

# Texas A&M *The Battalion*

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## Senate chooses new speaker, honors Gage

By Kim McGuire  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Student Senate elected Tobin Boenig speaker of the Senate and Ray Hernandez speaker pro tempore of the Senate at their meeting Wednesday.

Boenig ran unopposed, and Hernandez captured 22 votes to defeat Sen. Ryan Shopp, who had 17 votes, and Sen. Amy Aten, who had one vote.

Boenig said he is looking forward to serving his term.

"I'm really excited about the upcoming year," Boenig said. "I will do my job to truly represent every student and every senator and make sure every senator is accountable."

Boenig said the speaker of the senate must both have both experience and vision.

He said his experience as speaker pro tempore and the knowledge he gained will aid him during his up-

### Newly appointed students discuss goals, plans for upcoming school year

Boenig has served as Senate internal affairs chair, academic affairs chair and as an off-campus senator.

Ray Hernandez said one of his goals is to improve relations with underrepresented groups on campus, such as international students, disabled students and graduate students.

"We have a tendency to forget about them because of differences," Hernandez said. "But if we forget about them, we're hurting ourselves."

Hernandez also said he wants to aid in the process of restructuring the Senate Finance Committee and bolster communication among the senators.

Hernandez said being named speaker pro tempore

was a good way to end his senior year.

"Considering the series of events that has occurred in the past, I think this is a great way to end my senior year in the Corps," he said.

In other business, Brooke Leslie was sworn in as student body president.

She said she plans to carry through with her platform.

"During my campaign I talked a lot about making a difference," Leslie said. "I pledge to each of you to do just that. Thank you for supporting me. It will be an incredible honor to serve you as student body president."

Also Leslie, former Student Body President Brian Walker, former Senate Speaker Russell Langley and former Senate Academic Affairs Chair Ben Dale presented Interim President E. Dean Gage with a plaque thanking him for his service to Texas A&M.

Gage said he was overwhelmed by the sentiment.

"I can't tell you what this means," Gage said. "My heart is truly with the students and academic programs."

### Gearing up for Derby Days



Tim Moog/The Battalion

Amy Munno and Andy Stoner paint their mascot Sigma to gain spirit points for Sigma Chi Derby Days. Derby Days will end this week and all proceeds benefit the Children's Miracle Network.

## Supreme Court member retires

### Justice Blackmun leaves at 85, Clinton looks for replacement

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton promised Wednesday to choose a nominee "of genuine stature" to fill his second vacancy on a Supreme Court delicately split on major issues. He saluted retiring Justice Harry A. Blackmun as a relentless defender of the rights of everyday Americans.

"The shoes are large," Clinton said as he wished Blackmun well in retirement and intensified his search for a replacement. "The role that he filled on this court is terribly important."

Blackmun informed Clinton in January that this would be his last year on the court, so the president had a head start in his search for a successor. "Yes, I've been thinking about it," Clinton said.

Clinton said he would fill the vacancy in "an appropriate and timely fashion," but aides said it probably would be several weeks before an announcement.

There was a flurry of speculation, and administration officials did not dispute that Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell was high on the president's list. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt also was mentioned.

Mitchell said he had not received an offer but would certainly consider one. Babbitt said he was not interested and had relayed that to the president. "I very much want to stay put," he said.

A handful of federal judges also were said to be on Clinton's list of prospective nominees, including Appeals Judge Stephen G. Breyer of Boston, a runner up to Ruth Bader Ginsburg in Clinton's first search. Others were U.S. District Judge Jose A. Cabranes of Connecticut and Appeals Judge Richard Arnold of Little Rock, Ark.

Several female judges considered early in Clinton's initial search also are on the White House list of prospects. And one administration official floated a fresh name as a long shot candidate: U.S. District Judge Ann Claire Williams of Illinois, a 45-year-old woman named to the bench by Ronald Reagan in 1985.

Solicitor General Drew Days also was mentioned as a prospect, and some in the administration and Congress suggested Clinton might tap Attorney General Janet Reno.

After 24 years on the high court, highlighted by his writing of the landmark abortion-rights decision, Blackmun said it was time to move on and give someone else a chance to en-

joy the "fantastic, intimate experience."

"My goodness, 85 is old," Blackmun said.

The search is being led by new White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler, who is reviewing the process used to build the prospects file and could make fresh recommendations of his own, a senior administration official said.

Cutler said both Mitchell and Babbitt were prospects but also said Clinton's working list would "probably reach double digits . . . I think it really has to be a true search."

From his comments, it was clear the White House had done research on any possible roadblocks to naming a sitting senator to the court. Cutler even left open the possibility that Mitchell could remain a member of Congress after being confirmed by the Senate. He added, "How politically possible it is, I wouldn't know."

"My guess is you're not going to hear anything in the next week or two," said Clinton adviser Bruce Lindsey.

Clinton himself had little comment on his search, saying it was "Justice Blackmun's day."

"I will attempt to appoint someone of genuine stature and largeness of ability and spirit to the court," he said.

## Defense buyers charged in kickback scheme

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Buyers for two major defense contractors routinely funneled inside information to several Texas and Oklahoma military suppliers in return for thousands of dollars in kickbacks, the government alleged Wednesday.

U.S. Attorney Paul Coggins announced indictments naming 10 individuals and three companies in the kickback schemes.

Coggins said buyers at Bell He-

licopter Textron, Inc., and Vought Aircraft Co. took money from military parts suppliers and in return supplied inside information, including competitors' bids.

Bell and Vought have cooperated in the investigation and are not targets of the investigation, Coggins said.

Officials for Bell Helicopter said they discovered the alleged scheme and reported it to authorities.

Buyers implicated in the scandal are Electro Enterprises, Inc. of Ok-

lahoma City, C&A Electronics of Dallas and Hi-Tech Manufacturing, Inc., of Grand Prairie.

According to the indictments, the defense procurement programs involved in the prosecutions include, among others, the Kiowah Warrior Program for the U.S. Army, the Air Force's C-17 aircraft and the Marine Corps' V-22 Osprey.

"These cases are the result of one of the most intensive investigations ever undertaken into defense industry kickbacks within

the Northern District of Texas," Coggins said at a news conference.

He called kickbacks on defense contracts a "widespread practice that corrupts the defense bid process, inflates prices and destroys fair competition within the defense industry."

The two-year investigation involved cooperating witnesses and undercover agents, as well as extensive court-ordered wiretaps, Coggins said.

## Presidential nominee honored

### Colorado chancellor impressed by Aggie pride

By Kim McGuire  
The Battalion

The third candidate interviewing for the position of president of Texas A&M University was honored at a reception Wednesday.

James N. Corbridge Jr., chancellor of the University of Colorado, was the guest of honor at a reception hosted by Chancellor William H. Mobley. He was interviewed last week in Houston by members of A&M's Board of Regents and by the Presidential Search Committee the week before.

The three presidential finalists include Corbridge, Dr. Ray Bowen, interim president of Oklahoma State University, and Dr. Luis Proenza, acting vice president for academic affairs of the University of Alaska System.

The position has been vacant since former president Mobley was appointed chancellor.

Corbridge has been chancellor at the University of Colorado since 1986. He has also served as vice chancellor for academic affairs, dean of faculties and interim vice chancellor for academic services.

Corbridge said he first visited A&M during negotiations with the Big Eight Conference. He is chairman of the Association of Big Eight Universities and Faculty Athletic Representative.

Texas A&M's sense of pride impressed him most about this University.

"There is a great sense of pride here," Corbridge said. "And you can't say that about a lot of universities. A&M benefits from the loyalty and commitment of its association

of former students, faculty and student body."

Corbridge said he was amazed by the number of student organizations and the level of involvement from students.

"It's interesting students are foremost in talking about Aggie lore," he said. "There's nothing like having a committed student body."

Corbridge said he also admired the emphasis A&M places on undergraduate education.

"Many times the undergraduate education gets dropped by the wayside," Corbridge said. "The fact A&M emphasizes that education puts it way ahead of the game."

Corbridge got his bachelor's degree in English and American Literature from Brown University and graduated from Yale Law School in 1963.

## Nation's largest yearbook gets an editor

### New Aggieland chief predicts job will be demanding

By Melissa Jacobs  
The Battalion

The nation's largest yearbook has chosen an editor for next year. Diana Hodges, a sophomore journalism major, has been named the editor of the 1995 Aggieland, Texas A&M University's yearbook.

Hodges said she knows her new job will be demanding.

"Even when you're a regular staffer it's demanding," she said.

"You have to worry about getting pages in on time, on top of all your class work. I'm juggling two sections right now, and that is helping to prepare me for next year when I'll be juggling seven sections."

Hodges applied for the position because she eventually wants to work in magazine publication, and she said this is a step in the right direction.

"It's such an important job, and I really wanted the opportunity to play a big part in the yearbook," she said.

Hodges has worked for the Aggieland for two years. She has held the positions of residence hall section editor, academic section editor and organizations section editor.

Hodges said she was relieved when she found out she got the editor's position.

"The interview really made me nervous," she said. "I was the only one who applied for the position, but if they don't like you they don't have to hire you just because you're the only applicant."

Hodges said she has wanted this position for a very long time.

"It always feels good to get something that you want," she said. "I visited A&M when I was in high school, and I wanted to apply for the Aggieland then. The editor told me I



William Harrison/The Battalion

could apply but that they usually don't hire freshmen. I applied and got the position of section editor."

Hodges said this year's editor has done a great job, and she doesn't have any specific changes in mind.

"But every year is different and I want to capture the year," she said.

Hodges said many people don't realize how important their yearbook is until it is too late.

"Often people don't buy a yearbook and ten years after they graduate they call the Aggieland and say they want one," she said. "By then it is too late and there is nothing we can do to help them."

After graduation Hodges wants to work for a magazine.

"I'm a journalism major, but I hate to write," she said. "I love layout designs. My next goal is to work for Rolling Stone Magazine. The whole magazine industry is my next stepping-stone."

## Mandela insists South African elections to go on as scheduled

The Associated Press

DURBAN, South Africa — Nelson Mandela rejected any delay in elections in volatile Natal Province, saying Wednesday that the army can end mounting bloodshed in the three weeks before South Africa's first all-race vote.

The ANC leader spoke to a national conference of African National Congress youth in the capital of Natal. In the past five weeks, more than 400 people have been killed in the province, which includes the KwaZulu black homeland.

The South African army sent in 700 soldiers Wednesday in an attempt to quell the violence, bringing the entire deployment to 1,900. The 700 new troops gathered at Ladysmith in northern Natal; most were to be sent Thursday to the area near Ulundi, the capital of KwaZulu.

"We found we had a need to get additional troops into

the area," said army spokesman Capt. Kim van Niekerk. "We were a bit thin on the ground."

The scale of the bloodshed in Natal has convinced some observers that it is futile to try to hold the elections while a war is raging between supporters of the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

President F.W. de Klerk ordered a state of emergency last Thursday to end the political violence. Bloodshed has increased in the weeks leading up to the election — the first to include the black majority — as Zulu nationalists demanding sovereignty try to block voting in their strongholds.

But Mandela was insistent that there be no delay in the

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