

# THE BATTALION

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## Food Service employee grievance under review

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

University officials are reviewing grievances filed against Texas A&M by three former administrators of the Department of Food Services. Lloyd Smith, former director, George Nedbalek, former business manager and Col. James Moore, assistant director, were reassigned in September to different positions within the University. Gaines West, attorney for the three men, said the grievances, filed January 10, specifically oppose the reassignments.

"The main thing they want is their jobs back," West said. "We want to give A&M the opportunity to do the right thing." In an October interview with the Associated Press, Moore said the reassignments were a result of their opposition to Robert Smith, vice president of Finance and Administration, and his original plan to privatize the Sbis Underground Food Court. "All I want is my job back," Moore said. "I like working with kids, and we are good at it. Right now they have me stuffed in an office where I have to ask permission to leave the office." Genevieve Stubbs, associate general

counsel for the A&M System, said the counsel's office received the grievances last week. However, the grievances caused an "unusual" situation for the University, she said. "Typically the vice president (Robert Smith) would review the grievances, but since he's involved in it, it will be passed along to another vice president," Stubbs said. "It would be like a judge hearing a case against himself in his own courtroom." Stubbs said the grievances were forwarded to Dr. Benton Coconaugher, in-

terim senior vice president and provost, for review. She speculated Coconaugher would complete the review by the end of February, although there is no specific deadline for compliance. "I don't think they want to drag this out any longer," Stubbs said. Scott Kelly, assistant general counsel, said the process could continue, however. "If the grievant is happy with the decision, that's the end of it," Kelly said. "But if they're not, and they have cause action, they might file a lawsuit." West said Smith, Moore and Nedbalek have been advised not to speak about the matter.

"However, they look forward to telling their side of the story and will have the opportunity to do so soon," West said. Lloyd Smith was reassigned as special assistant to Robert Smith and Nedbalek was reassigned to a position in the Fiscal Office. Dr. Rick Floyd, interim director of Food Services, in a previous interview with The Battalion, said Col. Moore was still assistant director of the department but had been assigned new duties and had been placed in a new office. West said Moore's responsibilities are different than they were, and he wants his previous responsibilities back.

## Inman declines nomination

Defense secretary nominee from Texas steps down

The Associated Press

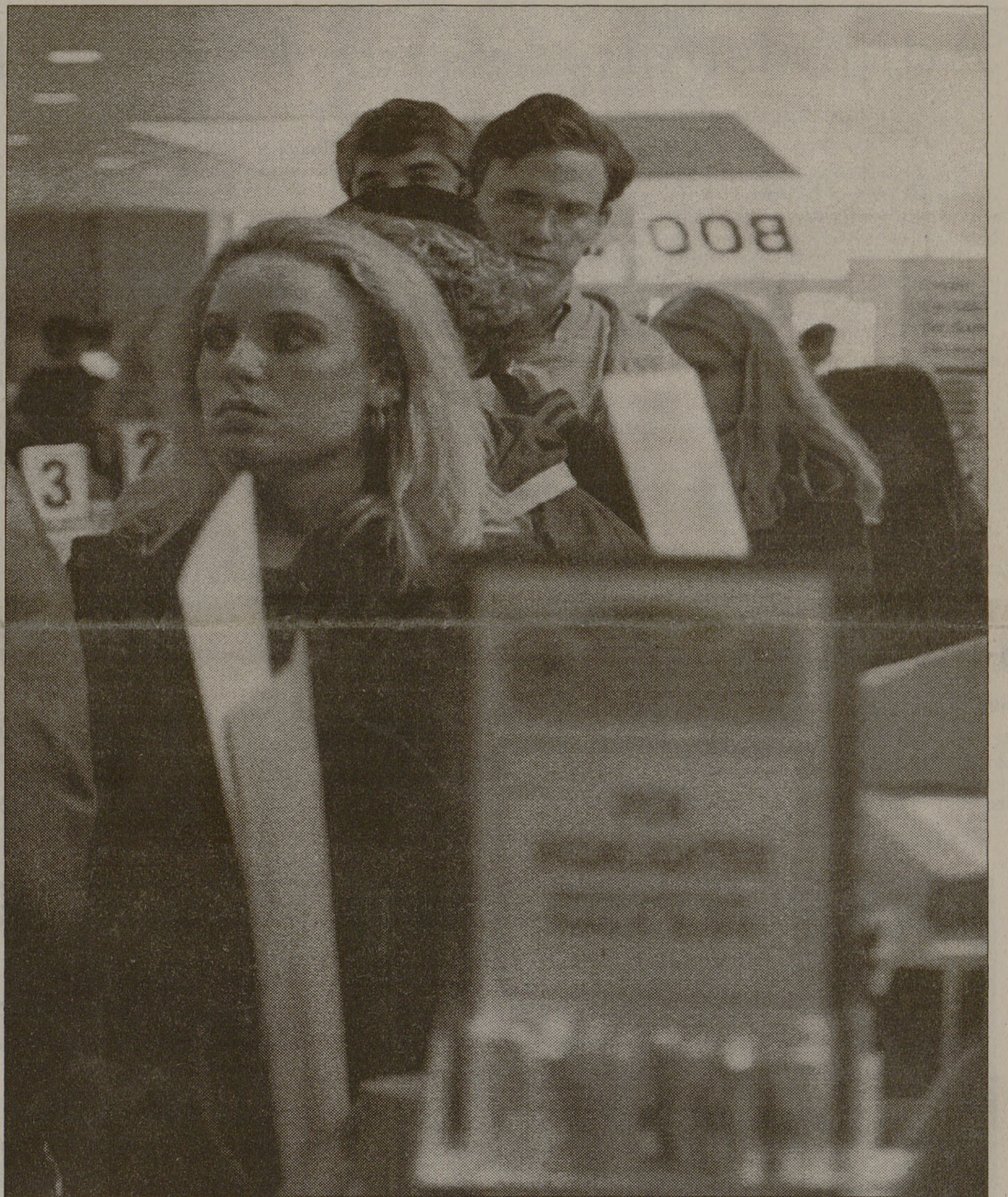
AUSTIN — Bobby Ray Inman, a Texas businessman who held top national security jobs in both Republican and Democratic administrations, today announced he was stepping aside as President Clinton's nominee for defense secretary. Inman, 62, said his decision was prompted by what he perceived as a Republican-led partisan attack and negative reports on his business dealings. At a news conference at the Hyatt Regency hotel, he said, "This was not a decision that I reached easily, but it's one I have

thought through and I'm comfortable with." In a letter to Clinton, Inman said he feared "distortions of my record, my character and my reputation" during the nomination process. Inman's withdrawal was accepted by Clinton with regret. And it sent Clinton searching anew for a successor to Defense Secretary, Les Aspin, who was forced to resign. Gov. Ann Richards said she was stunned by Inman's decision. "I think it's a great loss. I think Bob Inman is terrific and would have been a great defense secretary." She said losing the prospect of having a Texan in charge of defense could be significant in state defense contracts. In a letter to Clinton dated Jan. 8, Inman said the "precipitating event" behind his decision was

what he claimed was a partisan attack on him led by Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of Kansas. During the news conference, Inman also cited critical news reports of him, and the general treatment public officials receive in Washington. "I don't wish or intend to subject myself to that on a daily basis as a cost of trying to produce change," he said. Dole, in South Carolina for a speech, was not immediately available for comment. His spokesman, Clarkson Hine, said he didn't know why Inman singled out the minority leader for criticism. "All Sen. Dole said was that Adm. Inman would receive tough questioning, just like any other nominee," Hine said. Last month when Clinton

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## Still waiting . . .



Amy Browning/THE BATTALION

Students fill the MSC Bookstore Tuesday as they wait in long lines to pay for books and school supplies. The wait can quickly consume the few free moments left in already full schedules.

## Faculty Senate members approve Women's Week for late March

By Angela Neaves

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate approved a resolution during their meeting Tuesday declaring March 27-April 2 "Women's Week" at the University. Karen Watson, assistant dean of Engineering, said faculty and students have been very supportive of having a Women's Week. The theme of Women's Week is "Celebrating Women in Texas." Plans for Women's Week include seminars, speakers, award presentations, art displays and cultural presentations. The timing of Women's Week is in recognition of National Women's History Month which will take place in March. Sen. Tom Johnson, a professor of Geosciences at Texas A&M University in Galveston, said Women's Week is much needed at the University. "In the 30 years my university has existed, and the 21 years it has been part of the Texas A&M University System, not one woman has ever been tenured or advanced to associate professor," Johnson said. "That's a pretty despicable record."

The Texas Faculty Association is charging the Galveston school with having "an abysmal record" in the tenure and promotion of females, Johnson said. In other business, faculty members expressed concerns about A&M's tarnished reputation. Sen. R. Douglas Slack, professor and associate department head of the Wildlife Science Department, said he was worried about how the NCAA Infractions Committee rulings would reflect on the University. "We have been constantly embarrassed through the years by actions of someone or somebody at sometime," Slack said. The faculty must say that the embarrassment must be stopped," he said. Sen. Donald R. Deere, associate professor of economics, objected to Slack's statement, saying athletics should not be singled out as A&M's source of embarrassment, citing the research activity of Dr. John Bockris and his attempts to turn mercury into gold. Sen. Ben Aguirre, professor of sociology, said the faculty should try to meet with members of the athletic department and the 12th Man Foundation. "If we are going to discuss them, I request that we extend them the courtesy of addressing us," Aguirre said.

## California earthquake trips engineers' attempts to strengthen highways

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When eight freeway overpasses collapsed in Monday's earthquake, highway officials lost a race against nature they had undertaken 23 years ago. Earthquakes in 1971 and again in 1989 had revealed dangerous weaknesses in the soaring ramps and support pillars that are familiar sights on the area's vast net-

work of freeways. Engineers set about reinforcing them before the next major quake. The work proceeded slowly, in part because of California's budget crisis and the overwhelming task of deciding which of 12,000 highway bridges and overpasses to fix first. Two sites of major destruction from Monday's earthquake were slated to be strengthened as part of a \$1.5 billion reconstruction plan.

Now, the agonizing prospect of years of traffic jams underscores the frustration of engineers who knew what to do, but lacked the money and time to do it. "There have been a lot of advances in research, but there is a tendency not to make changes until you get a knock on the head," said George Housner, professor emeritus of engineering at the California Institute of Technology and chairman of a 1989 inquiry

into earthquake preparedness. Monday's earthquake disabled the Los Angeles freeway system with military precision. See Related Story, Page 3. The Santa Monica Freeway, which ferries 290,000 cars east-west through central Los Angeles, was cut in three places by collapsed columns and buckled over-

passes. The 30-year-old highway, the nation's busiest, was built before new developments in earthquake-proof construction. In the San Fernando Valley, a key link between Los Angeles and its northern suburbs, was destroyed when one road collapsed on the other. Both roads handle a combined flow of well over 300,000 cars a day. Seven other interstates or state highways sustained damage.

Interstate 10, the Santa Monica Freeway, was one month away from the start of retrofitting; the Golden State-Antelope interchange was also on the list for construction. As of Tuesday, 300 of 860 bridges in the reconstruction plan had been retrofitted, said engineers with the California Transportation Department. Another 200 are under contract for work; the rest are still under study.

## Inside

### CAMPUS

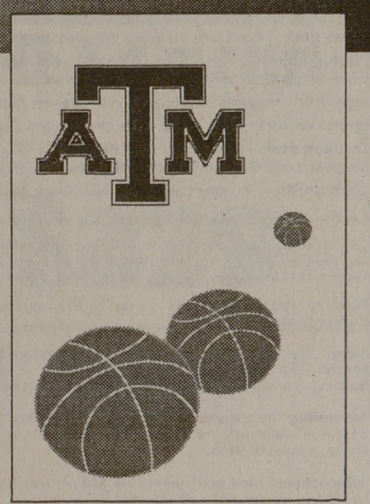
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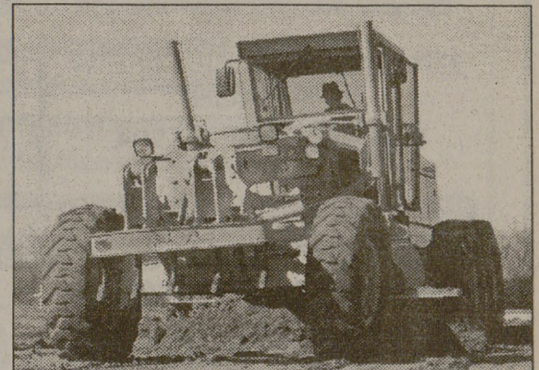
## Population growth, research spur B-CS economic activity

By Angela Neaves

THE BATTALION

The economic future of Bryan-College Station looks a little brighter after a recent growth in the local job market. Frank Murphy, economic developer for the Bryan-College Station Economic Development Corporation, said 3,000 jobs were generated from the openings of stores such as Target, Sam's Wholesale Club, Randall's Food and Drug Store, Wal-Mart's Superstore, Albertsons and three H.E.B. Pantry Foods. Murphy said most of these jobs, however are not full-time. The recent openings of two factories also added to the growth. The opening of Babcock-Wilcox, an oil pipe facility, brought 20 jobs to the area, and the opening of a local tire recycling plant brought 15 jobs. Murphy said the next several years will see a further increase in the job market with:

- the opening of American Transit, a bus manufacturing plant.
  - the Substance Abuse Treatment Prison.
  - the George Bush Presidential Library.
- The prison will bring 400 permanent positions, and the library will bring visitors from throughout the nation. Yusuf Mansur, assistant professor of Economics, said the new prison will have many positive effects on the community. "Bryan-College Station has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation," Mansur said. "With the arrival of the prison, the economy will continue to thrive." Mansur said the prison will also bring a rise in real estate value, and an increase in the demand for goods and services. The Bush Library will bring both employment and tourism to Bryan-College Station, See Economy/Page 2



Rain Nohavitz/THE BATTALION

The Enclave, a new apartment complex behind the H.E.B. on Holleman, is under construction by the Godfrey Development Co.