



# THE BATTALION

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## Weekend rap-up

### AIDS virus taints plasma supply

BONN, Germany — The AIDS scare sweeping Germany worsened Friday with the announcement by health officials that at least 50 premature newborns may have received AIDS-tainted plasma during treatment in Bavarian clinics.

The report is likely to increase anxiety about contaminated blood supplies, despite evidence that only a small fraction of the country's 60,000 people infected by the AIDS virus got it from tainted blood.

More than 1,500 people in Germany have been infected with the AIDS virus after receiving blood products since 1984. The infections of six people have been traced to two companies that were shut down after officials said they had distributed tainted blood.

### Sales surging for Christmas season

WASHINGTON — Sales surged at auto dealers, department stores and building supply centers in October, heralding a busy Christmas shopping season and a strong year-end finish for the economy.

Retail receipts overall jumped 1.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted \$177.3 billion, the Commerce Department said Friday. It was the biggest increase in six months and the seventh in a row.

Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown hailed the report as "a clear signal that our economy is improving." Many private economists concurred. They are predicting the October-December quarter will be the year's strongest.

"This whole report was evidence the consumer has not died and gone away and is out there and willing to spend money," said economist Paul Lally of R.H. Wrightson & Associates in New York.

### Surrogate for sale on highway ad

HOUSTON — It's eye catching all right.

Above the highway buzz of Houston's traffic reads this billboard:

"Womb for Rent! Educated, Healthy, Loving, Surrogate Mother Available. Call 820-4878."

A Houston woman, driven away by what she says is the bureaucracy of clinics and national newspapers that refused to take her ad, is advertising her womb on the billboard.

She says she hopes some prospective parents will give her lawyer a call so she can help an infertile couple and also meet some of her own personal goals, such as using part of her fee to complete a doctorate.

"It's the sheer bureaucracy they have to go through," the prospective surrogate said Saturday.

### Angel edited into Davidian footage

WACO — A city councilwoman from suburban Bellmead thought she saw an angel hovering in television footage of the Branch Davidians' burning compound, but later discovered the image was enhanced by producers of "The Maury Povich Show."

Last week in Waco, Povich taped a review of the Davidians' 51-day standoff with federal officials from Feb. 28 through April 19.

A spokesperson for the show confirmed the images reported by Ruth Haines were edited into the fire footage showed during Povich's special, "Answers from the Ashes."

In a split-second frame during Tuesday's show, a bright, three-story image appears in the fire near the second-story window of the Branch Davidian complex, then disappears.

—The Associated Press

## SEC looks at \$200,000 gift

The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating a California man's \$200,000 gift to Texas A&M University to fund a research project aimed at turning mercury into gold, the Bryan College-Station Eagle reported Sunday.

SEC spokeswoman Sandra Harris said it is trying to find out if the April 1992 donation from William L. Telander is part of a \$7.8 million fraud case the agency is investigating.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported 11 months ago that Telander's investors were told

about the research project. Some investors also said they were told gold could be made from lead, the Union-Tribune reported.

The SEC has charged Telander, fellow businessman Roger C. Briggs and a financial institution called Southwest International Exchange with several violations of securities laws in California.

The two men and the international exchange are accused of selling millions of dollars in fraudulent and unregistered securities from mid-1990 to mid-1992 to 380 investors.

The SEC is trying to determine whether part of

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## A&M tells its side to NCAA during meeting



Officials from Texas A&M University met with the NCAA committee on infractions to explain the University's role in the Warren Gilbert pay-off controversy.

"They gave us a fair hearing and listened to what we had to say," Dr. Tom Adair, faculty representative, said about the 4 1/2 hour meeting.

The pre-hearing 1,227-page A&M response to the NCAA stated the University's case. Officials from A&M said the University should not be held accountable for the nine players involved.

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## Howdy Miss Reveille ma'am!



Tim Moog/THE BATTALION

Reveille VI made her debut as Texas A&M's mascot Saturday during the Aggie football game against Louisville. The 10-week-old puppy will officially replace Reveille V after the

A&M-University of Texas football game on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25. The pup lives with Company E-2 of the Corps of Cadets. See story on Page 2

## Students take on stress of school, work

By Jacqueline Mason

The Battalion

For a handful of Aggies, the stress of preparing for exams, group projects and papers is intensified by the pressure of jobs that require up to 70 hours of work per week.

Many of these full-time student/full-time workers are adapted to their demanding schedules, but they still complain of not having enough time to do it all.

San Torres, a senior animal science major who works 36 hours a week at Texas A&M's Emergency Medical Service, said he tries to sleep during the day but it is sometimes not enough. When he is on-call, he may work up to 70 hours a week.

"Right now, we have about 34 people listed as employees," Torres said. "Thirty-three are students."

Dr. Brian Williams, a psychologist for Texas A&M's Student Counseling Services, said many students take jobs for financial reasons.

"They have other responsibilities than just finishing school," he said. "They need to work to pay for rent."

Amy Rodgers, a community health major who works 36 to 40 hours a week as a respiratory therapist at St. Joseph Hospital and Health Center, said respiratory therapy is her career, school comes second.

Rodgers said she is finishing her A&M degree just in case she decides to change careers later.

Torres said money is not his motivation for working for A&M's ambulance service.

"I'm an employee of the state and get paid \$1 a month," he

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## Student suing for computer speech rights

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Free speech is a new, coveted right for Gregory N. Steshenko. And he is testing its limits in the computer age.

Twice in the past five months authorities have pulled the plug on comments Steshenko has made about Russian and Ukrainian politics on Internet, a worldwide computer network. Now, Steshenko has decided to

strike back.

The University of Texas at Dallas student has filed a \$2 million lawsuit against the school for disconnecting him from Internet for his critical comments. The lawsuit charges Steshenko's rights of free speech were violated.

Legal experts say the case could test whether free speech laws extend to electronic exchanges of ideas.

"I am trying to live in a normal, democratic society," the Ukraine native

told The Dallas Morning News in its Sunday editions. "I didn't leave Russia to live in another totalitarian state."

In June, the Eastern European emigre was fired from Microsoft Corp. after the software company received dozens of complaints that Steshenko's messages were offensive and sometimes obscene.

Last month he was disconnected from Internet by the University of

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## No statehood for Puerto Rico; citizens vote for commonwealth

The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Supporters of continued commonwealth status for Puerto Rico prevailed at the polls Sunday over those who wanted statehood, turning back the strongest movement this century for full union with Washington.

"The people spoke and I will obey them," Gov. Pedro Rossello, who spearheaded the statehood campaign, said before thousands of supporters acknowledging defeat.

But he added: "This is a struggle that will go on."

With votes counted from 89 percent of the precincts — 1,582 of 1,784 — official results

showed continuing commonwealth status receiving 740,892 votes, or 48.5 percent; statehood 707,314, or 46.3 percent; and independence 66,915, or 4.4 percent.

The remaining ballots either were left blank or were disqualified.

Thousands of commonwealth supporters filled the streets during a blocks-long caravan. One of the celebrants, Nereida Rodriguez of the central city of Caguas said commonwealth changed the poor, sugar-farming island into an industrial success, and she was forever grateful.

Screaming over salsa music and honking horns, Rodriguez, 56, said: "We've affirmed that we're Americans — but we're Puerto Ricans, too. We have our own separate Olympic teams, our own Puertoricaness."

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