

Voter's Guide

Size up the candidates with an election guide that includes platforms and a sample ballot.

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Opinion

JOSEF ELCHANAN: America's tolerance for scandal has reached what many are saying are its limits, for the very overheating of our bureaucracy may fuel the violence of our land.

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Aggielife

Comedy show "Mystery Science Theater 3000" comes to Rudder Auditorium Wednesday.

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THE BATTALION



TUESDAY

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NEWS BRIEFS

Flooding in Europe takes 74 lives

ALBA, Italy (AP) — As they cleared a carpet of mud from regions ravaged by heavy rain since 1913, officials said Monday that the government had killed 51 people. Another 23 people died in three days of driving rain across southern France, Spain and Morocco. Hardest hit was Italy's northern Piedmont area, which received its heaviest rainfall since 1913, officials said. They estimated damage at \$3.5 billion to the region where fine Barolo red wines, truffles, Asti spumante and Fiat cars are produced. At least 41 people were missing, and thousands were homeless, said the civil defense agency. "It's a mega-disaster," said Environment Minister Altero Matteoli.

Sears Roebuck to put Tower up for sale

CHICAGO (AP) — Sears Roebuck Co. said Monday it will give up ownership of Sears Tower, the world's tallest building, in a restructuring of the building's financing. But the name will remain the same. The building has 110 stories rising 1,454 feet. Two TV antennae bring its height to 1,707 feet. The building houses Sears' national headquarters. Corporate offices will remain in the tower under a lease that expires in the year 2000. The agreement to transfer ownership to a pension fund partnership managed by Boston-based Aldrich, Eastman & Walch will reduce Sears' debt by \$850 million, Sears said. Sears will record a \$195 million gain, after taxes, in the fourth quarter as a result of the transaction. Construction on the tower was started in August 1970 and completed in May 1973.

Skeleton found on Halloween identified

DONNA, Texas (AP) — A skeleton found on Halloween has been identified as the remains of Cipriana Rodriguez, an 84-year-old cafe owner who was reported kidnapped more than two months ago. Police investigator David Rodriguez said Monday that the victim had been positively identified after a week of lab work. The skeleton was found Oct. 31 in a brick brush about 1,000 feet from the pre-story home where Rodriguez lived. Rodriguez, longtime owner of the Monte Carlo Cafe next to her home, disappeared from the home on Aug. 29. Family members reported that she was kidnapped and that they attempted to pay ransom to people in Mexico claiming to hold Rodriguez. Donna Municipal Judge Jose Parza, the victim's son-in-law, told the (McAllen) Monitor that he now believes the men in Mexico did not have Rodriguez captive when they demanded the money. He said he believes she died shortly after the apparent abduction.

Teen faces prison for murder of four-year-old

BATH, N.Y. (AP) — Heeding a heartbroken father's plea, a judge sentenced a teen-ager Monday to nine years in prison — the maximum — for luring a 4-year-old boy into the woods and crushing his skull with a rock. The 14-year-old killer, Eric Smith, cast his eyes downward but showed no emotion. Eric confessed in 1993 to leading Derrick Robie on a supposed shortcut to a day camp they attended in the western New York village of Savona. In an overgrown lot, Eric choked the boy and bashed his head with a 26-pound rock. He then sodomized the boy with a stick. "When Derrick came into this world I cried and when Derrick left this world I cried," Dale Robie, his voice trembling, said in asking the court for the maximum. "I have felt the whole realm of loving and losing."

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Smith denied dismissal of misconduct trial

By Michele Brinkmann
THE BATTALION



Smith

Judge Oliver Kitzman denied a motion by the defense Monday to dismiss the trial of former Texas A&M Vice President Robert Smith because the prosecution lacked sufficient evidence that proved Smith solicited gifts while in office. Dick DeGuerin, Smith's defense attorney, asked the judge to order the jury to hand down a verdict of not guilty because the state failed to provide any evidence that Smith solicited gifts from Barnes and Noble Bookstores Inc. Smith is accused of soliciting trips to New York City for himself and his wife Pat while negotiating contracts with Barnes and Noble between 1990 and 1993. Smith made several trips along with his wife along with former Board of Regents Chairman Ross Margraves and his wife. The Smiths and the Margraves were treated by Barnes and No-

bles to Broadway shows, French dinners, limousine rides and yacht tours of Manhattan Island. Barnes and Noble paid for nearly all of their expenses including \$38,000 on entertainment and accommodations. The company spent \$12,610 on the trip Smith is on trial for. Smith was demoted to director of special operations after he was indicted in June on a misdemeanor charge of using his public office to solicit gifts. Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said he is not surprised the judge ruled to continue the trial. "We can take it to the jury," Turner said. "The trial is not over until it is over." Turner said the law states that each element of a case can

be proved by direct or circumstantial evidence. "Nobody at Barnes and Noble asked the wives to go to New York," Turner said. "That leaves the jury to conclude Smith asked for it. That is direct solicitation and there is a lot of circumstantial evidence we have brought in." Kitzman ruled that a taped interview the Texas Rangers held with Smith could not be admissible as evidence because the tapes were not relevant to the indictment. He said the potential prejudice the tapes might cause the jury to outweigh the probative value. DeGuerin said the interview did not indicate Smith solicited gifts. He also argued that the contents of the tapes were irrelevant and misleading. Turner argued the tapes explained the negotiations and gave evidence Smith knew what he did was wrong. The questioning on Monday centered on A&M's decision to choose Barnes and Noble to run

the campus bookstore. Jane Schneider, senior management analyst at A&M, testified that Barnes and Noble was chosen over Follett College Stores, another company that submitted a proposal to take over the bookstore, because its contract offered A&M more money than Follett. The contract gives A&M \$1.5 million or 11 percent of the bookstore's sales annually, whichever is more. A&M also received a \$500,000 bonus for extending the contract with Barnes and Noble until 2005. William Maloney, a vice president at Barnes and Noble, said he began negotiating with A&M in 1988 through Don Powell, director of business services. Maloney said Smith called him later to tell him that he had been appointed by the Regents to be the negotiator for the privatization of the bookstore and he was the only one they should contact for negotiations. Powell said he assumed that

as business services director he would negotiate the contract but was denied a travel request to visit Barnes and Noble because Smith said it was not necessary. Powell did negotiate originally with both companies and said he did not prefer either company to run the bookstore. "My only interest is in doing what is right for the University," he said. DeGuerin questioned Powell about his personal feelings for Smith. DeGuerin has said throughout the trial Powell was a bitter employee who did not like Smith. "I don't either like or dislike him," Powell said. Powell said that in a memo Smith told him not to further negotiate with Barnes and Noble. "I ... ask that you not further contract with Barnes and Noble or Follett," the memo stated. "I was cut out of the loop."

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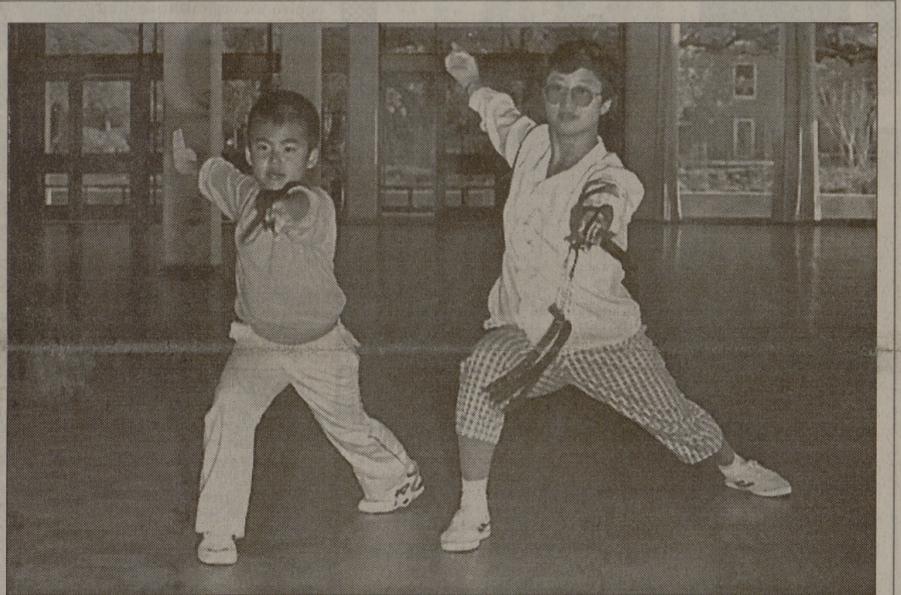
A&M court decision may aid SFA student group

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

A 1984 Supreme Court ruling forcing Texas A&M to recognize Gay Student Services (GSS) as a student organization may be used to appeal Stephen F. Austin State University's Student Government's decision to end funding for their school's gay student association. SFA's Student Senate voted last week to stop funding the Gay and Lesbian Student Association (GLSA) beginning next school year. SFA Student Senator Bryan Simmons, who led the effort against the gay group, said funding was ended on grounds that members are violating the state sodomy law. "The majority of GLSA members are gay and in order to be homosexual, more than likely you have violated 21.06 of the Texas penal code (the sodomy law)," Simmons said. "We didn't want to have a group on campus that might in some way champion violation of Texas law. What if (a national pedophile club) wanted to start a campus pedophile club? That's as much against the law as homosexual conduct." The sodomy law makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine, for people of the same gender to have "deviant sexual intercourse."

Dr. Jim Mazzullo, faculty adviser for A&M's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Aggies, said the SFA Student Senate's decision is unconstitutional. "The Student Senate did a very bad thing," Mazzullo said. "They're rejecting funding because people are probably breaking the law. Nobody can presume you're breaking the law. That's a violation of due process, and that's unconstitutional." Mazzullo said the nine-year court battle that A&M's gay student association fought when it first attempted to organize as the Gay Student Services in 1976 will probably be

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Blake Griggs/The Battalion

Practice makes perfect

Tony He and his mother practice an Asian art form called the Traditional Chinese Sword in Rudder Exhibition Hall on Monday afternoon.

Cults mind controlling techniques harmful to society, expert says

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

A cult expert told Texas A&M students Monday night that cults are harmful to individuals and to society because they control people's minds. Ronald N. Loomis, a past national president of a cult awareness network, told the group about the murders, suicides and criminal acts of cults, including the Branch Davidians and People's Temple. Loomis said he became involved in cult awareness when he was director of the student union at Cornell University. "I came to realize that some of the organizations we had registered as student groups were cults," he said. Many people think that cults exist only in large cities, but Loomis said they actually are present everywhere. "I want to confirm that the problem of cult phenomenon is very real and present here," he said. He said people notice groups like the Branch Davidians when something horrible happens, but these groups exist for long periods of time without being noticed. "There are groups all over the world that we do not know about until something crazy happens," he said. Loomis said there are several different types of cults. "The cult phenomenon is not

just a religious issue," he said. "It is an issue of mind control." He said some cults involve meditation and self-improvement. Others are political groups or commercial cults. Some are new age groups or satanic group while some are white supremacist groups. The key to all of these cults, he said, is that they use mind control to keep their members. Loomis said the cult leaders are usually very charismatic and deceptive. He said they are very secretive and believe all other beliefs are wrong. Loomis said that anyone is susceptible to being taken in by a cult. "The profile of a typical cult recruit is the profile of a typical Texas A&M student," he said. He said that people are most susceptible to cults when

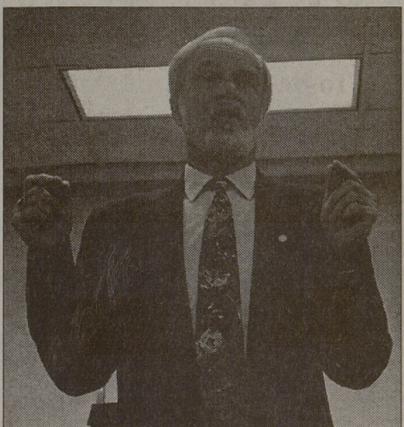


Photo by Carrie Thompson/The Battalion

Ronald Loomis, a past president of a cult awareness group said college students are a likely target for recruitment into cult groups

they are in a new situation, like college, or have just been through a personal trauma, like losing a loved one. "Many former cult members can pinpoint a trauma or time of transition that they had not quite recovered from when they were recruited by the cult," Loomis said. He said the cults use many methods to control the minds of the members.

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College of Medicine dean to step down

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

Dr. Richard DeVaul announced Monday that he will resign as dean of the Texas A&M College of Medicine and vice president for health affairs effective Jan. 1, 1995. DeVaul said he will be a visiting senior scholar with the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington D.C. to work on national health issues. "I'm excited about the opportunity to be in the center of discussion and policy making in the rapidly changing health care environment," DeVaul said. Before coming to A&M in 1988, DeVaul was dean of medicine at West Virginia University and associate dean for student and curriculum affairs at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. He said he is pleased to have had the opportunity to provide leadership for the Texas A&M Health Science Center. "When I assumed the position, the College of Medicine was at an important crossroads in development," he said. "My deanship has evolved through a period of growth and change over the last six and a half years. "However, now it's time to pass the baton to another," he said. Dr. Don Cauthen, head of the Family and Community Medicine Department in Temple, said he has worked with DeVaul and that a college dean position is a

very difficult position to have. "Dr. DeVaul has an extremely complex job," Cauthen said. "However, he has made important strides as far as getting recognition for the college." DeVaul plans to return to the A&M faculty, after finishing his work in Washington, as a professor of psychiatry and behavioral science and family and community medicine. Cauthen said he hopes he is able to welcome DeVaul as a professor of family and community medicine upon his return from Washington D.C., but definite plans are still up in the air. DeVaul said the milestone of his career for which he is proud is the formal approval for the initiation of a new Texas A&M University Health Science Center Education and Research Building in Temple. "This milestone was reached through contributions from the private contributors and the Texas A&M University System," he said. "The building will solidify the relationship between the University, Scott & White Memorial Hospital & Clinic, and the Olin E. Teague Veteran's Center. "I believe that the University health science center and its affiliates are poised to make significant strides in the future," DeVaul said. "It is my belief that this opportunity will be best realized through new leadership."