

# THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING



Dave House, THE BATTALION

**Flipping for art** Karie Fehler, a sophomore ag. journalism major, checks out posters for sale in front of the MSC Thursday afternoon.

► **This day in history**

Today is Friday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 1997. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day. On this date:  
 In 1778, the American ship Ranger carried the recently adopted Stars and Stripes to a foreign port for the first time as it arrived in France.  
 In 1876, inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray applied separately for patents related to the telephone. (The U.S. Supreme Court eventually ruled Bell the rightful inventor.)  
 In 1895, Oscar Wilde's final play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a comedy, opened at the St. James's Theatre in London.  
 In 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maude Wood Park.  
 In 1929, the St. Valentine's Day Massacre took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

In 1962, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy conducted a televised tour of the White House.  
 In 1984, 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (she died in November 1990).  
 One year ago: Texas Sen. Phil Gramm bowed out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination following his poor showings in the Louisiana and Iowa caucuses.

► **Today's birthdays**

TV personality Hugh Downs is 76. Actress-singer Florence Henderson is 63. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 53. Actor-dancer Gregory Hines is 51. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (Beausoleil) is 46. Actor Ken Wahl is 41. Actress Meg Tilly is 37. Tennis player Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere is 30.

► **State**

**A&M officials accused of illegal contributions**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Top Texas A&M University System officials may have violated the law by discussing campaign contributions for a state senator, the San Antonio Express-News reported Thursday.

A Texas A&M System spokeswoman, however, said no laws were broken at the February 1994 system meeting in Laredo.

At issue is whether state time, employees or resources were used for political purposes.

James Bond, university system counsel, told officials at the meeting about an upcoming fund raiser for state Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, who was a majority member of the Texas Senate Education Committee.

Bond said he "hopes that many" of the presidents and directors of Texas A&M agencies would attend and "give monetary support," according to minutes of the meeting.

Then-Chancellor William Mobley raised the possibility of sponsoring an event for Zaffirini, but the response was the "problem is that she has an opponent," according to the minutes.

Texas A&M System spokeswoman Terri Parker said Wednesday neither comment broke the law or university system rules.

"Based upon a passing comment at a meeting three years ago, we can't say that a system policy was violated," she said.

Mobley, Bond, a former chancellor, presidents of two A&M campuses and a vice chancellor each gave at

least \$100 to Zaffirini just over a week after the meeting. Mobley gave \$500 and Bond gave \$150.

Zaffirini said she recalls attending a fund-raising luncheon at the time at which she received contributions from Texas A&M officials.

"I certainly believe that every law should be upheld, and I would assume they (Texas A&M officials) follow the letter of the law," she said. "I can't imagine they wouldn't."

► **Nation**

**Coffee-worker strike causes pricing hike**

CHICAGO (AP) — Coffee lovers may be in for an unexpected jolt when they reach for that morning cup of joe — higher prices.

Striking workers in Colombia and rain-soaked plantations in Latin America are threatening to cause a big drop in deliveries, a prospect that is already sending coffee futures soaring.

That could lead to price hikes in coffee shops and grocery stores, but java drinkers appear no more jittery than usual.

"We just can't do without it," said Yvette Kukuk, who was sipping decaf with a friend at a Seattle Starbucks on Wednesday. "We'll just scrimp for change the days we don't have enough money if the prices go up. We'll just deal with it."

Futures prices — the cost of a pound of coffee to be delivered to a New York Sugar, Coffee and Cocoa Exchange warehouse later in the year — have increased 65 percent in the last eight weeks.

**MLK's family asks trial to reveal truth**

ATLANTA (AP) — Afraid of truth about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination will die with Earl Ray, King's family is asking to be given a trial to answer the questions that have haunted them for 30 years.

"The lack of a satisfactory answer to questions surrounding the assassination of Martin Luther King has been a source of continuing pain and hardship to our family," King, a son of the civil rights leader, said at a news conference Thursday with his two sisters, his brother and his mother, Coretta Scott King. "Every effort must be made to bring to the light the truth."

Over the years, King said, he has learned the painful nature of this struggle. He has reluctantly ignored it, but now, with Ray's death, he has decided to face it. He has learned the truth about the assassination of his father, and he has learned the truth about the truth.

"It was time to come forward with a statement about this, which has haunted us for years. If we do not pull through, this will die with us," King said.

Ray, 68, pleaded guilty to the assassination of King and was sentenced to life in prison but almost immediately pardoned his confession. He was named "Raoul" who arranged the assassination.

Ever since a sniper's bullet struck King on the balcony at a Memphis hotel in 1968, several theories have surfaced as to who was responsible.

► **Weather**

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High: 48°F Tonight's Expected High: 39°F Tomorrow's Expected High: 65°F Tomorrow's Expected Low: 39°F

Information provided by the Associated Press

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[www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com)

MSC Visual Arts and MSC Literary Arts present  
**Layers of African-American History**  
 The Works of Leamon Green and Phillis Wheatley  
  
 Tuesday, February 18  
 5 to 7 pm  
 Visual Arts Gallery  
 Memorial Student Center room 289  
 5 pm. Discussion with painter Leamon Green  
 6 pm. Reading of poetry by Phillis Wheatley  
 Refreshments provided  
 The Leamon Green exhibit is open until February 27

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 THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters, Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.