

# THE BATTALION

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**MONDAY**  
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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

## Regents face internal audit of expenses

System investigates use of Board funds for travel, toiletries

By Kim McGuire  
THE BATTALION

A recent A&M System internal audit revealed Texas A&M regents have spent more than \$1.3 million in expenses which include flying spouses and guests on University owned aircraft and purchasing

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video cassette recorders and floral arrangements for their quarters.  
The audit details the regents' expenses from Sept.

1, 1991 to March 31, 1994 and shows the regents spent 66 percent of their budget on aircraft travel and payroll for their office staff.

The average cost for air fare for each regent during the 31-month period was \$23,080 while the cost for each meeting of the Board was \$10,154, according to the audit.

"I'm not proud of it, and we're going to cut back," Mary Nan West, Board of Regents chairman, told the Associated Press.

Regent Billy Clayton said while he considered the audit an effective tool in streamlining the regents'

budget, he was disgusted by the excessive waste the audit revealed.

"It (the audit) will give us some direction to go in toward efficiency in the direction of operation. But quite honestly, I'm appalled by some of the expenses."

Auditors reported the regents have spent \$9,811 on plants and floral arrangements used during board meetings and workshops; \$3,182 on toiletries, such as toothpaste, razors and other personal items for regents; and \$514,851 on air fare for A&M charter or state planes.

Clayton attributed the high cost of airfare to the University's lack of a major intercontinental airport.



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— Billy Clayton, Regent

## Campus leaders, administrators stress importance of trouble-free All-U Night

By Katherine Arnold  
THE BATTALION

Administrators and student leaders are hoping for a trouble-free evening at All-University Night on Kyle Field tonight at 7:30 p.m.

All-University Night is a chance for students to meet the fall sports teams, student leaders, and University officials.

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The event ends with a yell practice.

On-campus students usually attend All-University Night with their dorms.

Dr. Bill Kibler, assistant vice president for student affairs, said that in past years, dorm rivalries have erupted into fights and attempts to steal other dorms' flags and mascots.

"We just want students to know that there is a fine line between motivation and obscenity, and competition and

combattiveness," Kibler said. "When you cross that line, people get hurt, both emotionally and physically."

The administration has attempted to dampen inappropriate crowd behavior at events like All-University Night by creating a student leader forum. The forum, comprised of student leaders of campus organizations, met twice last year and once this summer.

"The purpose for this group is to encourage responsible behavior on the part of students," Kibler said. "Increasing the number of police officers is not the answer for controlling the crowds. This forum has made a difference in crowd behavior by letting the student leaders relay the message to their memberships."

Residence Hall Association President Owen Ross said the forum is effective in bringing the message to students.

"The meetings have made us aware of problems that have occurred in the past," Ross said. "We see what we risk

losing if we continue to let things get out of hand."

Student Body President Brooke Leslie said All-University Night is intended to be a motivator for the upcoming year.

"The night provides an opportunity for freshmen to meet their leaders for both the University and student organizations," she said. "It's a great way to kick off the year."

Motivation is the theme for the evening, and dorm unity is a part of that as well, Ross said.

"Dorm yells and rivalries will probably always exist," Ross said. "But we would like to ask students to keep that off of Kyle Field. Violence and stealing is bad bull."

Head Yell Leader Scott Torn agreed. "Our teams have been working hard, and they are looking forward to hearing the 12th Man out there with them," he said. "But we are going to leave it up to each individual to be an Aggie."

## Five A&M employees plead not guilty

Workers await trial on charges of funds misuse, gift solicitation

By Michele Brinkmann  
THE BATTALION

Five Texas A&M employees indicted this summer await trial after pleading not guilty to Class A misdemeanor charges last week.

Robert Smith, director of special operations, was indicted in June on two counts of soliciting gifts from Barnes and Noble Bookstores, Inc. while negotiating a contract with the company during the time he served as A&M's vice president for finance and administration.

Four other employees, Wally Groff, A&M athletic director; Dr. John Wormuth, interim head of oceanography; Penny King, assistant athletic director; and Ronald Carter, manager of the chemistry department's business and facilities operations, were also indicted in June.

The four were charged with tampering with government records, after describing alcohol purchases as food and beverages on state vouchers.

Each defendant pleaded not guilty at Tuesday's arraignment at the Brazos County Courthouse. The five employees were arrested and booked last week.

Wormuth said, "It was not a fun experience."

Senior Judge Oliver Kitzman will preside over the 361st District Court for the five cases.

Kitzman instructed all of the attorneys to decide on dates for pretrial hearings as soon as possible.

He said if they could not agree, he would set the dates for the pretrials.

Some of the A&M employees said they will consider plea bargaining, which is a negotiation that takes place between a district attorney and a criminal defense lawyer.

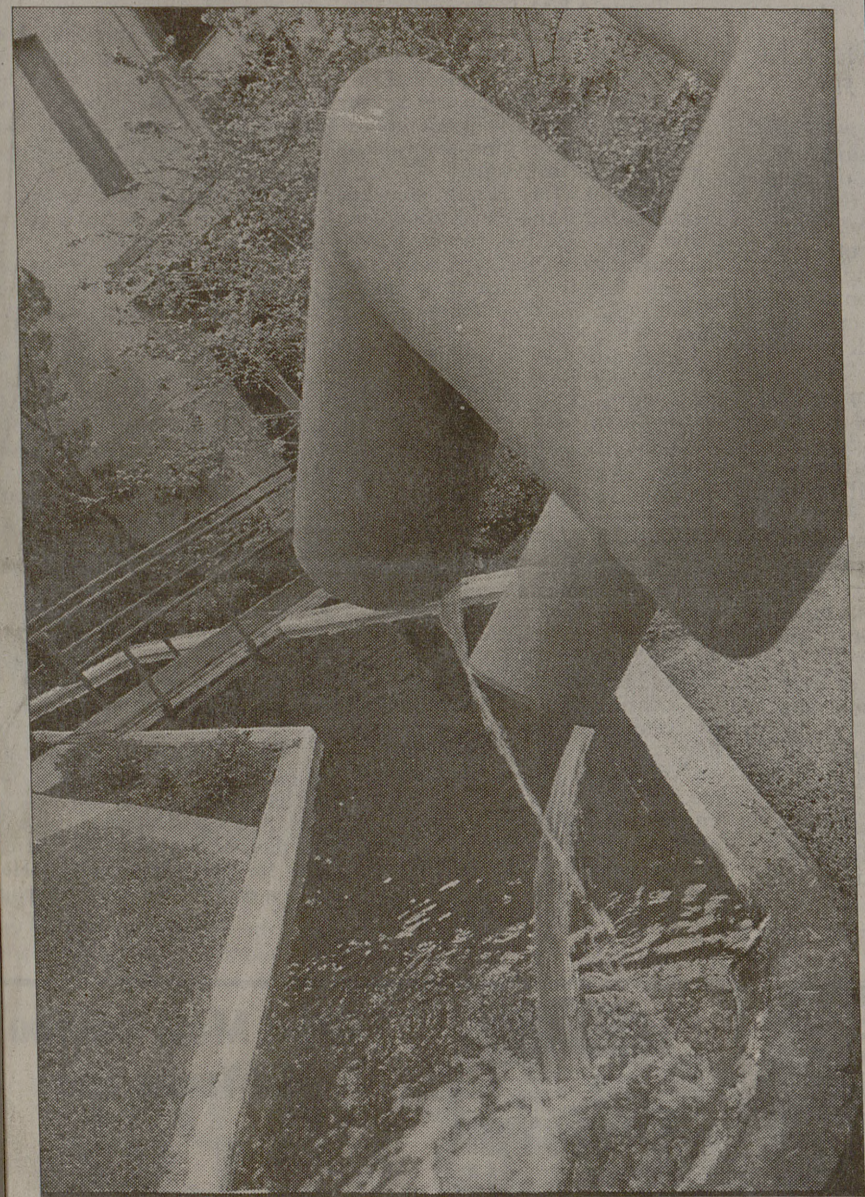
Wormuth said he will plea bargain, and Groff said an offer was made to his attorney to plea bargain.

Groff said he pleaded not guilty because he never thought he did anything wrong.

"I have never felt like I was guilty," he said. "I thought I was following A&M policy that has been here since I came here in 1966."

"I wish it was over with, but it is something I will have to deal with over time."

Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said Tuesday's proceedings were routine and that people usually plead not guilty at arraignments.



Carrie Thompson/The Battalion

### The art of architecture

Water pours out of a sculpture and into a fish pond at the home of Haywood and Noreen Robertson. The house was designed by a Texas A&M architecture graduate.

## Fish Camper to be honored

By Melissa Jacobs  
THE BATTALION

A Silver Taps ceremony Sept. 6 will honor Chris Hart, an incoming Texas A&M University freshman who died Aug. 17 after receiving a head injury during a flag football game at Fish Camp.

Hart, 18, was treated by a paramedic at the camp after being accidentally hit in the head by another player's knee Aug. 16. He was then taken to a Palestine hospital, which is the city nearest Lakeview Methodist Assembly where Fish Camp is held.

After lapsing into a coma late that evening, Hart was transported via helicopter to Methodist Hospital in Houston, where he died the next morning.

Hart, a Huntsville High School honors graduate, had planned to major in business administration and live on-campus.

University Relations Associate Director Mary Jo Powell said Hart underwent surgery and died of a condition identified as subdural hematoma, which is a medical term for bruising of the brain.

Bill Kibler, associate director for student affairs, said some school officials were talking to the family's intermediary on the morning of his death and his mother was at the hospital with

him.

Powell said Hart, who was in Camp Conant, was participating in the game with a lot of other campers when the football came loose.

"A lot of students went for it all at the same time and someone's knee hit Chris on the head," she said.

Powell said Hart was doing okay immediately following the accident, and he and a friend went back to his room so Hart could rest. Later that evening his condition worsened.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said a few of his officers were at Fish Camp teaching a Crime Safety and Security Program the day the accident occurred, but did not witness Hart's injury.

"When Chris went back to his room he became disoriented and began vomiting," he said. "A young man in his room ran out yelling for help."

Kibler said Hart's accident was a very unusual circumstance.

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## A&M issues NCAA guide

Susan Owen  
THE BATTALION

The University has mailed out pamphlets to former students titled "Guide to NCAA Rules" in an effort to keep alumni informed of NCAA guidelines.

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The 14-page booklet is a condensed version of the NCAA regulations involving contact between former students and current or prospective A&M athletes.

Copies of the pamphlet have been sent to A&M clubs, A&M mothers' clubs, and about 10,000 members of the 12th Man Foundation, which sponsors athletic scholarships.

According to the booklet, any former student, friend or fan of A&M is defined as an athletic representative of the University,

and is therefore subject to the NCAA's rules.

The regulations summarized in the pamphlet cover situations such as contact with high school athletes considering A&M and the restrictions placed upon A&M student-athletes.

For example, an athletic representative is not allowed to contact a prospective student-athlete in person, by telephone, or in writing. Student-athletes may not receive any benefit not available to the general student body.

The booklet is published by A&M's Athletic Compliance Office. The office is run by four full-time employees who keep track of NCAA regulations and monitor and investigate A&M's athletic programs.

The compliance office publishes information about NCAA rules in A&M-related magazines and newsletters, sports media guides and game programs. The office also puts together information segments to

be broadcast during game half-times and coaches' shows.

Tedi Ellison, NCAA compliance director, said the "Guide to NCAA Rules" is part of an effort to spread information about NCAA rules to everyone associated with A&M.

"I think when more people have information, there's a greater understanding," she said. "We don't want to have anybody pressured into doing anything they don't feel is ethical or correct."

Ellison said the start of the fall semester is the busiest time of the year for the compliance office, as the workers check athletes' eligibility to play for A&M. New student-athletes fill out a number of forms, including an eight-page mini-biography. Athletes' housing, employment, financial aid, and academics must be within NCAA regulations.

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