry, a spokesperson for Morales' office. "Nine times out of ten, people will put their right information down on their driver's license because they're literally dealing with someone that can arrest them. A lot of people that owe child support have a Texas driver's license." Recent figures show that fewer than 180,000 people paid child support in November out of some 400,000 who owed it, Terry said. Adding to the state's collection problems is that some parents evade the law by moving from town to town and work without paying taxes so their wages aren't garnished. But not everyone is comfortable supplying the nine-digit federal retirement-system number to the state Department of Public Safety. "I don't like the idea because it's more government intrusion," said Channing Corn, 26, a software engineer waiting in line at the Plano office Tuesday to renew his license. "I think it's another excuse to get more numbers assigned to me. Texas driver's licenses will not display the Social Security number at all. It will appear only in computerized records and given only to the Child Support Division of the attorney general's office, Chernow said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a dishonor for Newt Gingrich, the House voted for the first time to discipline its speaker for ethical misconduct. After months of partisan strife, the vote was lopsided 395-28 to reprimand Gingrich and impose a \$300,000 penalty.

inmates will be released early must be stopped this session." "It takes a bizarre formula to releases violent offenders," said Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena. The two have authored a bill for the so-called "mandatory release program" the state started when prisons were bulging at the seams and more cells were available. According to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the law requires that when an inmate is served, added to his "good" credit earned equals his total sentence, the prisoner is mandatorily released to supervision by a parole officer. Such supervision is to continue until the full sentence is served. Whitmire said the law was passed in 1977 and once helped manage prison space during the overcrowding crisis in the 1980s.

► **Nation**

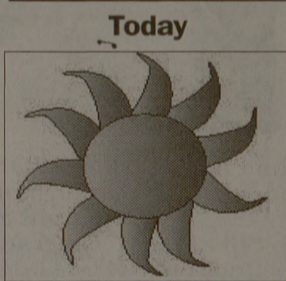
**House punishes Gingrich in vote**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a dishonor for Newt Gingrich, the House voted for the first time to discipline its speaker for ethical misconduct. After months of partisan strife, the vote was lopsided 395-28 to reprimand Gingrich and impose a \$300,000 penalty. "The penalty is tough and unprecedented," ethics committee chairwoman Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., said at the start of a 90-minute debate. Republicans and Democrats agreed that Gingrich had done wrong and admitted it, but they clashed over the gravity of his misbehavior. The partisanship that permeated the two-year investigation was unminished Tuesday despite the overwhelming vote. At one point, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., questioned whether Gingrich was "ethically fit" to continue as speaker. After two years of denials, Gingrich confessed to committee findings that he failed to "seek and follow" legal advice that would have warned him not to use tax-exempt projects to further partisan goals. He also agreed that he should have known statements submitted under his name — denying his political organization's connection to tax-exempt activities — were "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable."

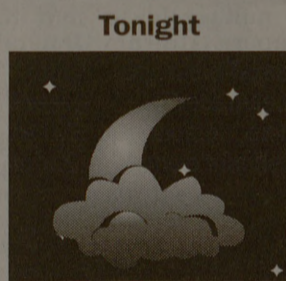
**Legislators target release program**

AUSTIN (AP) — Prison inmates no longer would be released automatically before their full sentences are served under a bill introduced Tuesday in the Texas Senate. "That's nuts," Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, said of a mathematical formula that determines when some

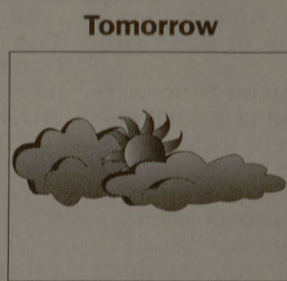
► **Weather**



**Today**  
Clear skies and pleasant. Light North winds.



**Tonight**  
Increasing high clouds. Light and variable winds.



**Tomorrow**  
Partly cloudy. Southeast winds around 10mph.

**Correction**

A mistake was made in a Page 10 story in yesterday's Battalion. The colonization period for the new sorority, Delta Gamma, will be a mini-rush for pledges and officers.

► **This day in history**

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 1997. There are 343 days left in the year.  
Today's Highlight in History:  
On Jan. 22, 1917, President Wilson pleaded for an end to war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." By April, however, the United States also was at war.  
In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 82.  
In 1922, Pope Benedict XV died. He was succeeded by Pius XI.  
In 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" was performed publicly for the first time, in Princeton, N.J.  
In 1953, the Arthur Miller drama "The Crucible" opened on Broadway.  
In 1957, suspected "Mad Bomber" George P. Metesky, accused of planting more than 30 explosive devices in the New York City area, was arrested in Waterbury, Conn.  
In 1970, the first regularly scheduled commercial flight of the Boeing 747 began in New York and ended in London some 6 1/2 hours later.  
In 1973, in its Roe vs. Wade decision, the Supreme Court legalized abortions, using a trimester approach.  
In 1973, former President Johnson died at age 64.  
In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the family compound in Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.  
Ten years ago: Pennsylvania treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, convicted of defrauding the state, proclaimed

his innocence at a news conference before shooting himself to death in front of horrified spectators. Five years ago: President Bush named Andrew H. Card Jr. to be transportation secretary. The space shuttle Discovery blasted off with seven astronauts. One year ago: The White House announced that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had been subpoenaed by the Whitewater special prosecutor to testify before a grand jury investigating the mysterious discovery of her law firm billing records in the White House residence. O.J. Simpson testified for the first time since the killings of his ex-wife Nicole and her friend, Ronald Goldman, as he gave a videotaped deposition for a wrongful death lawsuit.

► **Today's birthdays**

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ann Sothern is 88. Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 69. Actress Piper Laurie is 65. Former Delaware Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV is 62. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 60. Actor John Hurt is 57. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 45. Rock singer Steve Perry is 44. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Mike Bossy is 40. Actress Linda Blair is 38. Rock singer Michael Hutchence (INXS) is 37. Actress Diane Lane is 34. Actor-rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 32. Actress Olivia d'Abo is 28. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gay (Shai) is 28. Actor Balthazar Getty is 22.

**KANM 99.9 FM Cable**  
The Alternative

**DJ Information Meeting**

DJ Positions Available  
Creativity Welcomed  
No Experience Necessary  
Everyone Invited to Apply

Thursday, January 23, 1997  
7:00 p.m. MSC room 206

**ALPHA PHI**  
a social sorority

**INVITES YOU**  
to our Spring rush Jan 21-23

Tues. Jan. 21 join The Ladies of Aφ for Open House with slide show & refreshments at the College Station Conf. Center Rm. 127 at 7pm  
Wed. Jan. 22 join us for bowling and billiards at 7pm in the MSC  
Thurs. Jan. 23 By invitation only

For More Information, Please Contact:  
Melissa 846-7188

**THE BATTALION**

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News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building, Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu; Internet Address: http://bat-web.tamu.edu.

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The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.