

# THE BATTALION



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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Professor suspected of spreading AIDS

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Ashayahu Demner was a respected engineering professor described by students as a reserved, kindly man.

Now police suspect the 46-year-old bachelor led a double life, dedicating the last year of his life to spreading the AIDS virus until he was murdered last week.

Demner's case has stunned Israel. Gay activists fear their struggle for acceptance in a conservative society has been set back years. Some lawmakers are pressing for a crackdown against people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

The story broke when police, alerted by colleagues that Demner was missing for two days, burst into his Tel Aviv apartment Monday to discover his naked body on the couch with marks on his head from being struck.

Police said meticulous personal records found in the apartment revealed a dual identity.

### Muslims, Jews protest security at tomb site

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — Both Muslims and Jews protested new Israeli security measures at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, reopening Monday 8 1/2 months after a Jewish settler machinegunned 29 Muslims as they knelt in prayer.

The measures would have Muslims and Jews pray separately. They also would have separate bathrooms and walkways outside the shrine, which has been equipped with metal detectors, electronic gates and television cameras.

"It is not a house of worship anymore. It's a house of politics," said Abdel Rauf al-Muthassib, who lives across the street.

Israel's Cabinet voted unanimously Sunday to test the new security measures by opening the tomb for a few days this week, starting Monday morning.

### Clinton seeks trade agreement approval

WASHINGTON (AP) — To hear the White House tell it, President Clinton is poised to score a triple trade triumph over the next month with bold new initiatives to tap into fast-growing Asian and Latin American markets and win congressional approval of a new world trade agreement.

Free trade supporters are applauding the efforts as a welcome about-face for an administration they believed was veering dangerously close to protectionism, especially in a bruising but largely fruitless battle to open Japan's markets.

But critics of the new, broader trade approach warn that Clinton may end up with empty declarations in support of free trade that will do nothing to cure the country's chronic trade problems.

There is no dispute that something needs to be done. This year, the country is headed for an expected \$147 billion deficit in merchandise trade, its second-worst performance in history.

### Water accident leaves Spurs fans drenched

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — City officials are hoping an Alamodome accident hasn't doused San Antonio's chances of being selected the site of the 1996 Republican National Convention.

Two members of a committee considering the new stadium for the convention were courtside at the San Antonio Spurs game Friday night when a fireworks show accidentally set off a giant water cannon, spraying fans with up to 2,900 gallons of water a minute.

"I just wanted the ground to open and swallow me up," said Diane Smith, vice chairwoman of the convention host committee.

The water cannon sprayed the dome for four minutes, sending fans scurrying for cover.

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# Aggie bucks system faces examination

## Ruling by Attorney General may expand or terminate debit system

By Amanda Fowle  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Aggie Bucks system is facing major changes, either termination or expansion, depending on a ruling by the Texas Attorney General.

Some local businesses may be allowed to accept Aggie Bucks if the Attorney General rules that Texas A&M University can continue its debit card banking system known

as Aggie Bucks.

Or the Aggie Bucks system could be closed entirely if the Attorney General decides the system violates banking regulations.

A representative from the Attorney General's office said officials there have not yet begun looking into the situation, and they cannot predict when a decision will be reached.

Rick Floyd, associate vice president for finance and administration, said that A&M officials cannot predict what the outcome will be either.

"Speculation does not serve us very well until we have a decision from the Attorney General," he said.

Everette Jobe, general counsel for the Texas Department of Banking, said Catherine Ghiglieri, the Texas banking commissioner, sent a letter to the Attorney General last April, asking the Attorney General to decide if the debit card system used at some state universities should be regulated.

Jobe said three state universities, Texas

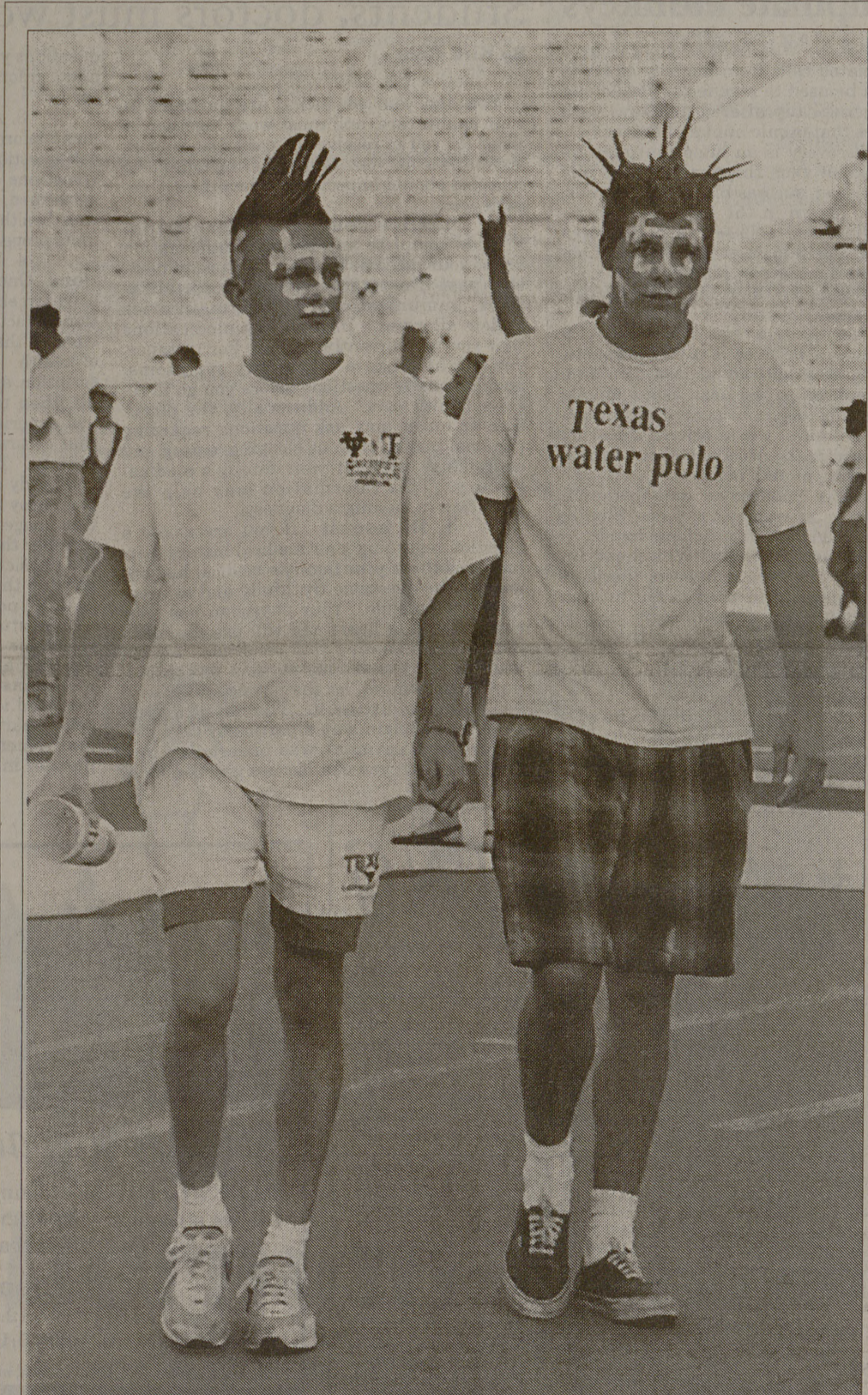
A&M University, Stephen F. Austin State University and Texas Tech University, have established debit card systems.

"It is a very complicated issue," Jobe said. "If a university can have a debit card system, can individuals? If there is no regulation, anyone can do it and the person collecting the money can do whatever they want to with it."

Jobe said the universities are also profiting from the interest earned from the money the students' put into their debit card accounts.

The letter also raises the issue of private

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Stew Milne/The Battalion

## Winning isn't everything

Two very spirited t.u. fans walk sadly after the Longhorns lost to A&M 34-10 on Saturday afternoon across the Memorial Stadium football field.

## Hundreds mourn deaths of boys killed by mother

UNION, S.C. (AP) — A single white coffin stacked with yellow roses held the bodies of two young brothers, "precious jewels" whose drowning was mourned by hundreds crowded into a small country church on Sunday.

David Smith, with bowed shoulders and a handkerchief stifling his sobs, followed as the coffin holding his sons, 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex, was wheeled from the church to a cemetery.

The boys' mother, Susan Smith, was absent — behind bars and charged with killing her sons by strapping them into

their car safety-seats and sending the car rolling into a lake.

About 300 people crowded into the Buffalo United Methodist Church for the 45-minute service, where ministers assured mourners that the children were in better hands.

"Sometimes God takes from us the most precious jewels in life so he can give them back to us in eternity," the Rev. Joe Bridges said.

Outside, the gray sky hanging over the nearby Bogansville United Methodist Church cemetery matched the mood of this textile town of about 10,000 in northwest South Carolina.

## TABC warns students about use of false ID's

By Tracy Smith  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students who have considered using a fake identification card to purchase alcohol should think again, an official from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) said.

Sgt. Laban Toscano of the TABC in Bryan said it has increased the number of undercover officers in convenience stores, so they are now able to catch more minors with fake IDs.

"Students may not know what they are getting into when they try to buy alcohol with a fake ID," Toscano said. "A six-pack of beer could turn into \$3,000 in fines."

Toscano said if a minor goes into a store and successfully buys alcohol using a fake ID, but gets caught by a TABC officer upon leaving the store, the minor is looking at four separate citations. First, the minor misrepresented their age to a store clerk, possessed alcohol, failed to identify themselves and possessed a fictitious identification card.

"This can add up to some very expensive beer," he said. "Besides the money, they may also be looking at around one year of community service."

Toscano said there are four different types of false identification charges. These include possessing an altered driver's license, presenting another driver's license as one's own, misrepresentation of age and possession of a false identification. These charges range from a class A to class C misdemeanor, with a class C not exceeding \$500 and a class A being up to \$4,000 and possibly one year jail time.

"I know very few students who would agree that a night on the town would be worth the price for getting caught breaking the law," he said.

What many students are not aware of is that according to 1993 Texas statutes, a mere attempt to buy alcohol is a crime.

"It doesn't matter if the minor was successful or not, but only that they tried," Toscano said.

He also said that depending on the offense, students could be looking at more than just fines, with many requiring an alcoholic awareness class and community service.

"We are not trying to blind-side the students by issuing them four citations at one time," he said. "We want to educate students so that

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## Committee to monitor spending of student fees

By Melissa Jacobs  
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The Student Service Fee Allocations Committee has improved communication within the committee so members can make better decisions about how the \$99 tacked onto student's tuition fee slips each semester will be used.

Laurent Therivel, Student Service Fee Allocations Chairman, said last year there was a problem because there wasn't enough communication within the committee.

"The problem was that each of the committee members wasn't well enough informed about each department," he said. "You can't get the student body's opinion through only one or two people."

Therivel said changes were made within the committee so each member is involved with each department.

"All students will have basic knowledge of each department," he said.

Therivel said when the \$99 student service fee is multiplied by how many students are at this university, the allocation of \$8.2 million is decided by the committee.

"We're in charge of deciding how that money will be used," he said. "That figure is apportioned to about 24 university departments."

Brad Britton, student service fee allocations committee member, said he thinks the change will be effective.

"I've been on Student Senate for two years and when a student stands up and defends a department, people tend to agree with him," he said. "Now everyone on the committee will understand what is going on in each department. It just ties it all together."

Chuck Sulak, Student Service Fee Allocations Committee sub-chairman, said the change will make the committee a more efficient group.

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## Campaign '94

### Celebrities play role in Texas governor's race

DALLAS (AP) — "I got it!" shouted the woman, giddily showing off the new prized autograph she obtained at a weekend rally for George W. Bush.

"That's the Texas ranger," another man murmured approvingly.

But the excitement and not-so-subtle glances weren't for the GOP gubernatorial candidate, who also is part owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team.

These Bush supporters were gushing over the other Texas ranger — martial arts master Chuck Norris, who stars in the CBS series "Walker, Texas Ranger."

"Now I've got to go get George Bush," said the gratified woman with Norris' autograph in hand.

With Tuesday's election creeping closer, Bush and Democratic incumbent Ann Richards brought out the big guns — well, in this case big stars — at weekend rallies across the state.

But the roles celebrities have played in the Texas gubernatorial race have spanned the length of the campaign and ranged from financial contributions and appearances with the candidates to commercials.

Richards — the movie buff and celebrity in her own right with appearances on nationally televised talk shows — is backed by some of Hollywood's most powerful players. Producer/director Steven Spielberg is the eighth largest contributor to Richards' re-election effort, giving \$90,000.



Norris