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**TRYOUTS!!**

**Mandatory Informational Meetings:**

(You must attend one of these meetings to be eligible to tryout)

When: Wednesday, April 15 MSC 292B 6:30-8 p.m.  
Thursday, April 16 MSC 292B 6:30-8 p.m.

Who: Anyone interested (come even if you're just thinking about trying out)

Applications will be distributed at the meeting, and will be due by 5 p.m., April 28 in the Aggie Wrangler cubicle in the Koldus Building.

Tryouts will be Sunday, May 3

FMI: [http://www.tamu.edu/aggie\\_wranglers](http://www.tamu.edu/aggie_wranglers)



**ANNOUNCING**  
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Interested in applying to a Physician Assistant Program for 1999 Admission?

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April 13 @ 10 a.m.  
April 14 @ 2 p.m.  
April 22 @ 2 p.m.

To register, call 847-8938 or go by the Office of Professional School Advising in Room 205 Academic Building.  
OPSA is partially funded by the Former Students Association.

**Twisting the night away**

Scientists try to guess El Niño's impact on tornado activity

FORDLAND, Mo. (AP) — Each spring, with every ugly dark green cloud, Jamey Wright's father would usher the family into a cellar, out of storms' way. Wright professes no fear today, but he learned early to respect the weather.

That may be good, because since 1950 the geographical center of tornado activity in the continental United States is Fordland, about 175 miles southeast of Kansas City — and, more precisely, on Wright's 136 acres.

Nearly five decades of data averaging twister latitudes and longitudes place Wright's property in the middle of the action although, to his knowledge, no tornado has ever hit his farm.

Perhaps one never will. With tornadoes, the past offers no clue to the future. And statisticians attach little significance to such a finding.

But Joe Eagleman, a meteorology professor at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, has plotted a similar "center of activity" on graphs for individual years. Such a spot, he says, is usually in central or southern Missouri.

Weather is a favorite topic for farmers here, and April, the start of tornado season, keeps the conversation flowing. The big talk this year is El Niño, already blamed for rain and storms in the West and Southeast.

Though Wright insists "you can't outguess the weather," tornado experts are already watching for the funneling winds and guess-

ing about El Niño's impact. "The atmosphere is chaotic," says Howard Bluestein, meteorology professor at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. "It's very, very slight changes in what happens at the beginning — slight changes in what happens right now — that will affect what happens a week from now tremendously."

**"The atmosphere is chaotic."**

Howard Bluestein  
University of Oklahoma

A factor or not, El Niño faces tough precedents. The planet's fiercest tornadoes touch down most often in the United States. On average, 836 sightings are reported each year.

From its Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recorded more than 38,000 segments — twisters that stay on a straight path — between 1950 and 1995.

Those storms caused nearly 71,000 injuries and more than 4,100 deaths. That's an average of two injuries per twister, according to data compiled from newspaper accounts and National Weather Service reports.

An Associated Press analysis of that data shows that 75 percent of the tornadoes touched down in 17 states — in the Plains, Midwest and Southeast. These include Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

Just this past week, tornadoes swept through Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, leaving dozens of deaths in their wake.

Meteorologists do agree that El Niño — the intense warming of the Pacific Ocean off South America — has intensified in the United States and shifted south the jet stream's winter winds, bringing floods to southern California and heavy rains and winds to Florida.

Will El Niño add kick to this season's tornadoes?

Many side with farmer Wright, claiming flat-out that no one can make a sound prediction. KU's Eagleman and Joe Schaefer, director of Norman's center, say their studies show no definite correlation. Adds colleague Louis Wicker, a professor at Texas A&M University: "I've chased storms, and I've been doing that for 18 springs. I can say with some confidence I have no clue."

With expertise rooted in local lore, some of Fordland's 530 residents offer their own ideas, theories and memories of "the big ones."

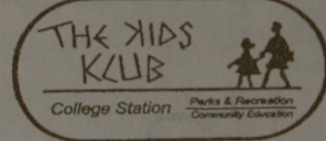
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**SCIENCE**

**Baby boomers of touch with**

NEW YORK (AP) — More kids are trying earlier age, baby boomers are convinced that due to their children, according to a study by the Partnership for Drug-Free America.

"Boomers — many of 'been there, done that' prisingly and ironically with the reality of drug-dren's lives," Partnership Richard D. Bonnette said.

Past Partnership study that 60 percent of the tried marijuana at less.

The group's 10th survey Sunday, showed that underestimated the availability of marijuana, their children's risks and whether their friends were smoking.

"Few sincerely believe dren are exposed to drugs are widely available schools their children's nette said.

The current study among children ages 8-12 number who had tried was up from 334,000 571,000 last year — from 3 percent to 5 percent age group.

Marijuana use among 16 remained stable, but a significant increase and 18-year-olds — from in 1996 to 48 percent

**THE BATTALION**

Tiffany Inbody, Editor

News: The Battalion news department is at Texas A&M University in the Division of the Department of Journalism, 013 Reed McDonald Building, Newmark, TX 77840. Phone: 845-2647. E-mail: [battalion@tamuc.edu](mailto:battalion@tamuc.edu)

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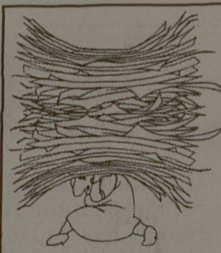
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**Need a little free time? Try**

**4.0 & GO**

The week of April 12- April 16

Acct 229 Test Reviews	Cassidy Sun Apr 12 9pm-12am	Deere Joiner Mon Apr 13 6pm-9pm	
Acct 229 Shomaker	Part I Tue Apr 14 6pm-9pm	Part II Wed Apr 15 6pm-9pm	Part III Thu Apr 16 6pm-9pm
Acct 230	Test Review Mon Apr 13 3pm-6pm	Test Review Mon Apr 13 9pm-12am	
Biol 113	Part I Sun Apr 12 6pm-9pm	Part II Mon Apr 13 6pm-9pm	Part III Tue Apr 14 6pm-9pm
Math 141	Part I Mon Apr 13 6pm-9pm	Part II Tue Apr 14 6pm-9pm	Part III Wed Apr 15 6pm-9pm
Math 142	Part I Mon Apr 13 9pm-12pm	Part II Tue Apr 14 9pm-12pm	Part III Wed Apr 15 9pm-12pm
Finc 341	Part I Sun Apr 12 7pm-10pm	Part II Mon Apr 13 7pm-10pm	Part III Tue Apr 14 7pm-9pm

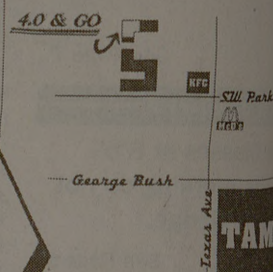
Tickets go on sale Sunday 8:30 p.m. 4.0 & Go is located on the corner of SW Pkwy and Tx Ave, behind KFC next to Lack's

Question: Who invented the toilet?  
(First 5 to call with answer get free review!)

Answer appears in next issue

Last week's answer: Walter Coy was never able to succeed until after he dropped out of U.S.

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Look for our ads in the Battalion Mondays & Thursdays