



95
74

Today



94
75

Tomorrow

See extended forecast, Page 2.

NEWS BRIEFS

Department head discuss conflict

Linda Putnam, head of the Department of Speech Communications at Texas A&M University, will discuss the next International Association of Business Communication meeting.

Houston left without power after storm

HOUSTON (AP) — High winds blew through Houston Tuesday knocked power lines, snapped trees and shattered windows. No serious injuries or deaths were reported.

State Bar investigates legal assistance

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Bar of Texas said it hasn't received complaints concerning attorneys providing legal assistance to victims of the deadly Central Texas tornadoes through a toll-free hot line.

TODAY IN BATTALION

SPORTS

Women's version of the... will begin its inaugural... this Saturday.

See Page 3.

OPINION

Memorance of the Six-Day... prepares United States... negotiations with Israel.

See Page 5.

ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu
link to Money magazine's complete rankings.



Magazine's ranking of B-CS slips

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Money magazine has ranked Bryan-College Station the 72nd best place to live nationwide for 1997 in its July issue, which comes out Thursday. Last year, the area finished 45th among the top 300 cities chosen.

Nashua, New Hampshire, was named the No. 1 city in the nation in which to live.

Patti Straus of Money magazine public relations said the criteria for ranking the cities come from nine broad categories.

"We rank the cities on a scale of one (being worst) to 10 (being best) within each category," Straus said. "The magazine then chooses from the metro cities that meet these criteria."

Straus said the major category concerns the economy, including cost of living, average home value, unemployment rate, job growth and crime statistics. Weather, crime, arts, education, health, housing, leisure and transportation are other categories included with the economy.

Although Bryan-College Station was ranked in the top 300, some believe the magazine should have not dropped the area's rank.

Ronnie Morrison, president of the Chamber of

Commerce, said the Chamber never has been contacted by Money regarding information for the magazine's survey ranking.

"We've never been contacted by Money magazine since they have done this ranking," Morrison said. "They must rely on government statistics and other sources rather than those who know the area."

With the magazine using the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association as a source, Bryan-College Station ranked highly in the economic category.

Housing highlighted the rankings, with a four-bedroom home costing an average of \$150,700, compared to the national average of \$169,428. The unemployment rate in the area is 2.5 percent, compared to the national average 5.3 percent. Job growth was 4.2 percent in Bryan-College Station, 2.6 percent higher than the national average. Crime was lower than the national rate, and the commute time to work was an average of 15.0 minutes, compared to the national average of 19.5 minutes.

Other characteristics that contributed to the rank of Bryan-College Station were easily accessible and affordable health care, good schools, closeness to a college and inexpensive living.

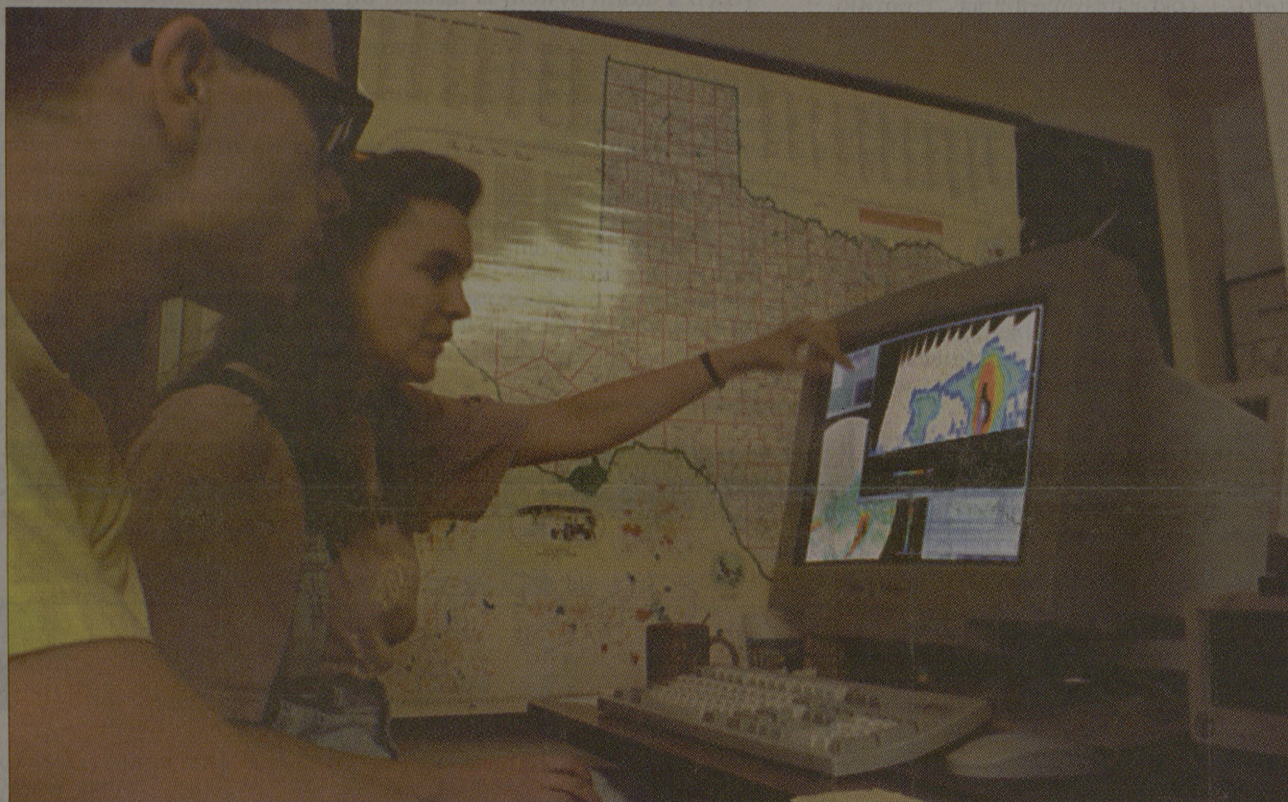
Please see RANKING on Page 2.

Money magazine								
Best places to live in 1997								
	Economy	Health	Housing	Weather	Crime	Education	Transit	Leisure Arts
1. Nashua, NH (42)	92	79	36	20	81	31	12	44
2. Rochester, MN (3)	69	83	68	12	58	71	100	13
3. Monmouth, NJ (38)	41	72	41	52	63	54	17	85
4. Punta Gorda, FL (2)	88	29	53	77	62	28	30	24
5. Portsmouth, NH (44)	83	71	29	7	78	50	25	57
72. College Station, TX (45)	77	20	37	49	25	61	65	10
*College Station, TX	81	23	55	49	20	64	59	10

(1996 rank)
*last year's figures

GRAPHIC: Tim Moog

TEXACAL project explores ignored weather



PHOTOGRAPH: Derek Demere

Josh Santaripa, a graduate student in meteorology, and Svetla Veleva, a doctoral student in meteorology, check weather data recorded by the Doppler radar on top of the 15-story Eller Oceanography and Meteorology building.

Meteorology department, NASA team up for Doppler radar research

By MICHELLE NEWMAN
THE BATTALION

From as far as almost twenty miles away, one landmark on the Texas A&M skyline can be seen — the Doppler radar dish on top of the 15-story Eller Oceanography and Meteorology Building.

The dish is part of an experiment called TEXACAL, a dual-Doppler radar project being conducted by A&M's Department of Meteorology and NASA.

Dr. Mike Biggerstaff, head of the TEXACAL project and an associate professor of meteorology at Texas A&M, said often-ignored areas of weather will be researched.

Damaging short-term winds will be studied because of the large amount of destruction they cause, Biggerstaff said. These winds are often ignored by researchers, but such gusts cause extensive damage in the United States each year.

"We hope that [TEXACAL] will lead to better detection of short-term weather," he said.

During the experiment, the radar dish will be in constant movement, scanning the atmosphere for storms and other weather systems in conjunction with a second dish on loan from NASA positioned at Lake Somerville. The two dishes will work together to provide an in-depth analysis of storm systems in the area.

Long-term goals of TEXACAL include calculating the amount of heat produced by convection of storms in the tropics. The heat produced by these storms can be used to determine future decades' climate changes.

Please see RESEARCH on Page 2.

Irish Protestants prepare to march despite killings

Event commemorates victories over Irish Catholics

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland (AP) — A road through the main Roman Catholic neighborhood of this staunchly Protestant town is shaping up as a battleground, following this week's IRA killing of two policemen.

Members of the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's dominant Protestant fraternal group, say they are more determined than ever to march down Garvaghy Road, as they have done every July 6 to commemorate 17th-century victories over Irish Catholics.

But the leader of the town's Catholic protesters, Brendan MacCionnaith, vowed "no Orange foot" would march through the neighborhood. Last year's attempt to block the march triggered deadly riots across Northern Ireland.

The Garvaghy Road march is one of more than 2,000 staged each summer by the Orange Order and two smaller Protestant fraternal groups to celebrate their community's solidarity and past victories over Irish Catholics.

Many Catholics resent the one-sided celebrations, with their booming drums, anti-Catholic songs and drunken thugs who often tag along with the bands.

Alistair Graham, the British government appointee assigned to defuse the crisis, said Monday's IRA slayings of two Protestant police officers made it impossible "to see how we're going to get face-to-face dialogue, never mind any possibility of a formal understanding" between the two sides.

Please see IRA on Page 2.

Texas Senators push welfare legislation through committees

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas and other states would gain permission to use private-sector workers to determine whether welfare applicants are eligible for benefits under the Senate Finance Committee's budget package.

The measure, inserted into the budget bill by Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, is designed to get around White House objections to a far-reaching Texas welfare privatization plan.

Irked by the Clinton administration's refusal last month to sign off on major sections of the Texas plan, congressional Republicans have vowed to make whatever changes are necessary to existing law to permit the proposal to go ahead.

The Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday began consideration of the budget bill, which puts in place the spending cuts and other measures necessary to balance the budget by 2002.

Gramm press secretary Larry Neal said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the welfare eligibility measure would remain in the final package passed out of committee.

Last week, the House Commerce Committee and House Agriculture Committee approved measures in their portions of the budget package that would allow for private-sector workers to determine eligibility for the Medicaid and food stamp programs.

The question of who determines eligibility has been the major stumbling block to administration approval of the Texas plan. White House officials contend existing law mandates that only government employees make such determinations.

In seeking federal approval, Texas officials said their plan — the most ambitious to date in turning over welfare operations to for-profit companies — could save \$120 million of the \$550 million the state spends annually delivering welfare benefits. They also promised better service to recipients.

Worried that thousands of Texans would lose their good-paying government jobs under the privatization plan — and that the trend could spread elsewhere — labor unions lobbied the White House intensively against the proposal.

Hong Kong governor's ruling days draw to a close

Gov. Patten will leave office when Britain turns city over to China rule in two weeks

HONG KONG (AP) — With just two weeks left before Britain turns Hong Kong over to China, Gov. Chris Patten easily could be dismissed as yesterday's man.

The adoring crowds that greeted him Tuesday on one of his last public outings — including a schoolgirl choir that sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" — suggest that Patten is still one of the most popular of the 28 British governors Hong Kong has had.

Unlike the career diplomats and

China scholars who preceded him, Patten is a politician and master of the common touch. That much was clear from the day he arrived in July 1992, wearing a business suit instead of the traditional sword, tunic and ostrich-plumed hat.

He institutionalized the practice of "walkabouts," as politicians' outings are known in Britain. He encouraged the legislature to thrust and parry, and took it in good spirits when the barbs hit home.

The common touch was still in evidence when he toured a school in Tsuen Wan, where grimy factories and apartment blocks are slowly yielding ground to glitzy shopping malls and overhead expressways.

His silvery hair waving in the breeze, the 53-year-old governor inspected rows of Chinese nursery school kids, giving kindly pats on the back and beaming as he accepted a huge bouquet of flowers. He signed a visitor's book under a

banner welcoming "The Right Honorable Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong."

Behind a barricade, hoping to photograph his 12-year-old son with Patten, engineer K.K. Cheung said he would be sad to see Patten leave.

"He doesn't consider only what's good for Britain, but what's good for Hong Kong," Cheung said. "But China will only consider what's good for China."

"I think he's a good man," said an-

other parent, Ngai Yeung Luk.

China detests Patten for having engineered democratic reforms without its consent, and is disbanding the legislature elected during his tenure. A substitute, unelected legislature is already in place.

And on Monday, the last of Patten's work unraveled when the incoming, China-approved government appointed extra members to local councils, effectively weakening the power of councilors elected under Patten's rules.