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DEADLINE: December 12, 1995

**Undergraduate Student Requirements:**

- You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of 95 credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, cannot count as additional credit hours.)
- 30 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if you successfully complete one semester at Texas A&M University prior to January 1, 1994. 60 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 resident credits, this requirement will be waived after your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.
- You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
- You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

**Graduate Student Requirements**

If you are a December 1995 degree candidate and you do not have an Aggie ring from a prior degree, you may place an order in January 1996 after you meet the following requirements:

- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Orders cannot be accepted until January 1996 unless you previously obtained a "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies (deadline has passed for requesting one at this time). The original letter of completion, with the seal, may be presented to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

**Procedure To Order A Ring:**

- If you meet all of the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office **no later than Tuesday, December 12, 1995**, to complete the application for eligibility verification.
- If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring on February 14, 1996, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Visa or Mastercard (with your name imprinted) **no later than December 15, 1995**.

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**ATTENTION: UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS**  
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# FDA approves new class of AIDS drug

**□ The new treatment showed greatest results when taken in combination with other drugs.**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first of a long-anticipated new class of AIDS drugs, the most powerful yet to stall but not cure the deadly virus, was approved today by the Food and Drug Administration.

Hoffman-La Roche's saquinavir is the first protease inhibitor to be approved anywhere in the world, one of a new class of drugs that cripples an enzyme vital to the late stages of reproduction by the HIV virus.

All other AIDS drugs sold today are nucleoside analogs, which work on another part of the virus. Saquinavir's approval — in a record 97 days after Roche filed its application — means doctors for the first time can attack HIV in two separate places.

"This is some of the most hopeful news in years for people living with AIDS," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

Saquinavir, to be sold under the brand name Invirase, will be on pharmacy shelves within 48 hours, Roche said. It will cost

about \$5,800 a year wholesale, but Roche said it did not know what the retail price would be. Roche said it was starting a new program to help patients get insurance coverage for saquinavir and to provide it free to patients who can't afford it.

**"This is some of the most hopeful news for people living with AIDS."**

— Donna Shalala  
Health and Human Services Secretary

Studies show patients who take saquinavir alone get about the same boost in their immune system as those who take AZT, the standard therapy, but not the same drop in the amount of virus in their blood that other AIDS drugs offer.

Patients who took saquinavir together with AZT showed more improvement, seeing a modest boost in their level of vital immune cells called CD4s and about an 85 percent drop in the amount of HIV in their blood. While Roche said 25 percent of patients in one study had a 100 CD4 cell boost after four months of treat-

ment, the FDA cautioned that most patients have just a 30- to 40-cell improvement.

The best results come when patients take saquinavir together with a nucleoside analog they have never before taken, the FDA said.

"This is ... perhaps the most important class of drugs in the fight against HIV so far," said FDA Commissioner David Kessler.

He cautioned that saquinavir does have some problems. Only 4 percent of the drug is actually absorbed the body, something Roche is furiously trying to fix with a better formula that Kessler pledged to rush to market.

And early evidence indicates two protease inhibitors being tested by Roche's competitors are more potent than saquinavir. AIDS activists warn that if patients develop resistance to saquinavir, they may not benefit from those more powerful drugs, expected to be sold in about a year.

That is "a legitimate but hypothetical concern," Kessler said.

AIDS patients who are stable on their current medication might want to wait for future protease inhibitors and leave saquinavir to those who need immediate help, said Troy Petinbrink of the National Association of People With AIDS.

# Republicans torn on how to silence Gingrich

**□ The man who led his party into the majority has been hurting them with inappropriate comments.**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Try as he might, and he doesn't seem to be trying too hard, Newt Gingrich won't be leaving the limelight anytime soon. His continuing presence at center stage gives Democrats huge opportunities and Republicans a headache.

The man most responsible for the Republican revolution is now viewed in some quarters as an obstacle to GOP legislative goals and may even pose a threat to some congressional careers.

First he made a spate of what one Republican called uncareful remarks — accusing President Clinton of snubbing him aboard Air Force One, blaming a triple murder in Illinois on the welfare system.

Then the Federal Election Commission announced an inquiry into the political action committee he once headed. Now the

House ethics committee has decided to hire an outside counsel to investigate other complaints.

Republicans revere Gingrich for leading them out of the wilderness and into the majority on Capitol Hill. But many say he's too hot — radioactive in one aide's word — to be their front man right now.

The problem is twofold: Gingrich is giving Democrats an ever larger target to shoot at while making it ever harder for his fellow Republicans to reassure voters about their plans to balance the budget and curb many gov-

ernment services.

"His occasional rhetorical missteps are visible and of concern ... at a time when the Republican Party is struggling to meet larger public relations challenges — thus far unsuccessfully," said Ken Ruberg, executive director of the moderate Republican Mainstream Committee, a national organization.

Democrats believe they can go wrong trying to make every campaign a referendum on Gingrich, whose negative ratings have ranged from 50 percent to 60 percent all fall.

# RECORDS

Continued from Page 1

Changes for other parts of those highways and for smaller roads will be recommended and enforced in the coming months, officials said. For now transportation and law enforcement officials are warning drivers to obey posted limits.

"The Texas Department of Public Safety and every local law enforcement agency in Texas should adopt a zero-tolerance level for anyone driving even 1 mph over the posted speed limit," said Jerry Johns, head of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

"The 70 mph speed limit may become a nightmare if the predicted loss of lives on our highways becomes a grim reality," he said. Johns said up to 560 more peo-

ple a year could die in traffic accidents under a 70 mph speed limit.

Through last Friday, 2,573 people were killed this year in traffic accidents on Texas roads. That compares to 3,142 accident-related deaths last year.

State records reviewed by The Associated Press showed that when the Texas speed limit increased from 60 mph to 70 mph in 1964, there were 277 more traffic deaths, rising to 3,006 from 2,729 in 1963.

Ten years later, when the 70 mph limit was lower to 55, traffic deaths dropped by more than 600, from 3,692 in 1973 to 3,046 in 1974.

"They illustrate the point," Johns said of the statistics.

He said people pushing for higher limits argue that cars on roads are safer today. But Johns added that no matter how safe cars and roads may be, they do not mean to withstand crashes at 70 mph and faster.

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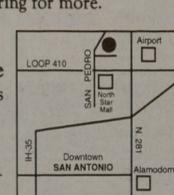
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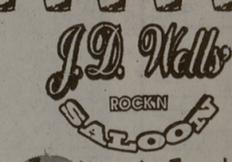
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