

# THE BATTALION



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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

## NEWS BRIEFS

### College Station city manager resigns

College Station City Manager Ron Ragland resigned Monday citing a desire to seek new challenges.

"It has been my pleasure to serve the City of College Station ... and it has been a rewarding and valuable time for my family and me to be a part of this community," Ragland said.

Ragland has served as city manager for the last six years and was also the assistant city manager for two years.

Ragland said that he had no immediate plans to leave the community, at least until the end of the school year, but will be looking at new opportunities in the private sector, consulting and city management.

A search has begun to replace Ragland whose resignation was effective Monday.

### White House shooter to have psychiatric tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — The man accused of firing a semiautomatic rifle at the White House was charged with four felonies and ordered to undergo a psychiatric exam Monday. Prosecutors said a letter taken from his truck "raises questions whether he is competent."

U.S. Magistrate Deborah Robinson refused to release the handwritten letter, which was taken from Francisco Martin Duran's pickup. She ordered him returned to court Wednesday, after the exam, for a competency hearing.

U.S. Attorney Eric H. Holder Jr. said authorities have a second letter Duran was carrying when he was seized outside the White House.

Also found in the truck, according to prosecutors, was a shotgun, an arsenal of ammunition, a gun magazine, a machete, sleeping bags and a stuffed animal.

Officials have previously indicated the letter in the truck was an explanation of how Duran's possessions were to be distributed to his wife and son in event of his death.

### Russia to test all foreigners for AIDS

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian legislators, trying to safeguard their country from the threat of AIDS, want to test all foreigners for the virus and deport those who test positive or refuse testing.

The bill sailed through Russia's usually fractious 450-seat Duma, the lower chamber of parliament, with only three deputies opposed. It must still be approved by the upper chamber and by President Boris Yeltsin.

But the bill's strong Russia-first appeal, which reaches across deep political divides, makes passage likely.

Many Russians blame the West for the rise in prostitution, pornography and other social ills since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Some even accuse the CIA of creating the AIDS virus.

"This is clearly a discriminatory measure aimed at foreigners," Boris Yelkhov, a political scientist at the Russian Institute for USA and Canada, said Monday. "The nationalist tendency in the Duma is getting stronger every day."

### Confusion still reigns in Aristide's Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — He came home to a mess after three years in exile. The National Palace was trashed, the parliament fractured, the reluctant caretaker prime minister impatient to leave on vacation.

With this, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was supposed to build democracy.

More than two weeks after Aristide's return, confusion still reigns behind palace walls.

"You cannot expect it to be workable just in 24 hours," government spokesman Jacques Gourgue said Monday. "That's not possible. No way, no way."

"You have to realize that everything has been totally disorganized and it will take a couple of weeks before things can run smoothly."

When Aristide and his contingent arrived at the National Palace on Oct. 15, they found chaos.

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# ADs Groff, King plead no contest

## Judge orders fine, three months probation

By Michele Brinkmann  
THE BATTALION

Two Texas A&M administrators were each placed on three months probation and ordered to pay \$250 fines Monday after pleading no contest to charges of tampering with government records.

A&M Athletic Director Wally Groff and Associate Athletic Director Penny King entered the pleas as part of an agreement reached with Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner.

Groff and King entered their pleas before senior judge Oliver Kitzman, a visiting judge who is presiding over the trial in the 361st District Court.

Both were given deferred adjudication, a form of probation that means no conviction

will appear on their record if the three month term is completed successfully.

Groff said although the charges brought against him were false, he decided to accept a plea bargain.

"I feel that I would be totally exonerated if I went to trial, and I have not taken this decision lightly," Groff said. "However, because the plea bargain will result in my not

being convicted of a crime, I have accepted this arrangement."

Groff and King were two of four A&M employees indicted in June for misrepresenting alcohol purchases as purchases of food, soft drinks and ice.

**"I feel that I would be totally exonerated if I went to trial. However, because the plea bargain will result in my not being convicted of a crime, I have accepted this arrangement."**

— Wally Groff, A&M athletic director



Four others were also charged but not indicted because they opted not to go through the grand jury process.

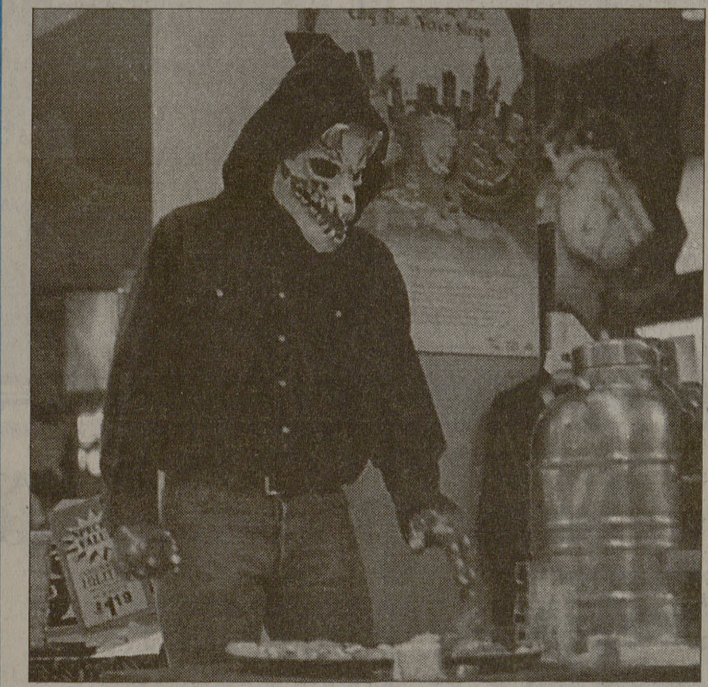
"It has been alleged that I made false statements on the purchase vouchers," Groff said. "I did not originate the vouchers, I made no entries on them, and I did not tamper with nor alter them in any way."

Groff said these invoices and vouchers were handled in the usual and customary fashion and in accordance with longstanding University policy.

"I feel that it is unfair that innocent University employees have been made to suffer in order to bring a change to these policies," Groff said. "My every instinct is to pursue vindication through every level of our judicial system. However, my responsibilities to my family, both financially and emotionally, must take overriding precedence."

Jim James of Bryan, King's attorney,

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## Halloween Spirits

• (Above) Sophomore general studies major Marilyn Jackson, of Houston, dresses as a sunflower to show her Halloween spirit.

• (Left) Graduate student Stan Hansard guards the table of treats presented by the MSC bookstore.

Photos by Amy Browning/THE BATTALION

## Jury selection begins in A&M VP's trial

By Michele Brinkmann  
THE BATTALION

Jury selection begins today in the trial of former Texas A&M Vice President Robert Smith, who is accused of using his public office to solicit gifts.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in the 361st District Court and the trial is expected to begin immediately after.

Dick DeGuerin of Houston, Smith's attorney, filed a motion to have prospective jurors fill out a lengthy questionnaire because he wanted to make sure the jury will be fair to his client.

Because of the high level of attention put on Texas A&M and

its ongoing investigations during the past year, DeGuerin said, the attorneys in this case need to take more care in selecting a jury.

"Mr. Smith has been specifically mentioned several times," DeGuerin said. "The jury questionnaire will help us. It is an enlightened way of selecting a jury."

"This has been widely publicized in a relatively small community," he said.

The judge said he thought the questionnaire was too long and could be detrimental in the selection process.

"This will confuse the possible juror more than it will enlighten you," Kitzman said.

He decided to allow the questionnaire because both attorneys agreed to use it. However, he said he will instruct possible jurors on the fundamentals of the law before they answer the questions.

He encouraged both attorneys

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Smith

## Rift within GOP hampers some election campaigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prominent Republicans are rejecting and undercutting their own candidates in remarkable fashion this year, exposing fault lines within the party and hampering GOP campaigns in some states.

Republicans stand to make substantial electoral gains next Tuesday. Some prominent party members are engaged in what could amount to political fratricide in several states.

The latest Republican defector is Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, who endorsed Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein over the weekend. New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani led the way last week with his dramatic verbal embrace of Democratic Gov. Mario Cuomo.

Some Democratic candidates are aggressively promoting

their independence from President Clinton. That type of distancing is more routine in a midterm election year than the high-profile defections plaguing the GOP.

The crossovers are drawing charges of treason from infuriated Republicans and appear to be helping create momentum for some Democrats.

Oliver North's Senate race in Virginia has created a deep intraparty rift and attracted the most national attention. The number of North's GOP critics grew last week to include Nancy Reagan, who asserted the former national security aide had lied to her husband about the Iran-Contra affair and couldn't tell fact from fantasy.

The North dispute is less significant than the two mayoral

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## Gallery previews Bush Library gifts

### Gorbachev, King Hussein among contributors

By Lisa Messer  
THE BATTALION

For the next seven weeks, visitors to the J. Wayne Stark Gallery can get a sneak preview of some of the many treasures that will be displayed at the new George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

"Head of State Gifts: Highlights from the George Bush Library and Museum Collection" showcases over 80 gifts Bush received from visiting world leaders during his term as president.

The collection ranges from the simplistic to the elegant, from displays of cultural talent to displays of abundant wealth.

A brightly painted rock pic-

turing the city of Managua displays the folk art of Nicaragua, and huge hand-woven rugs were donated from Chad.

Gifts of grandeur include an elaborately ornate leather saddle with a silver repousseommel from Mexican President Carlos Salinas and a silver, gold and marble statue of a camel and its rider from King Hussein of Jordan.

Beverly Wagner, curator of the University Center Galleries, said the Cyclone tennis racket, donated by President Roh Tae Woo of Korea, and the model of a 51-canon frigate, donated by President Mikahil Gorbachev from the former Soviet Union,

which are on display, were two of President Bush's most favorite gifts.

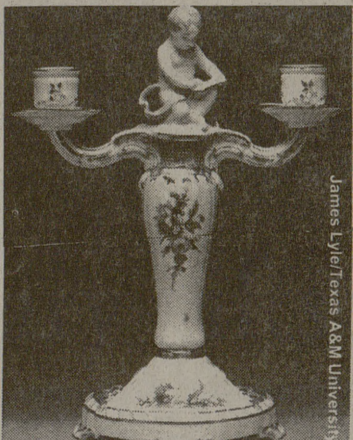
"President Bush loved to play tennis," Wagner said. "He used that tennis racket very often. He really liked the ship model, too, because he kept it in his office."

However, most of the 40,000 gifts that President Bush received never belonged to him.

Wagner said federal law now prohibits the president from personally accepting any gift valued at over \$280.

Patricia Burchfield, curator of the George Bush Library and

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A porcelain candelabra given to Bush by German President Richard von Weizsacker will be one of the displays in the Bush Library.

James Lyle/Texas A&M University