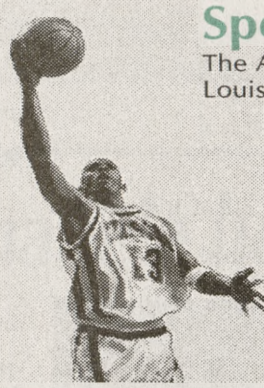


# THE BATTALION



TUESDAY

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Texans Arney, DeLay take GOP lead in House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas figures prominently in the GOP firmament on Capitol Hill with the election Monday of conservatives Dick Arney as House majority leader and Tom DeLay as majority whip. Arney's uncontested victory and DeLay's triumph in a spirited three-way race give Texas the No. 2 and No. 3 spots in the House Republican hierarchy. The two have pledged to implement the vision of Newt Gingrich, the fiery Georgian selected as speaker by thunderous acclaim Monday. DeLay, of Sugar Land, bested Pennsylvania Rep. Robert Walker and Florida Rep. Bill McCollum, earning 119 votes to Walker's 80 and McCollum's 28 in the secret balloting. "It's the first day of the rest of the revolution," DeLay was quoted by aides as telling his colleagues in a closed-door acceptance speech.

### Rapist executed in Huntsville early today

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A rapist who claimed responsibility for more than 100 attacks was executed early today for killing a Houston man during a fight that broke out as he was trying to rape the man's girlfriend. Herman Clark, 48, expressed love for family members and insisted in a final statement that he no longer was the "perverted, corrupt and evil human being I was when I first came to death row 13 years ago." "By the power of Jesus Christ ... I have been transformed to a new creature," he continued. "I know absolutely for a fact I am a Christ-child and my Lord is getting ready to welcome me into his arms." Clark prayed and began singing as the drugs began flowing into his arms at 12:20 a.m. CST. Eight minutes later, he was pronounced dead. Clark was one of three condemned Texas inmates expected to be put to death this week, making it the most active week for executions in the state in eight years.

### Sludge improves soil, Tech scientists say

EL PASO (AP) — Researchers extolled the benefits of using sewage sludge to fertilize land on a West Texas ranch Monday, even as activists questioned the scientists' ties to a company directing such a project. Texas Tech scientists studying sludge use released a report indicating the application of New York City sludge has boosted the productivity of arid grassland on a 128,000-acre ranch in Sierra Blanca. "It's turning out exactly as we anticipated," said Jon M. Masters, an attorney for MERCO Joint Venture, which runs the Sierra Blanca project and is also funding the Texas Tech study. MERCO has a six-year, \$168 million contract to ship 400 tons of New York City sludge to Texas each day and apply it to the ranch some 80 miles southeast of El Paso.

### Drug 'fry' becomes craze in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Formaldehyde is becoming a popular additive for Houston drug users, who add the fluid primarily used for embalming to PCP and marijuana, authorities say. The drug is known as "fry" or "amp," and its violent side effects can be worse than those created by other drugs, said Sgt. J.D. Williams of the Houston Police Department's narcotics division. "As far as the actions of the abusers, this has got to be the worst," Williams said. "They're by far the most violent. They don't give up, and they don't have any inhibitions. They're like wild men." Fry is created by mixing formaldehyde and PCP, an animal tranquilizer that enjoyed street use in the 1970s. A marijuana cigarette then is dipped in the solution, frozen and smoked. Formaldehyde, which is not a controlled substance, is believed to heighten the effect of the marijuana and PCP.

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## Professor's trial to open today

By Michele Brinkmann  
THE BATTALION

Opening arguments and testimony will begin today in the trial of a Texas A&M professor accused of misrepresenting alcohol purchases as purchases of food and soft drinks. A six-person jury was selected Monday and opening testimony will begin at 9 a.m. today in Judge Claude Davis' County Court at Law #1. Dr. Don Hellriegel, a management professor, was one of four A&M employees charged in June on a Class A misdemeanor charge of tampering with government documents. Four other A&M employees were indicted on the same charge. Hellriegel, who has pleaded not guilty, was the first of the eight employees to go to trial. Two Texas A&M administrators, A&M Athletic Director Wally Groff and Associate Athletic Director Penny King, were placed on three months probation and ordered to pay a \$250 fine after pleading no con-

test in October to the charge. Groff and King entered the pleas as part of an agreement reached with Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner. Both were given deferred adjudication, a form of probation that means no conviction will appear on their record if the three-month term is successfully completed. All of the charges came at the end of a 10-month investigation by the Texas Rangers and the FBI into questionable business practices at A&M. Turner told 29 potential jurors he plans to prove Sabrina Saladino, an academic business administrator who was also charged in June with record tampering, made a false entry on a government record and that Hellriegel assisted by encouraging, directing or aiding Saladino. Sam Rowland, Hellriegel's attorney, told potential jurors that Hellriegel was never indicted by a

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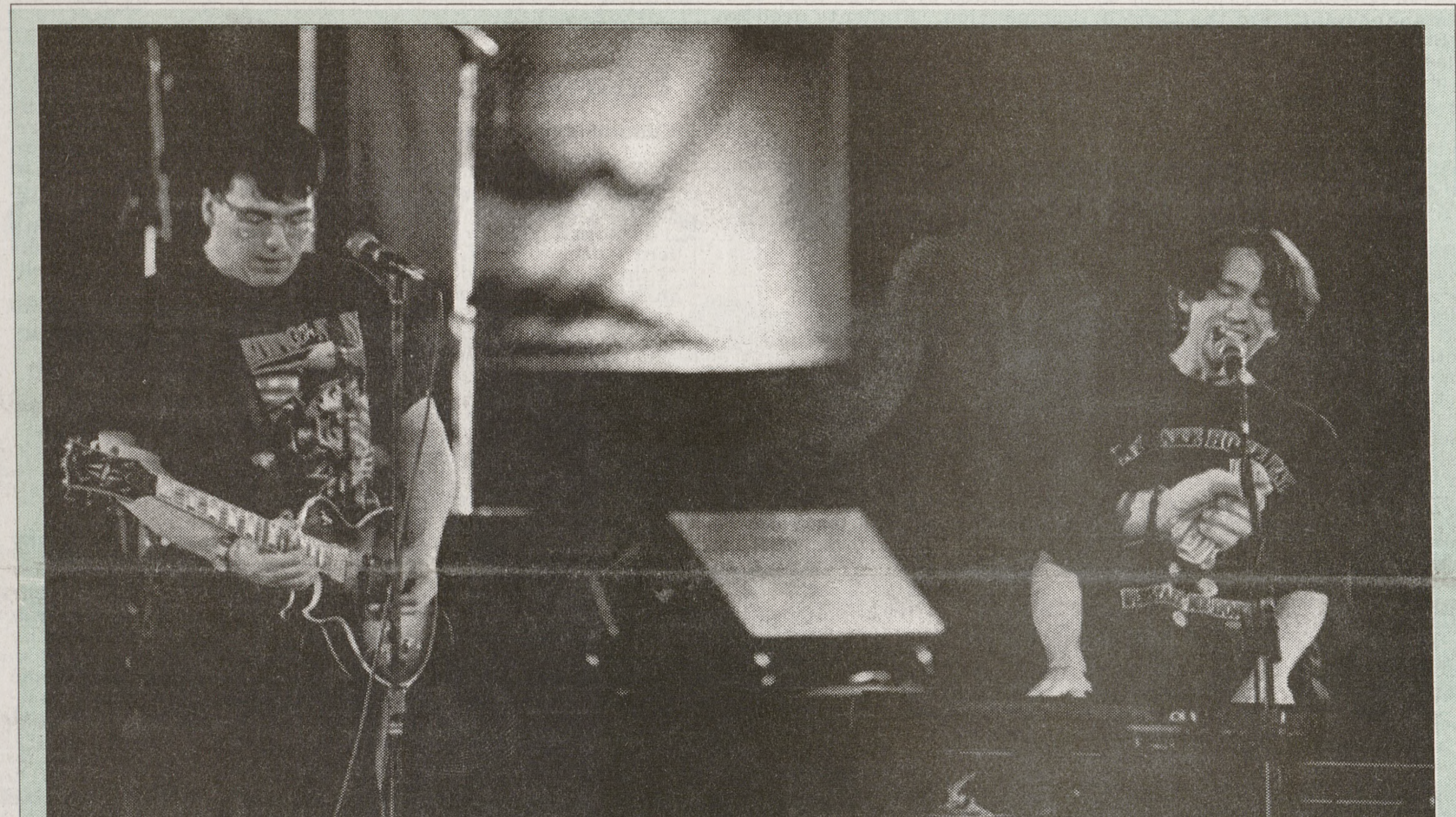
## GATT to bolster local economy, official says

By Stephanie Dube  
THE BATTALION

The passage of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) will strongly benefit the local and national economy, A&M officials said. Dr. Julian Gaspar, director of A&M's Center for International Business Studies, said GATT's passage will reduce tariffs on trade by about 33 percent, increasing the amount of trade between nations. "In general, GATT will give a boost to our production," Gaspar said. "It will be similar to the impact NAFTA (North American

Free Trade Agreement) has on the United States. It will be very good for our country and Texas." GATT involves 124 nations and will reduce tariffs on trade worldwide while also expanding the rules of world trade into new areas. Dr. Gary Trennepohl, executive associate dean in the College of Business Administration, said GATT will be beneficial for the United States. "Things that promote trade benefit everyone in the long run," Trennepohl said. "The general idea in lowering trade barriers is

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Tim Moog/The Battalion

## Particle men

John Flansburgh (left) and John Linnell of They Might Be Giants perform at Rudder Auditorium Monday night. The band is known for the hits "Particle Man," "Istanbul (Not Constantinople)" and "Birdhouse in Your Soul" and is currently on tour with Frank Black.

## Bills could affect college athletes, core curriculum

AUSTIN (AP) — College athletes should reimburse universities for athletic scholarships once the athletes turn professional, and college students should pass a multicultural course to receive their diplomas, say state lawmakers who are proposing such legislation. Their proposals are among higher education bills filed that state lawmakers could debate when they convene in January. Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano, is proposing that college athletes would have to reimburse their public alma maters for scholarships once they turned professional and signed contracts worth \$250,000 or more. McCall told the Austin American-Statesman that athletes receive a quality education at taxpayer-supported colleges and universities and should pay back scholarships when they make it big. But critics say the bill could hurt recruiting at the University of Texas and Texas A&M University because private and public universities elsewhere don't have such provisions. Furthermore, they say it is wrong to single out college athletes when other students receive academic, band or other scholarships. Such students, they say, often go on to earn big bucks in law, business or entertainment. "It's ridiculous," said Tom Penders, head coach for the

University of Texas men's basketball team. He said McCall's bill is unfair to college athletes who endure physical and academic during their college careers. He said the bill could backfire and discourage athletes, who generally contribute financially to their alma maters. "They work their tails off every day and have to put in hours and hours in the classroom," Penders said. "I don't think they owe the university if they are fortunate enough to go pro." McCall said that if UT or A&M officials oppose his bill, he will withdraw it. "It won't see the light of day," he said. Such opposition won't discourage Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, from advancing his three bills on higher education. Two bills focus on ethnic and cultural diversity. One of the two requires students who attend public colleges and universities to pass three semester hours in a course that focuses on two or more cultures or a specific U.S. culture. For instance, a student could choose a course in African American literature, Mexican American history or issues relating to the North American Free Trade Agreement, or a student could opt for courses that focus on Irish culture or world religions, such as Islam or Judaism.

## Taking over the reins



Blake Griggs/The Battalion

Spring Editor in Chief of The Battalion Mark Smith takes a look at the paper.

## Batt editor looks to good Spring '95

By Melissa Jacobs  
THE BATTALION

When he's not watching reruns of The Simpsons or cheering the Houston Rockets on to victory, Mark Smith spends his time at The Battalion. Smith, the spring editor-in-chief of The Battalion, said students can look forward to a reader-friendly newspaper for the upcoming semester. Smith, a senior English and journalism major, said all the pieces are in place for a great semester. "We have enough staff members coming back next semester and new people with fresh ideas for us to give the students and faculty of A&M a newspaper they can be proud of," Smith said. He said he applied for the editor's position because he thought he could improve the newspaper. "Basically, I thought I could do The Battalion some good," he said. Jay Robbins, managing editor for the spring, has worked with Smith since September

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