

Weather

Wednesday and Thursday, fair at night with sunny and very hot days. Lows in the 70s, highs from 100 to 108. — National Weather Service

Sports

Tony Barone lends his coaching style to A&M's basketball camp

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Opinion

Stanford: "Societies evolve in many ways. Some aspects get better and some get worse. They had fewer drug problems and we have Cray computers."

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THE BATTALION

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

Five Texas A&M officials indicted

Indictees, four others face trial for Class A misdemeanors

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

Five Texas A&M officials were indicted Tuesday by the Brazos County grand jury. Among those named in the charges were Robert Smith, former vice president for finance and administration, and Wally Groff, A&M's athletic director.

Smith was charged with two Class A misdemeanor counts of soliciting gifts from Barnes & Noble Bookstores, Inc. while he was negotiating a contract with the company.

Groff and three other A&M officials were charged with tampering with

Wormuth, interim head of oceanography, were also charged with tampering with government records.

According to the charges, they falsified information on state vouchers, disguising alcohol purchases as purchases of food, soft drinks, ice and cups.

Similar charges were also filed against four people who opted not to go through the grand jury process.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice

president for student affairs; Dr. Don Hellriegel, a professor of management; Sabrina Saladino, an academic business administrator and Sheran Riley, assistant to the president, were charged with record tampering.

According to the Associated Press, Smith, Groff, Wormuth and King each face up to two years in jail and \$6,000 in fines if convicted. Carter, Hellriegel, Saladino, Southerland and Ri-

ley each face up to one year in jail and \$3,000 in fines.

Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said the charges do not deal with using state funds to purchase alcohol.

"This investigation has nothing to do with the status of funds that were used," Turner said. "The amount of money was not, is not and will not ever be an issue. The issue is whether government records are accurate."

Turner said the charges are only misdemeanors and not felonies because no intent to defraud has been found.

"Noticeably absent in the indictments is the language that they intended to defraud the fiscal department," Turner said. "It is a felony if you attempt to defraud fiscal."

In a statement released late Tuesday night, Groff said he was disappointed that the situation regarding the preparation of vouchers for

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Bart Mitchell/ THE BATTALION

District Attorney Bill Turner announced the indictments Tuesday afternoon at the Brazos County Courthouse.

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government records, also a Class A misdemeanor.

Penny King, assistant athletic director; Ronald Carter, manager of the chemistry department's business and facilities operations; and Dr. John



Groff



Smith

If convicted:

Robert Smith, Wally Groff, Dr. John Wormuth and Penny King could face up to two years in jail and \$6,000 in fines.

Ronald Carter, Dr. Don Hellriegel, Sabrina Saladino, Dr. J. Malon Southerland and Sheran Riley could face up to one year in jail and \$3,000 in fines.

Gaston named new interim vp

Smith's replacement takes over A&M finance, administration

By James Bernsen
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Ray Bowen appointed Dr. Jerry Gaston as the new interim vice president for finance and administration late Monday.

Gaston, who previously served as executive associate provost for academic affairs, will take over the position immediately.

Gaston said he is enthusiastic about working in the new position.

"I'm extremely pleased to be considered for serving the University in this function," he said. "I look forward to working with Dr. Bowen and my colleagues in this position."

Gaston will replace Robert Smith, who was reassigned June 14 to the position of executive director of special operations.

Smith was indicted Tuesday on misdemeanor charges of soliciting

ments such as food services and transportation, whereas before, he only worked in academics.

Dr. Benton Cocanougher, interim senior vice president and provost, said no replacement will be named to take over Gaston's former position, because the new position is only an interim one.

"In the short run, we'll try to double up and keep these areas going," he said. "We certainly expect him to return to the executive provost position at some time."

Gaston said he doesn't plan at this time on staying in his new job on a permanent basis.

Cocanougher said he expects Gaston to do a good job in the new position.

"He's a first rate administrator, and is familiar with the University and the people," he said. "There are a lot of activities we run out of this office, and he was active in many of them."

Gaston said the most important issue he will face is the restructuring of the Division of Finance and Administration.

"We have a major responsibility, and I will be helping to focus the people in the division to do their best," he said.

Bowen said many things will be examined in the evaluation of the department, including the continued existence of finance and administration as one division.

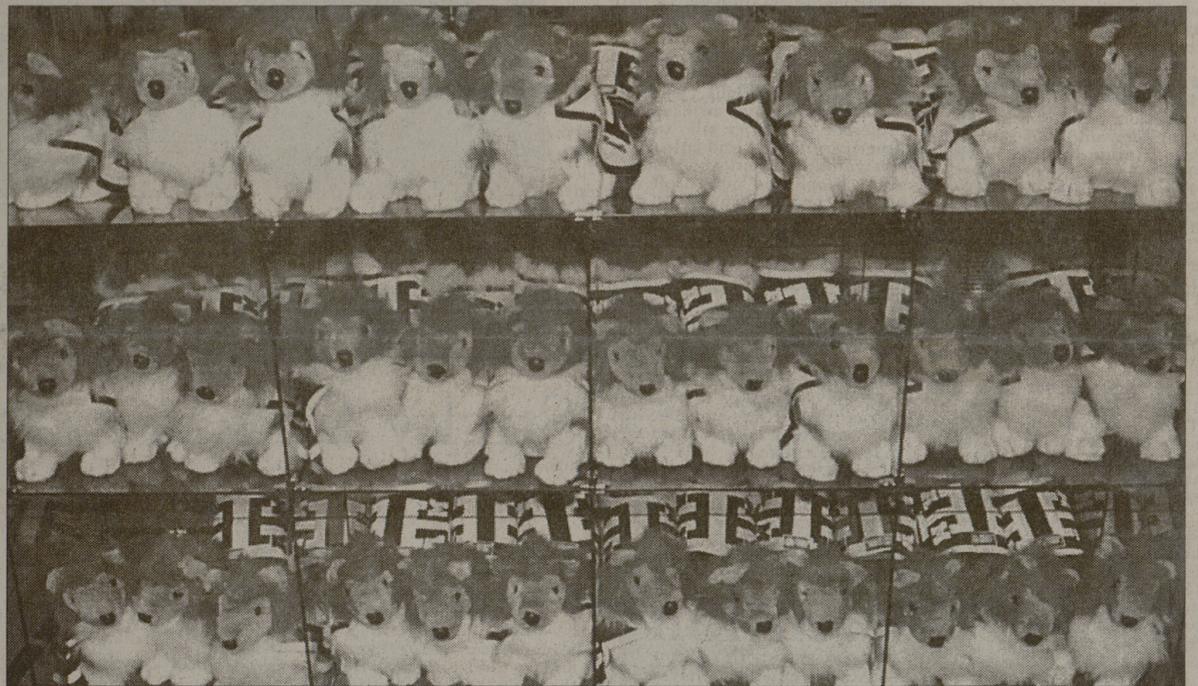
"It used to be the case that they were separate," he said. "A lot of people think finance should be part of administration."

Gaston said he looks forward to the challenges he will face.

"I am very enthusiastic and excited," he said.

Bowen said the earliest a permanent vice president can be selected is in the spring, after the evaluation has been conducted and the requirements for the position have been settled.

Gaston has been in the A&M administration since 1981, when he joined the faculty as a professor and head of the Department of Sociology.



Stew Milne/ THE BATTALION

Your own personal Reveille

Dozens of little furry replicas of Reveille VI line the shelves of the Texas A&M Bookstore in the MSC. The store stocked up on copies of the A&M mascot when Reveille V retired in November 1993 and Reveille VI, then a puppy, took over her duties.

"There's been a lot of stress in the University, and if there's anything I can do to reduce it I will."

—Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vp of finance and administration

North, South Korea set summit date

Meeting could ease tensions— if it happens

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — North and South Korea agreed Tuesday to hold their first summit in another hopeful sign for efforts to ease nuclear tensions and end five decades of bitter animosity.

But with a history of accords whittled away by disputes over their implementation and of failure to bring off previously proposed summits, there was no guarantee the presidents of the two nations actually would meet.

Still, hopes were high. For the first time, the rivals set a date for a summit — July 25-27 in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital.

"If the summit goes well, relations be-

tween South and North Korea will enter a new stage," said South Korea's chief negotiator, Lee Hong-koo.

Negotiators agreed the meeting of northern President Kim Il Sung and southern President Kim Young-sam would be followed by a second summit in South Korea. But in a discordant note, they failed to agree on a date or place.

Nevertheless, optimism soared in South Korea.

"My heart is throbbing with excitement," said Lee Yong-ho, 68, who escaped from the north to South Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War. "I really hope that the summit

will help ease tensions so that divided families in the two Koreas can be reunited."

South Korea hopes to focus the summit on suspicions that North Korea is working on nuclear weapons. But it is unclear whether the communist regime, which says its nuclear research is peaceful, will agree.

North Korea insists the nuclear issue can be resolved only in direct talks with the United States, which are due to restart in Geneva on July 8.

In Washington, Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, who is to represent the Clinton administration in Geneva, briefed the House Foreign Relations Committee behind closed doors Tuesday. He declined to talk to reporters afterward.

Clinton asks Americans for help with legal bills

Defense fund seeks contributions to pay costs of harassment suit, Whitewater probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton on Tuesday became the first chief executive in U.S. history to set up a personal legal defense fund and ask Americans to contribute to it.

He is seeking help with bills that may top \$2 million a year to deal with a sexual harassment suit, and a federal investigation into his and his wife Hillary's involvement in the Whitewater land venture in Arkansas.

The fund limits contributions to \$1,000 per person and

bars donations from corporations, unions and political action committees.

"The president will be faced with potentially large legal bills and it's in the best interest of the country and the president to have those bills paid," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers told reporters.

At a briefing at the Washington offices of the Sullivan and Cromwell law firm, trustees for the new Presidential Legal Defense Trust said creating it was essential be-

cause the legal bills facing the Clintons could be enormous.

Estimates range from \$1 million to \$2 million a year or more.

The Clintons' 1993 income was about \$293,000. The couple's net worth is estimated at no more than \$1.6 million, according to financial disclosure forms.

The trustees who will organize the fund-raising effort include Republicans as well as Democrats. They will be headed by The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president emeritus

of the University of Notre Dame, and Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, a former U.S. attorney general.

"No previous president has had to face the enormous personal legal expenses confronting President Clinton, because of current legal proceedings based on events that allegedly occurred well before he took office," the two said in a joint statement.

"These expenses will be many times his total compensation as president," the statement said.

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