# ET CETERA

Lottery Commission makes bad bet Driving me crazy

AUSTIN (AP) — Lottery officials told them it would not work. But Texas legislators cut overall prizes last year as a way to increase the state's share of revenue from the numbers games.

It has not worked.

Lottery sales have been slower since the prize cuts took effect Sept. 1, 1997. The state now expects to net more than \$328 million less than anticipated in the current budget.

Noting the potential shortfall, Sen. Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria, on Tuesday said lawmakers should consider returning prizes to where they were ---about 57 cents of every dollar in sales or allow the Lottery Commission to determine how to best maximize profits.

"It was a bet trying to get us to the same place," Armbrister said of the prize-cut decision. "We didn't have that expertise and now it is costing us, it seems.

Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, agreed. "I think we made several mistakes," he said. "One would have to be oblivious to reality if one didn't think the cutting of prizes didn't affect (sales).

The bottom line is that we have to bring in some revenue to the state and be fair and generous to the people who participate in our lottery," he said.

Barrientos said he likely would support returning prizes to the 57-cents per \$1 level if the lottery could prove its sales would rebound as a result.

Before doing it, state officials acknowledged that cutting prizes to about 53 cents per \$1 in sales would drive some players away.

But they said enough players would remain loyal and the extra money from the prize cut would offset any loss of players.

That has not been the case. Texans have told the lottery that they have either stopped playing or reduced the money they are spending in part because prizes were cut.

Executive Director Linda Cloud showed lawmakers the difference the cut made to just one game, the lottery's Valentine's Day instant game.

In 1997, before prizes were cut, the game peaked at more than \$5 million in sales. Prizes for the game at the time amounted to about 60 cents on the \$1.

This year, with prizes at 50 cents per \$1, the game peaked at less than \$3 million in sales. That was lower than the starting sales of the game in 1997.

While the prize cut was a major contributor to the drop, Cloud said other factors included negative publicity because of lottery controversies unrelated to the games, the age of the lottery, a cut in advertising and a nationwide decrease in lottery sales.

She added, though, that returning the prize payout to its original level could solve much of the problem.

Cloud said Georgia also cut its prizes last year, saw sales drop and raised prizes back up. While sales rose after prizes were returned to their original level, they did not return to pre-

-WHAT'S UP -

Clint Willis, a sophomore construction science major, waits for a parking spot in Blue lat side Zachry Building Tuesday afternoon.

### Wednesday

ATM Womens Rugby: Come join! No experience needed. Practices are from 5 to 7 p.m. at the pitch on the corner of Texas Ave. and University Dr. Call Nikki at 694-0084 for information.

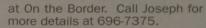
Catholic Students Association: "Hot

Topics" discussion session from 6 to 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center Library, followed by Newman Mass at 7:15 and a Bible study in Rudder Tower.

**Study Abroad Programs Office:** There will be a meeting from 11 to 11:30 a.m. in 154, 161 Bizzell Hall West. The meeting will promote the Italy Spring '99 program.

Episcopal Student Center: There will be a celebration of holy eucharist followed by free dinner at 6:15 p.m. at 902 George Bush. Call Father Mark at 696-0774 for details.

Texas Aggie Brew Club: There will be more of the same at 7:30 p.m.



Pre-Dental Society: We will have our annual banquet at El Arroyo at 7 p.m. Dr. Birdwell will be the speaker for the evening. You can sign up and pay at the OPSA office by Monday. Call Shannon at 696-2922 for details.

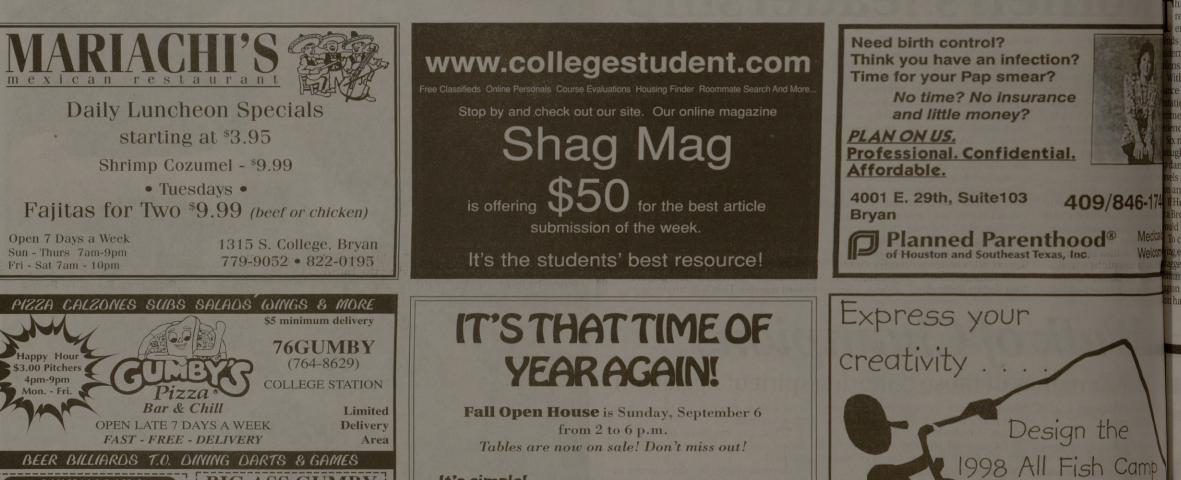
#### Thursday

**Graduate Fellowship of Intervarsity** Christian Fellowship (IVCF): Bible study for graduate and non-traditional students, followed by fellowship will be held at 7:30 p.m. See our Web site for location and map at Call Mark or Jennifer at 764-1552.

What's Up is a Battalion lists non-profit student and events and activities. Its be submitted no later days in advance of the da date. Application dead tices are not events and run in What's Up. If you questions, please call that 845-3313.

Wednesday · April

dne





MSC L.T. Jordan Institute 🖄

for International Awareness

Indians in the

Modern World:

**Destruction or Development?** 

Wednesday

April 29th, 1998

7 pm - MSC 225

5. For more information, or to inform us of your needs, call 845-8770

Dr. Richard K. Reed

**Trinity University** 

**Professor of Sociology and Anthropology** 

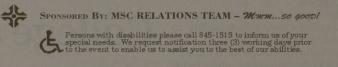
South American /

It's simple! Just go to the MSC Box Office in Rudder Tower and pay \$30 for your recognized student organization. We take cash, check, aggie bucks, credit cards, or departmental accounts (you'll need an IDT).

and remember . . .

Space is limited! Remember, Open House tables are limited, and are awarded on a first come, first served basis! Only one table per organization.

Please come and join us! Any questions? If so call the Relations Office at 845-7627.



9 Out of 10 Kaplan students get into one of their top-choice law schools.

Competition for law school is tough, and your LSAT score can make all the difference. That's wil you need to take Kaplan. For 60 years, we've helped more students get into law school than al other test prep companies combined. That's why we're the #1 choice for LSAT prep.

# LAST CHANCE To Prepare for the JUNE Exam!



\*LSAT is a registered trademark of the Law School Adr

Call or check out our web site to study anywhere in the U.S.



call the office @ 845-1627.

The theme is "Dreams Becoming Realities"

# BATTALION

# Tiffany Inbody, Editor in Chief

Helen Clancy, Copy Chief Brad Graeber, Visual Arts Editor Robert Smith, City Editor Jeremy Furtick, Sports Editor Jeff Webb, Sports Editor James Francis, Aggielife Editor

Mandy Cater, Opinion Editor Ryan Rogers, Photo Editor Chris Huffines, Radio Produce Sarah Goldston, Radio Produc Dusty Moer, Web Editor Aaron Meier, Night News Edito

## - STAFF MEMBERS -

CITY- Amanda Smith, Stacey Becks, Susan Atchison, Kelly Hackworth, Suzanne Riggs, Lyndsay Nantz, Jennifer Wilson & Katy Lineberger SCIENCE - Jill Reed. SPORTS - Assistant Editor: Jeff Schmidt; Michael Ferguson, Chris Ferrell, Travis Harsch, Robert Hollier, Al Lazarus, Colby Martin, Aaron Meier, Katie Mish, Philip Peter & Michael Taglienti. AGGIELIFE - Marium Mohiuddin, Rhonda Reinhart Chris Martin, Leah Templeton, Travis Hopper, April Towery, Travis Irby & Stephen Wells. <u>OPINION -</u> Len Calloway, Adam Collett, John emons, Donny Ferguson, Caleb McDaniel, Beverly Mireles, Manisha Parekh, Stewart Patton, Mickey Saloma, Joe Schumacher, Michelle Voss, Frank Stanford & Jennifer Jones.

NIGHT NEWS - Joyce Bauer, Jaclynn Barker, A & Shane Elkins. HOTO - ASSISTANT EDITOR: Brandon Bollom; McKay, Greg McReynolds, Cory Willis, Mike Fuentes, James Francis & Jake Schrickling GRAPHICS - James Palmer, Chad Mallam, J Faulkner & J.P. Beato. CARTOONISTS - Ed Goodwin, John Lemons, Di Hoffman, Gabriel Ruenes, Victor Vanscoit, N Nordfelt and Quatro Oakley. <u>Copy Epirons</u> - Leslie Stebbins, Jennifer Jot# David Johnston, Martha Gidney, Patrick Patri Veronica Serrano. RADIO - Andrew Baley, Jody Rae Sartin, Laufa Stuart & Karina Trevino. WEB - Anita Tong & Jeremy Brown

News: The Battalion news department is managed by stu xas A&M University in the Division of Student Public lepartment of Journalism. News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax 8452 att@unix.tamu.edu; Website: http://battalion.tamu.edu

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, lotal, and nation tising, call 845-2696, For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald, and office hous as Ionday through Friday, Fax: 845-2678.

Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. Mail su Software provides a part of a Subdem Services for encodes and reactions according to pick op a single control of the Balancian data \$60 per school year, \$30 for the fall or sping semester and \$17.50 for the summer. To charge by credit card, call 845.2611. **The Baratuco** (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall spring semesters and Monday through the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College S Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX TR4