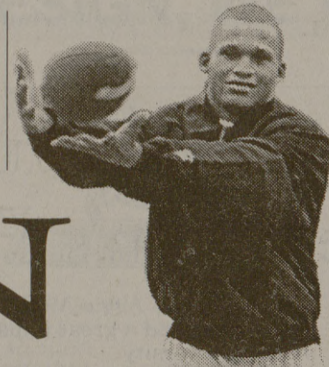


# THE BATTALION



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Test may reveal brain-destroying Alzheimer's

WASHINGTON (AP) — A simple test using eye drops may identify patients with Alzheimer's disease, a brain-destroying disorder now diagnosed with certainty only after death. Although medical science now has little to offer Alzheimer's patients, Huntington Potter of the Harvard Medical School said the test could be important when new drugs for the disease are developed. He said the test would make an early diagnosis possible, enabling patients to plan, while they are still able, for the inevitable loss of mental ability. Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and at Harvard report that an eye drop drug called tropicamide causes the pupils in the eyes of Alzheimer's patients to dilate about four times more readily than those of patients without the brain disease. Potter said that Alzheimer's disease patients are so sensitive to tropicamide that their pupils will change by about 23.4 percent, while patients without Alzheimer's have only a 5 percent change.

### Education chief wants to stay in office

AUSTIN (AP) — State Education Commissioner Lionel "Skip" Meno, who's praised by Republican and Democratic education officials, said Thursday he'd like to stay on the job "if the conditions were right." But he's keeping his options open after Democratic Gov. Ann Richards, who appointed him, was beaten by Republican Gov.-elect George W. Bush. "I think this is an exciting position, and it's one where you have a tremendous opportunity to contribute, and I've really enjoyed it. If it ends at that, it ends at that," said Meno, who came to Texas from New York and says he'd like to stay here even if he changes jobs. Bush, who made education reform a leading campaign issue, said in Houston that he hadn't made a decision about Meno but added, "I'm going to be fair."

### Accused 'urban survival' killer denied witness

FORT WORTH (AP) — Defense attorneys who claim their client killed as an act of "urban survival" had to send their case to the jury without testimony from their most critical witness. State District Judge Bill Burdock blocked defense attempts Wednesday to have psychologist Raymond Finn testify about how Daimion Osby, 19, was affected by living in a high-crime, inner-city neighborhood. Jurors heard closing arguments and prepared for deliberations Thursday in the capital murder case. The ruling was a blow to the defense, which in Osby's first trial argued that he suffered from a kill-or-be-killed paranoia from growing up in a high-crime urban area. A hung jury forced a mistrial in that case. "This was about the most critical evidence we could present," said Osby's attorney Bill Lane.

### Iraq abandons claims on Kuwaiti territory

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraq on Thursday abandoned territorial claims to Kuwait that had origins in the Ottoman Empire, hoping to win an end to trade sanctions that have strangled its economy. The official Iraqi News Agency said the National Assembly voted for "Iraq's recognition of the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait, its territorial integrity and independence." The statement also said Iraq recognized and respected the "inviolability" of new Kuwaiti borders, demarcated by a U.N. committee after the 1991 Gulf War. Saddam Hussein's ruling Revolutionary Command Council later endorsed the legislation, according to a dispatch by the agency, monitored in Cyprus.

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# Former A&M VP found guilty

## Jury finds Smith guilty of soliciting gifts

By Michele Brinkmann  
THE BATTALION

Jurors deliberated for more than seven hours Thursday before finding former Texas A&M Vice President Robert Smith guilty of soliciting gifts for his wife, Pat Smith, from a bookstore company.

The seven man-five woman jury decided that Smith had broken the law by soliciting gifts as a public servant while negotiating a contract with Barnes and Noble Bookstores, Inc. to manage the Texas A&M campus bookstore. The jury will hand down Smith's sentence Friday morning. He could face up to one year in jail and \$3,000 in fines if convicted of the Class A misdemeanor. Smith, 58, was found guilty of asking Barnes and Noble to pay for his wife Pat Smith's airfare, ground transportation, meals and entertainment during a June 1993 trip to the company's headquarters in New York City.



Smith

During the trip, Smith signed a contract that extended the time Barnes and Noble would operate the campus bookstore. Smith was indicted in June and re-indicted in October on a misdemeanor charge of soliciting gifts as a public servant in 1993 although he made several trips to New York between 1990 and 1993 with former chairman of the Board of Regents Ross Margraves. He was not indicted for any other trips because the statute of limitations had expired.

Turner, the Texas Rangers and the FBI began their investigations last year when questions over the Barnes & Noble contract were raised in an anonymous letter sent to Gov. Ann Richards. Soon after the indictment, Smith was demoted from his position as vice president for finance and administration to director of special operations.

Dick DeGuerin, Smith's defense attorney, said he was disappointed with the verdict and plans to appeal the case. "We will take this disagreement to a

higher court," DeGuerin said. "We disagree over the law. "We will not quit fighting," he said. "Mr. Smith has not violated the law."

In a crowded courtroom, DeGuerin and District Attorney Bill Turner delivered their closing arguments to the jury. DeGuerin told the jury the purpose of the trip was to further the relationship between Texas A&M and Barnes and Noble, not to solicit gifts. "Open your eyes and see what this is about; he did not solicit for his wife," he said.

Pat Smith testified Wednesday that she was not involved in the contract negotiations while in New York but thought she was helpful in her "ambassador role" she played to represent A&M. "I was an extension of Robert's efforts to get the best deal for A&M," she said. "Robert does not tell me what goes on at A&M businesswise."

In his closing statements, Turner told the jury to remember what the law states concerning solicitation when making their decision. "We've got big business on one side and government on the other side," Turner said. "We have a wedge in between; it's called the law."

"This is about how the government operates." Turner said this trial was not about privatization, against A&M entertaining or about bringing spouses on trips. "All the law is saying is don't take a spouse with you when negotiating a contract," Turner said.

Turner said that in 1990 Smith was "on the right track" when he reimbursed Barnes and Noble for a trip he had taken, but said that over the years "things started to slide."

In 1993 Smith paid back some of the expenses incurred on the New York trip because that is when the FBI got involved, Turner said. "Smith gave no explanation of the paybacks," he said. "Smith is above explaining those things. "Things just got out of hand."

Letters from around the world are asking for the release of a former Texas A&M student who was kidnapped in Colombia seven weeks ago. Thomas Hargrove, Class of '66 and head of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) Communication Unit, was kidnapped on his way to work Sept. 23 at a roadblock near Puerto Tejada in the southwestern province of Colombia. No group has claimed responsibility for Hargrove's abduction, and no demands have been made.

Dr. Charles Self, head of the Department of Journalism, said it is beginning to be difficult for family and friends to remain optimistic. "As I understand, there's been no word at all," Self said. "It's a real mystery. They're concerned that there have been no demands."

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Fotofest '94

Texas A&M photography professor Susan Kirchman (right) discusses some of the photographs on display with Audrey Winkelblech, junior environmental design major, at Fotofest '94 held in the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

## NAACP reveals plan to improve involvement

By Amanda Fowle  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M student chapter of the NAACP revealed its 12-point plan of action Thursday that outlines ways A&M can include African-Americans more in University life.

Shawn Williams, chapter president, said he plans to present the 12-point plan to the state legislature in January and urged other members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to go to Austin with him to show their support. "Someone needs to go to the legislature to tell them that A&M's report card doesn't look so good," he said.

Williams was referring to racially offensive incidents this semester involving the College Republicans and students working at Bonfire site. "These instances have brought us together," he said, "and we have to stay united through the rest of the year."

Farleshare Starks, vice president of the NAACP, said the group wants minority students to feel more welcome at A&M. "Administrators brag about their feeble attempts at increasing African-American enrollment," she said, "but it is not enough."

The plan calls for Texas A&M to: • expand minority scholarship programs by increasing the number, amount and duration of the

Presidential Achievement Award Scholarships awarded per year;

- immediately restore the NAACP's cubicle in the Student Program's Office;
  - improve graduation rates for minority students;
  - increase the number of black faculty by subsidizing their salaries through the Provost's office;
  - implement degree requirements for three or more hours of education about the U.S. affirmative action groups;
  - increase awareness of the cases concerning racial discrimination at Texas A&M;
  - get state funding for the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute;
  - establish a legal mandate for a uniform reporting procedure for cases of racism and discriminatory actions;
  - conduct a survey of the surrounding community to assess their perceptions of the minority enrollment and opportunities for minorities at A&M;
  - create an African-American Studies major and minor;
  - make the Memorial Student Center more representative of minorities.
- Brian Ingram, co-chair of the NAACP's political action committee, said by implementing these changes, A&M could be an example for the rest of the country. "We have to show the school and the entire nation that this country cannot go on as it is," he said.

## A&M reacts to election

### College Republicans, Aggie Democrats talk about Tuesday's results

By Stephanie Dube  
THE BATTALION

After a resounding Republican victory in Wednesday night's election, local Democrats and Republicans agree major changes in government are imminent.

Richard Stadelmann, College Republicans advisor and chairman of the issues committee of the Republican Party of Texas, said he is excited about the election results. "The election was an attack against Congress and incumbency," Stadelmann said. "It was a clear repudiation of the liberal agenda President Clinton has had. Americans lost confidence in him because he campaigned as a new Democrat and governed as an old Democrat."

Chad Walter, president of College Republicans, said he was pleased with the election results.

"Not one Republican incumbent in the House or Senate lost," Walter said. "That's a call for the government of this country to move to the right." Gary Halter, professor of political science and advisor for the Aggie Democrats, said the election, according to exit polls, was dominated mostly by white men voting Republican. "I think there was a lower turnout by minorities who traditionally support Democrats and higher support by white male Protestants," Halter said. "The question is if this is really a revolution or just a momentary change?"

Eric Gruetzner, president of Aggie Democrats, said he was disappointed with the election. "I was disappointed the voters went almost blindly by party vote," Gruetzner said. "But they got what they want. The ball's in the Republicans' court now."

The Republicans will present many new proposals in Congress, such as a balanced budget amendment and an increase in military spending, he said. Halter said, however, that there will be difficulties in the relationship between a Republican Congress and a Democratic President. "As minority leaders, Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich tried to make Clinton look as bad as

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### ELECTION '94

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