

# What's up

## Thursday

- ECONOMICS SOCIETY:** will meet for happy hour at 5 p.m. at Rocco's on University Drive.
  - PRE-LAW SOCIETY:** will take pictures for the Aggie yearbook at 9:30 p.m. in the Zachry lobby.
  - HAMILTON COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 302A Rudder.
  - INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM:** Dr. Kerine Dettwyler will present slides and discuss "Infant Mortality in Developing Countries: A Study in Mali, West Africa" at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
  - AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS:** Col. James P. Lang will discuss "Challenge of the Advanced Tactical Fighter" at 8 p.m. in 110 Harrington.
  - LOST AND FOUND AUCTION:** The auction is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rudder Fountain.
  - NIGERIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Kevin Carreth will discuss "Black History: The True Story Behind the Legend" at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
  - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** will have a guest speaker at 7:30 p.m. in 150 Blocker.
  - ACM AND DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** A representative from Compaq Computers will discuss career opportunities at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Inn.
  - SPEECH COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION:** will have a happy hour social at 5 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.
  - LEBANESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will have a picnic at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
  - WRITING OUTREACH:** Shirley Bovey will discuss "Writing: Preparing a Manuscript for Publication" at 6:30 p.m. in 110 Blocker.
  - TAMU HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION:** will take pictures for the Aggie yearbook at 7:10 p.m. in the Kleberg lobby.
  - ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:** will have a graduate studies seminar to present information about graduate studies in electrical engineering at Texas A&M at 7 p.m. in 102 Zachry.
  - MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY:** will have a preregistration pizza party at 6:30 p.m. in 107 Heldenfelds.
- Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days before desired publication date.**

# District judge frees ex-hospital official after 110-day stay

HOUSTON (AP) — A former Hermann Hospital official convicted of theft and sentenced to seven years in prison was freed after serving 110 days.

Former hospital executive director William Smith, who was released from prison Tuesday, will begin work as a consultant for a New York firm earning up to \$12,000 a month.

Smith, 49, had the rest of his sentence probated.

Smith was convicted of theft for improperly billing Hermann Hospital for chartered airplane trips and food.

State District Judge Miron Love granted probation to Smith with the condition that he repay the hospital \$141,011 plus 8 percent interest.

The judge also required Smith to contribute 120 hours each year in community service for the remainder of his seven-year sentence.

Texas law allows judges to put defendants sentenced to 10 years in prison or less on "shock probation" before they have served six months.

The theory is that they will be shocked by prison life into obeying the law.

Smith told the court that he will work as a hospital consultant for a New York health care firm where he would earn up to \$12,000 a month.

A. Ross Rommel, the former director's attorney, said Smith held the consultant's job before he went to prison.

The former executive director of Hermann Hospital entered prison in late July.

Smith pleaded no contest to 27 charges of felony theft and one charge of misdemeanor theft.

It was discovered in early 1985 that executives of the Hermann Hospital and estate had spent money designated for charitable purposes on luxuries.

The seven-year sentence Smith received was the stiffest handed to any of the 10 people indicted in connection with the hospital scandal.

But, several of those cases are pending.

Prosecutor Don Stricklin said Smith would have been eligible for parole in early 1988.

If Smith had gone that route, he would have maintained a record of conviction.

A shock probation allows him to have a clear record.

"I don't think it was proper to release him from prison so soon," Stricklin said.

"This doesn't seem to be much of a deterrent."

But Stricklin added, "I can understand the judge's reasons as far as the condition of prisons being overcrowded and that this way, (Smith) could pay back society instead of having society pay for him."

Smith will pay 10 percent of his earnings annually toward restitution, and interest will be added to the balance.

# Former student body presidents say leadership roles helped with careers

By Sharon Maberry  
Reporter

Some former Texas A&M student body presidents have found that their leadership roles helped them in their careers after graduation.

Mike Sims, the 1986-1987 student body president, says the greatest thing he learned as student body president was how to work with people.

Sims works as a research assistant for Sen. Lloyd Bentsen in Washington D.C., where he communicates with Bentsen's constituents.

Sims' work includes helping answer Bentsen's mail, which averages 10,000 letters per week, and working with legislative assistants who advise the senator on policies.

Sims said being student body president helped him develop self-discipline.

"I worked with sharp people at A&M and I work with sharp people in Washington D.C.," he said.

Sims focused his 1986 campaign on student services.

"I saw an opportunity to do some good," he said. "That's the same thing I do in Washington."

Fred McClure, 1976-1977 student body president, says he gained valuable experience that helps him in his work now.

McClure is the staff vice president

of government affairs for Texas Air Corp. in Washington D.C.

Before this job, he worked for two years at the White House as a special assistant to the president for legislative affairs, where he lobbied in the Senate.

"Being student body president required trying to find a common

*"I saw an opportunity to do some good. That's the same thing I do in Washington."*

— Mike Sims, 1986-1987 student body president

thread of agreement between competing ideas and ideals," McClure says. "Once the agreement is reached, you need the ability to sell the idea."

"That's basically what the legislature is. You try to find a point of commonality so the majority will be of the opinion that you want them to be."

Before his job at the White House, McClure worked at the Justice Department as associate deputy attorney general.

He served as legislative director for former Texas Sen. John Tower before working at the Justice Department.

McClure said he ran for student

body president in 1976 because he thought he had communication skills and could provide good leadership.

While McClure was in office, the A&M administration tried to close down Milner Hall, which then was a residence hall. Under McClure's guidance, Student Government

managed to keep the hall open for two more years.

Another former student body president, David Alders, said he learned to deal with people on a professional, businesslike level in Student Government.

"As student body president, I was working in an organization on a quasi-professional level," the 1984-1985 president said. "I was corresponding with people with more experience than I had."

Alders has worked for Trammel Crow Corp. in Dallas as a leasing agent for more than two years.

Alders began work at the real estate development company with no training period.

"It was sink or swim," Alders said. "I was expected to be able to respond and negotiate on a professional level."

"But it was not intimidating cause my background in Student Government gave me the self-confidence I needed for times dealing with rejection."

Alders says he ran for student body president in 1984 because he thought he could lead a mature student Government trusted by the University administration, he said.

"Student Government has higher levels of decision making cause of its maturity level," he said.

Alders said the most common issue during his term as student body president was the department emphasis on undergraduate administration.

"A&M is becoming a world-class institution by developing graduate programs and hiring people who do a lot of research and publishing," he said. "But such a good only to the extent it doesn't sacrifice the undergraduate program."

"A&M is what it is today because of people who are so fond of undergraduate experience. I hope that, you lose the aura of an Aggie."

# El Paso County residents to vote on water issue

EL PASO (AP) — About 30,000 residents of east El Paso County who live without running water will get a chance to turn on the spigot in Saturday's \$22.5 million bond election.

The Lower Valley Water District's bond issue would pay for pipelines from the dry neighborhoods to the city of El Paso's water department. If passed, some Lower Valley residents could have water sometime after 1990.

Dozens of unzoned housing developments have been built in the Lower Valley, so named because it is in the Rio Grande valley downstream from El Paso. The mostly Hispanic area is attractive

to low-income families who want to own their own homes. Land is cheap, partly because of the lack of water. Many families buy land and then build their own homes.

Because the area is unzoned, many houses are built close together — so close that septic pits contaminate water wells. The area suffers from high rates of dysentery and hepatitis, health officials say.

Many families buy bottled water, or trek to El Paso to collect water from friends, family or even spigots in public parks.

Even a school, Rojas Elementary School,

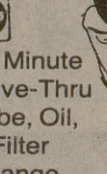
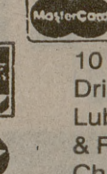
opened this fall without water service. School officials have been trucking in 10,000 gallons of water a day to the new, \$2.7 million school.

El Paso decided this fall to waive its rate to allow the school to tap into a city water line this year.

The bond election was opposed by its community action groups because of its cost because of questions about planning. Last year it was disclosed that if the bond issue passed, the general manager of the water district, County Judge Pat O'Rourke, would be paid \$202,000 for his work as an adviser.

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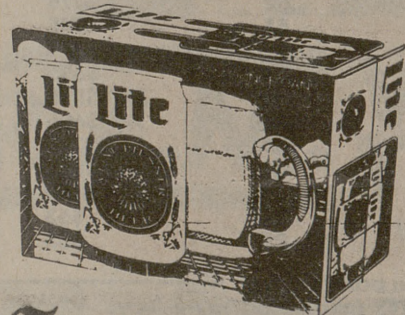


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