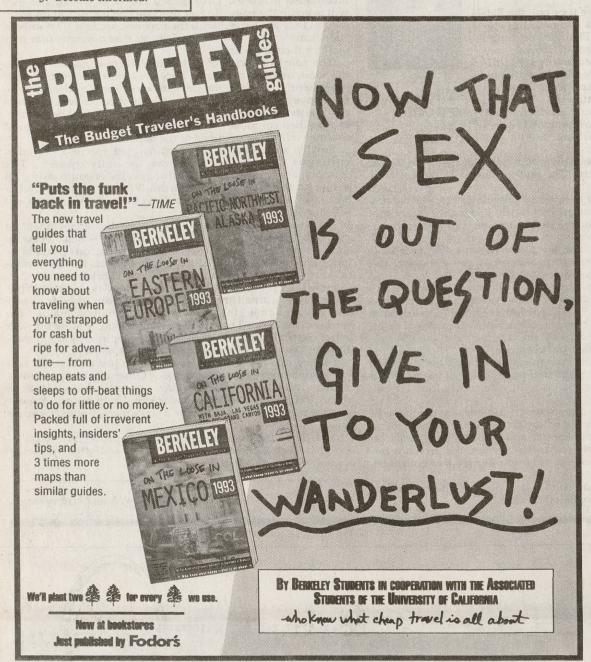
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Cowboys stun 49ers 30-20, earn sixth Super Bowl berth

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO - The Dallas Cowboys capped their rise from the NFL's depths at the same spot their downfall be-

The Cowboys, the league's youngest team, qualified for their first Super Bowl in 14 years Sunday with a 30-20 victory over San Francisco, the team

that dominated the '80s 'Fantastic! Fantastic! Fantastic!" Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson told his players from a podi-

um in the locker room.

Dallas, 1-15 just three years ago and now 15-3, will play Buffalo for the NFL championship Jan. 31 at the Rose Bowl. The Bills beat Miami 29-10 to win the

The Cowboys are early 7point favorites to give the NFC its ninth straight league championship against a team that has lost the last two Super Bowls.

Candlestick was the perfect place for the Cowboys' championship comeback

Dallas' slide from top to bottom began 11 years ago in San Francisco, when Dwight Clark made "The Catch" that put the 49ers in the first of the four Super Bowls they won that decade. Now, they could be sending the 49ers on their own slide.

It will be a record sixth Super Bowl appearance for Dallas, but its first since 1978, when it lost 35-31 to Pittsburgh, third of the Steelers' four Super Bowl wins. It was that record four Super

Bowl victories that the Niners had hoped to break in Pasadena

But they won't get there, thanks in large part to Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and two

perfect second-half drives. Those long drives broke open game that was tied at 10 at halftime and was played with few mishaps, despite a field soaked by two weeks' of down-

pours.

"The big thing for us today is we were able to convert on third down," said Aikman, who was 24 of 34 for 322 yards and two touchdowns. "When we got the opportunity, we were able to convert it."

In the second half, the Cowboys took control.

They took the kickoff and went 78 yards in eight plays featuring a 38-yard pass from Aikman to Alvin Harper. The 6-foot-4 Harper beat 5-11 San Francisco cornerback Eric Davis

on the play.

Daryl Johnston capped that one with a 3-yard run for a TD as the San Francisco defense broke offside, then stood around as Johnston bulled up the mid-

Mike Cofer's 42-yard field goal cut the score to 17-10.

Then came the second drive, 9 minutes of perfection in which the Cowboys converted four third downs in four attempts including the TD, a 16-yard toss from Aikman to Smith. Smith also scored on a 4-yard run in the second quarter and rushed for 114 yards in 24 carries.

Texas A&M University Health Science Center 1993 Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship

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A \$3000 stipend is provided to students accepted into the program. Fellowships are accepted on a competitive basis, and the deadline is March 31, 1993. Interested students should contact:

> Dr. Gerald Meininger Texas A&M Health Science Center 113 Reynolds Building Telephone: 845-0370 Fax: 845-6509



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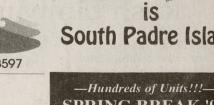
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Continued from Page 4

broke the story during the pre-Cotton Bowl hype. And if the four players were payed for work they did not do this summer, why did the story not come out until late December?

If this type of argument sounds like a desperate plea for leniency on the part of the NCAA, it's no accident. A&M carries Sherrill's legacy squarely on its shoulders, so the possibility of the NCAA investigating the Aggies for the least little infraction is a real one. Head coach R.C. Slocum is fully aware of this, as he has to almost beg boosters at A&M Club meetings around the state to watch their step around his players. At the same time however, many players are set up with jobs working for alumni, making for a potentially dangerous situation.

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Slocum, as well as every other major college coach in the country, is fighting a losing battle in this area. There is no way that anyone can babysit a horde of boosters, each of whom has a mind of his or her own. It's hard enough to keep track of 80 or 90 players, much less more than a hundred thousand alumni.

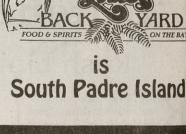
Maybe the answer is to legalize booster payments and take coaches off of pins and needles. Allow anyone not employed by the school in question to grease the palms of anyone they want. If they want to spend their money that way, let them.

The chances of the NCAA adopting this kind of attitude are slim and none, which means coaches will continue to suffer due to circumstances beyond their control. Face it, many players who are offered money will take it in a second, basically because many of those same players need it. Heck, if a prominent A&M booster who for some reason loves journalism offered me money for nothing, it would be next to impossible to say no.

All speculation aside, A&M stands to make it to next season relatively un-scathed. The suspension of the four players before the Aggies' biggest game of the year should serve to soften the blow from the NCAA, who has yet to announce they are even investigating A&M. And the predicted hit to the Aggies' recruiting haul has yet to arrive, as A&M has received commitments from four of the top 100 high school players in lexas

The real damage could come to the reputations of both A&M and the conference as a whole. This type of thing goes on everywhere, but the media focus is on A&M. And the last thing the Southwest Conference needs is another public relations nightmare.









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Dr. John