

October 19, 1994

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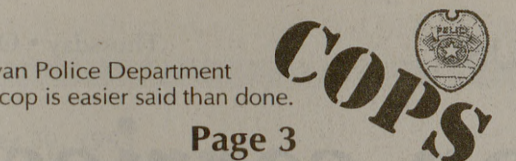
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Mosque bombing in Iraq leaves one dead

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A bomb exploded Wednesday in the mosque of Baghdad's Religious Affairs Ministry, killing one man and seriously wounding five.

Iraqi television identified the fatality as Attallah Mohammed Salah, director of the endowments office. It said three of the wounded from the time bomb, which contained 6 1/2 pounds of explosives, were women.

The television quoted civil defense officials as saying the explosives had been wrapped in batteries and ignited at 11 a.m. with a homemade detonator powered by the batteries.

The TV showed pictures of the victims covered in blood and bandages following the blast inside the walled compound in the north Baghdad district of Bab al-Moaddam.

20,000 blacks ask IRS for reparations

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 20,000 black citizens have filed reparations claims with the Internal Revenue Service based on a post-Civil War proposal to provide former slaves with 40 acres and a mule.

The claims, for \$43,209, are being denied and the IRS warned that taxpayers who refile subsequent claims after receiving a denial notice could be subject to a \$500 penalty for filing frivolous returns.

Most of the claims have been received over the past month from California, IRS spokesman Frank Keith said Wednesday.

Congress passed a bill in 1866 requiring Confederate property be confiscated to provide former slaves with 40 acres and a mule but the bill was vetoed by President Andrew Johnson.

Clinton approves aid for disaster victims

HOUSTON (AP) — President Clinton's declaration of 26 Texas counties as a national disaster area clears the way for a variety of assistance for affected residents.

Help with rental payments, grants for simple repairs and low-interest loans are just some of the types of aid available, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said Wednesday.

The counties designated are Angelina, Austin, Bastrop, Brazos, Burleson, Chambers, Fayette, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Lee, Liberty, Madison, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller and Washington.

In addition, the Treasury Department's Bureau of Public Debt, to assist flood victims, said it would speed up replacement and payment of U.S. Savings Bonds for affected residents. The action eliminates usual six-month holding period for Series EE bonds. The bonds can be taken to banks. Bond owners also can get replacement bonds at banks or the Federal Reserve Bank.

Teen charged in poisoning death of father

FORT WORTH (AP) — A teenager who police say was unhappy living with her father after her parents' divorce has been arrested and charged in his poisoning death.

Marie Robards, an 18-year-old freshman at the University of Texas, is accused of poisoning her father with barium she obtained from a high school chemistry lab.

She was arrested Tuesday in Austin and transported to the Tarrant County juvenile detention center, where she was being held because she was a juvenile at the time of her father's death.

Steven Robards, a 38-year-old rural carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, died Feb. 18, 1993. At the time, authorities ruled that he died of natural causes.

Police now believe that Ms. Robards took poison from her high school chemistry lab and put it in Mexican food that her father ate.

Former student pleads not guilty to murder charges

Moore faces pretrial hearing for March death of newborn

A 21-year-old former Texas A&M student accused of murdering her newborn child pleaded not guilty Wednesday at a Brazos County pretrial hearing.

The trial for Stephanie Moore is scheduled to begin Feb. 7.

Moore is charged with killing her newborn in March and disposing of the child's body in a Mosher Hall garbage chute.

Judge J.D. Langley, of the 85th District Court, set the final pretrial for Feb. 3 at 9:00 a.m. and the jury selection for Feb. 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Jim James, Moore's attorney, declined to comment on specifics of the case or what the defense will focus on in the trial.

"This is not L.A.," James said. "We try our cases in the courtroom."

James said he expects a fair trial and, therefore, did not think a gag order was necessary for the trial.

The judge also granted a defense motion for discovery, which is a request to see the prosecution's files.

A Brazos County grand jury upgraded charges against Moore in September.

Moore was indicted in July on a charge of voluntary manslaughter, but was charged in early September with murder.

Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said that after the grand jury indicted Moore in July, his office decid-

Charges dismissed against former VP

By Michele Brinkmann
THE BATTALION

All charges of official misconduct against a former Texas A&M vice president were dismissed at a Brazos County pretrial on Wednesday, but the district attorney will refile the indictment against him today.

Robert Smith, former vice president for finance and administration, was discharged from two Class A misdemeanor counts of soliciting gifts from Barnes and Noble Bookstores Inc. while negotiating a contract with the company.

Smith, who is now the director of special operations, was indicted in June and pleaded not guilty to the charges in late August.

The charges against Smith were dismissed because of "fundamental defects" in the indictment.

"I will refile this case first thing tomorrow."
—Bill Turner, Brazos County district attorney

"I think justice will prevail."
—Robert Smith, former A&M vice president for finance and administration

Judge Oliver Kitzman, who presided over the 361st U. S. District Court for the case, granted a defense motion to dismiss all charges against Smith.

Smith's attorney Dick DeGuerin, who has represented David Koresh and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, said the prosecution missed some essential elements in the indictment.

"It gave no notice in the indictment that the contract was a government contract," DeGuerin said. "There is also no indication that Texas A&M is a government entity."

"Everything the prosecution wants to prove must be stated in the indictment."

The judge denied Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner's motion to amend the wording of the indictment because he believed the indictment could not be properly corrected

by an amendment.

DeGuerin said he would rather have Smith reindicted instead of amending the current indictment.

After much discussion, Turner said he had no objection to dismissing the charges and rewording the indictment because he wants to make sure there are no questions about the indictment when the case goes to trial.

Turner said he will refile the

charges with the court today and plans to keep the previously scheduled Oct. 31 trial date. He said the charges will be the same but the wording of the indictment will be more specific.

DeGuerin agreed to keep the Oct. 31 trial date because Smith wants the trial over as soon as possible.

"These indictments could be done with for now and possibly forever," DeGuerin said after the judge dismissed the charges. "My client is free and clear for the moment. The judge dismissed all charges on a defect. It is possible that this is the end of it."

DeGuerin said Smith has dedicated most of his adult life to Texas A&M and to accuse him of

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Administrators prepare for state legislative session

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

With a new legislative session approaching in January, Texas A&M officials are preparing for a difficult appearance in front of the state's legislators.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president for finance and administration, said he thinks some of the recent controversy surrounding A&M could be a factor in the legislative hearings.

"Since universities are funded on a formula basis, they (legislators) would be given an opportunity to ask questions about things in the headlines this year," Gaston said. "We hope that the changes that have occurred in the last few months will make a difference."

Dr. Barry Thompson, chancellor of the A&M System, said he is concerned about the upcoming legislative session, but is optimistic about the outcome.

"One of the key issues will be dealing with some people's hostilities toward the System concerning some of the recent issues in the news," Thompson said. "The other problem will be competing for funds."

The results of a state management control audit completed recently could have an effect on legislative decisions, he said. The audit will determine whether management controls are in place to measure efficiency and economy of operations. The results of the audit could be released next month.

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Yell leaders in training

Jesse Farnsworth, age 7, and his friend Jeb Brown, age 8, help the yell leaders support the Lady Aggie volleyball team during a match last night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies beat Texas Tech in three matches.



Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

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Minority leaders ask Southerland for changes around campus

Students request diversity workshop, inclusion in MSC wood carvings, Northside mural, multicultural programs

Southerland said that is more of a long-term goal, but that he is open to short-term solutions to give the Department of Multicultural Services more space.

"There are some of these things that we can put into motion soon," Southerland said, "and there are some that are more long-term goals."

Carreathers said that if students do not follow up on the issues brought up in this meeting, no progress will be made.

"Unless people are willing to make an effort to change the policies of an institution," he said, "these things are not going to happen."

The students demanded a public statement from the University condemning discrimination.

Kevin Carreathers, director of

multicultural services, said that there are not enough students interested in these concerts for the groups to make any money from them.

He said that Town Hall should help them sponsor these concerts so that minority students can have groups they want come to A&M.

"Students should not have to graduate from A&M without having some concerts that they enjoy," he said.

The group also asked for a larger office and increased funding for the Department of Multicultural Services.

Patricia Morales, president of the minority student leadership forum, said that it is not feasible for the Black Awareness Committee or the Committee for Awareness of Mexican-American Culture to fund groups they want to come to A&M.

Kevin Carreathers, director of

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