

Senior linebacker Antonio Armstrong selected to the Associated Press All-American team.

FRANK STANFORD: With finals around the corner, there's not much time to think about parades. Or avenues. We're all bustling about on the avenue of life, making lots of noise.

An interview with Dignable Planets

THE BATTALION



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NEWS BRIEFS

Russian soldiers, coffins return from war

MOSCOW (AP) — Seven soldiers and three coffins came home Wednesday from Chechnya, pawns in Russia's clumsy covert war to oust the leader of the rebel republic. The men from an elite tank division of the army were recruited by the Federal Counterintelligence Service, which has botched perhaps the most ambitious operation of its short life. Some compare the debacle to the disastrous Bay of Pigs of invasion. It has left soldiers and spies at each others' throats — and hawks and doves alike criticizing President Boris Yeltsin. Chechnya is an inalienable part of Russia. But we are categorically against using the fire and the sword," said Yegor Gaidar, a longtime Yeltsin ally and head of one of parliament's biggest blocs. It still isn't clear whether Yeltsin knew what his secret agents were up to in the tiny, mostly Muslim republic of 1.2 million on Russia's volatile southern flank.

Study shows war on poverty to continue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans believe people on welfare collect more than they actually do and think the poverty line should be higher than it is, a survey indicates. People seem to see welfare payments as "pouring water into a leaky bucket" but they want to fix the bucket rather than stop pouring, says the survey's sponsor. The study, conducted for an upcoming PBS television documentary on American poverty programs by the Independent Center for the Study of Policy Attitudes, found that 84 percent agreed that society has a "moral obligation" to help the poor, and that 80 percent thought government should do something about poverty. The study found wide chasms between the way people view federal anti-poverty programs of the 1960s War on Poverty, and what they think should be done about them.

Tapes entered into trial against Cisneros

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Lawyers for the former mistress of Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros are claiming in court documents that transcripts of taped phone conversations between the two show Cisneros agreed to pay her \$4,000 a month. For the first time, transcripts of the taped conversations were made part of the record Tuesday in a Lubbock County state district court, where Linda Medlar is suing Cisneros. The conversations took place from March 1990 to November 1993. Attorneys for Ms. Medlar, a former Cisneros aide during his tenure as San Antonio mayor, contend the transcripts submitted Tuesday support her claim that Cisneros agreed to make \$4,000 in monthly payments until Ms. Medlar's teen-age daughter graduates from college.

Mice breathe easier with new vaccine

NEW YORK (AP) — A drop of vaccine in the nose made mice build an extra line of defense against germs, suggesting that nasal vaccines may someday protect people against a host of diseases. The possibilities include bacterial pneumonia, food poisoning, urinary tract infections and sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS, said researcher Solomon Langermann. In his study, mice got a single drop of an experimental Lyme disease vaccine inside the nose, and for the past year and a half, have been protected against that disease. The nasal vaccine was designed to alert anti-disease defenses in the lining of the nose, in what amounts to an extra layer of protection compared to an injected vaccine. The mice developed defenses not only in the bloodstream, but also in the cells that line the mouth, nose, gut and other body passageways.

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VP denies reinstatement of employees

Former top food service employees file against A&M over reassignments

By Michele Brinkmann
THE BATTALION

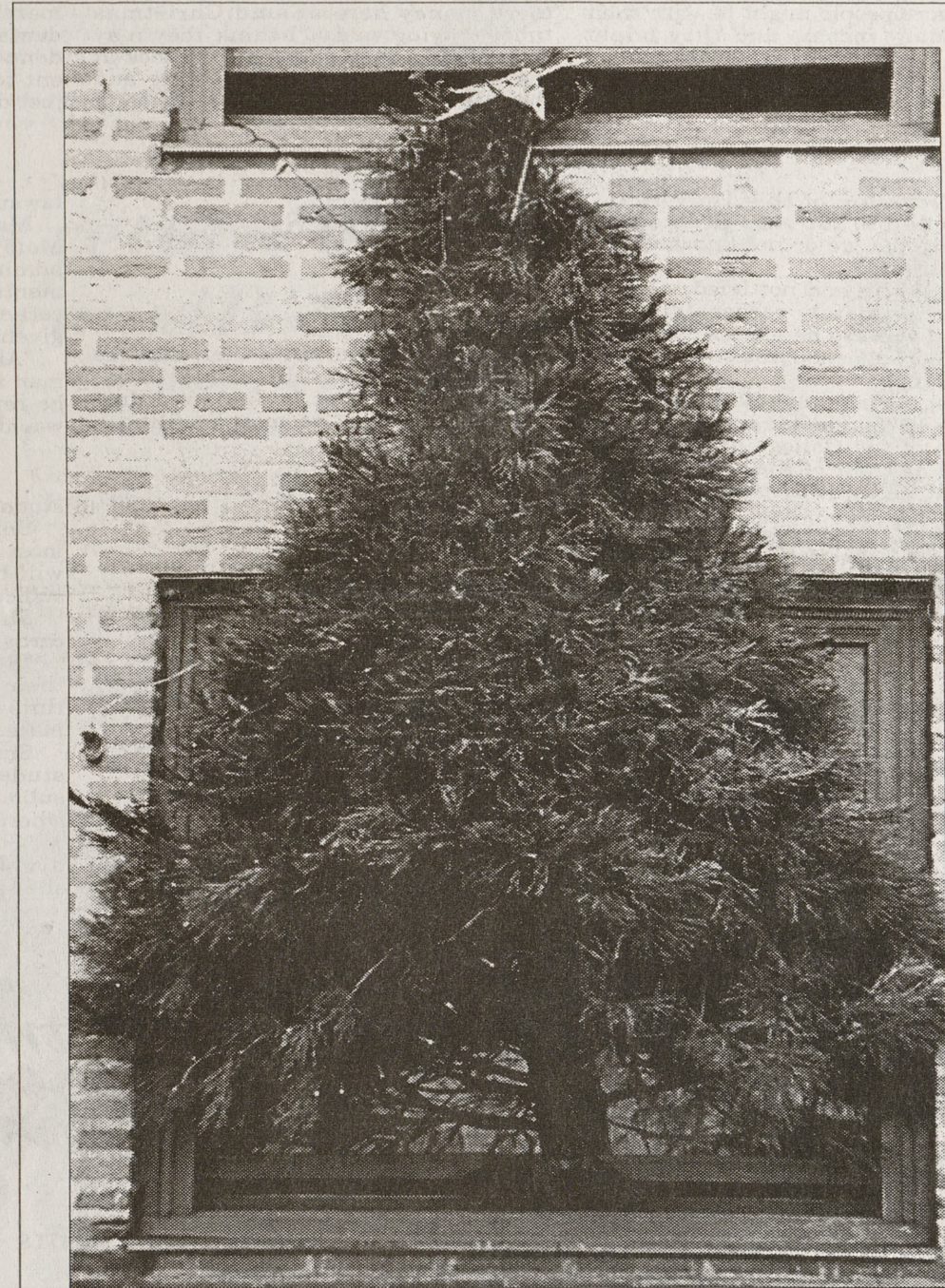
A Texas A&M administrator denied an appeal Wednesday that was filed against the University in January by three former top Texas A&M food services employees who say they were reassigned with no explanation. The three employees, Lloyd Smith, former food services director, Col. Jim Moore, former assistant director, and George Nedbalek, former business

manager, had filed grievances to be reinstated in their previous positions. The three men have said their former boss, Robert Smith, former vice president for finance and administration, did not tell them why they were reassigned and they believed the reassignments were due to their opposition to his original plan to privatize food services. Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, was assigned by A&M President

Ray Bowen in September to rule on the grievances. Southerland told the former employees' attorney, Wayne Rife, the men may meet with Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president for finance and administration, about the basis of their reassignments. "While the University always retains the right to reassign employees as needed, I concluded that none of these three employees were provided with full information concerning the basis for their reassignment," Southerland said. Moore said Southerland sent the three employees' attorney a confusing answer to their griev-

ances, which Moore nor his attorney clearly understands. "I'll just have to wait until Dr. Gaston meets with us to get an answer to our question," Moore said. "I'm disappointed in the ruling, but it is obvious the University did not follow its own rules and regulations in the way they reassigned us. I can determine that it didn't follow procedures at all." Moore said he did not want to sue the University but would go along with Smith and Nedbalek if it is determined by the three employees that they were wronged by A&M. Moore said the letter stated that the University had the

right to reassign him although the University did not correctly handle the situation. "I want to meet with Dr. Gaston to find out why I was reassigned," Moore said. Although he was not happy with the ruling, Moore said he was happy that after almost a year of waiting he is finally beginning to get some answers. "I thought we would have more information by now," Moore said. "I'm glad we are finally to this stage of the game." Rife said he was disappointed in Southerland's decision. "They will meet with Dr. See Employees/ Page 2



Amy Browning/THE BATTALION

Oh, Christmas tree

This tree was obviously hung from the window with care. Corps of Cadets Dorm 5 has taken time to decorate the Quad for Christmas.

Hellriegel trial to begin closing arguments today

By Michele Brinkmann
THE BATTALION

A Brazos County jury is expected to decide today the fate of a Texas A&M professor accused of disguising alcohol purchases as purchases of food and soft drinks. Dr. Don Hellriegel, a management professor, was the first of eight employees charged or indicted in June on a Class A misdemeanor charge of tampering with government documents to go to trial. The defense rested its case late Wednesday and closing arguments will begin at 9 a.m. today. Judge Claude Davis told the jury it should expect to begin deliberating by noon. If convicted, Hellriegel faces up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. Hellriegel's attorney Sam Rowland has maintained throughout the trial that Hellriegel was a victim of an unwritten policy that has been followed by the University for years. Among the \$403.11 of alcohol purchases Hellriegel is accused of authorizing, were purchases for a Christmas party and a reception, which were both held at Hellriegel's home in 1992.

Marilyn Maynard, an assistant controller for A&M's fiscal department since 1983, testified Wednesday that a 1991 memo was sent out by the University stating alcohol could not be bought with any Texas A&M account. She said alcohol was one of the strictly prohibited purchases during that time. Maynard said she has seen several Ruffino Catering invoices come through her department but did not know the catering company did not exist until the investigation into A&M business dealings began. Maynard said her department depended on people within A&M departments to turn in accurate and truthful vouchers. She also said it is not possible for the fiscal department to call and verify every purchase because of the large number of vouchers they approve each day. Dr. Michael Hitt, a management professor and former department head, said he was irritated when he first heard of A&M's alcohol policy because he could not list alcohol on vouchers but could use the word "beverages" and the See Trial/ Page 2

Students benefit from new policy for on campus housing this spring

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

Housing vacancies on campus and in the community have created a buyer's market for students looking for housing, but may pose a problem for those trying to sublease their homes. Allison Smith, a coordinator in the Office of Student Life Programs (OSLP), said with so many vacancies on campus and off campus and so many students wanting to sublease their apartments, students who are looking for housing should not have a problem. "The market is definitely in favor of those students who are looking for spring housing," she said. In an effort to fill the housing vacancies on campus, the housing office is allowing students enrolled in at least three hours of classes to live on campus

during the spring semester. Normally, students must be enrolled in at least nine hours in order to live on campus. The housing office will revert to this policy after the spring semester. Tammy Schniederjan, a student assistant in the housing office, said despite allowing part-time students to live on campus, some residence halls will still have vacancies. "We are not going to be completely full for the spring, but we normally have vacancies in the spring," she said. In the past, students have been allowed to have private rooms during the spring to fill these vacancies. In another effort to fill these vacancies, students were offered private rooms this fall. More students canceled their housing See Housing/ Page 2

A&M second crime rate among Texas universities

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M claimed the second highest property crime rate among Texas universities in 1993, rising seven percent from the number reported in 1992. A&M had 714 property crimes, which include burglaries, larceny thefts and motor vehicle thefts, in 1993, according to the latest FBI Crime Survey. The University of Texas had the highest property crime rate with 767 crimes reported. The University of Houston reported 560 property crimes in 1993, ranking third among Texas schools. Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said the top three universities' crime rates are understandable because of the size of their enrollments. "Take all the statistics for all the universities, colleges and institutions," Wiatt said. "UT is

University crime increased seven percent from 1992, still less than the University of Texas

number one in size, and it is number one in property crimes. A&M is second in size and, consequently, second in property crimes. "If you have thousands more people, you'll have thousands more crimes. We have a great number of people so it stands to reason we'll have a good number of crimes." Wiatt said the high number of property crimes at A&M results mainly from people's carelessness. "People leave backpacks unattended, rooms unlocked and doors propped open," Wiatt said. "They're inviting the opportunity for someone to come and take advantage of them." A&M ranks below most other Texas universities in the number of violent crimes committed on campus.

Violent crimes include murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults. The FBI reported that, in 1993, A&M had seven violent crimes, which was the same number A&M reported in 1992. Texas Southern University ranked number one in violent crimes, reporting 36. However, Wiatt said that as of Oct. 31, 12 violent crimes had been reported on the A&M campus. Wiatt said one murder, which was the first murder committed at A&M, two rapes, which were both date rapes, two robberies and seven aggravated assaults have been committed this year. Wiatt said that although a more strict definition of aggravated assault is used this year,

that change is not the cause of the increasing numbers of the crime on the A&M campus. "The meaning of aggravated assault has been watered down from past years," Wiatt said. "You had to commit a more serious injury in the past than you do now." "That's not why there are so many cases, though. People are just more violent in their altercations now. This year, we've had people pull guns on other people, and we've had people threaten to kill someone with a knife." Gene Zdziarski, coordinator for the Student Conflict Resolution Center, said the majority of situations that occur at A&M still end without becoming violent. "We're obviously always going to have disagreements between

people on campus," Zdziarski said, "but one of our hopes is to get away from the reactive. There should be an alternative to resolving a problem in a reasonable way, instead of in a violent manner." Zdziarski said students should face situations with the same caution at A&M as they do anywhere else. "Regardless of whether you're in Bryan-College Station or downtown Houston," Zdziarski said, "you should be aware of violent situations occurring. We have a microcosm of society here. We're our own little city." Wiatt said that the FBI Crime Survey's numbers should not alarm A&M students or faculty. "This campus is not rampant with crime," Wiatt said. "In fact, we have a rather non-violent campus for having 42,000 students and 10,000 members of the faculty and staff. The numbers are not shocking."