

### CLASS OF 1997 RING DANCE AND SENIOR WEEK

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## "Get to Know The Batt" Q&A sessions

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### PANEL

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"I thought there would be peace last when Yasser Arafat shook hands with [Yitzhak] Rabin on the White House lawn," Shapiro said. "Arafat has not stopped terrorism. He has shown intent to destroy Israel."

Khali Sakakini, another panelist is from Jerusalem and a member of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. He discussed how important it is for the fighting to stop and peace to be found.

"This is an old cliché that Arabs want to destroy Israel," Shapiro said. "It is not true. Jerusalem is the core of the peace process. It is as much Palestine as it is Israel."

Larry Rushton, program coordinator for the Jordan Institute, said the panel arrangement was organized to present different points of view to the audience.

"It is a good opportunity for people to understand the complexity of the issue," he said.

Rushton added that the discussion shows the difficulties facing two groups in making peace.

### AGGIELAND

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Benson wants the yearbook to illustrate that even through differences and disagreements, Aggies still can respect each other and love the fact that they are part of the Aggie family.

"We need to be able to sit down and talk and celebrate our differences and be glad they are there," Benson said. "Otherwise, this would be one really boring university."

Some of Benson's tentative changes include having just one class have their pictures taken, changing the cover a more traditional one and adding a Greek section. Traditionally, the Greek organizations are listed in the organization section of the yearbook.

"Fraternities and sororities are becoming a big part of A&M's campus," Benson said. "They represent a lot of diverse students. They do a lot of fun things that add to the social life at A&M."

Eric Pargac, 1997 AggieLand editor and a senior journalism major, said Benson likes to get things done the right way and works well with layout and design.

"I think she's willing to take chances and have a visually appealing book," Pargac said.

Pargac said it is important for his successor to realize the responsibility that comes with the job, especially as the yearbook nears completion.

"I'd tell her to make sure she stays on top of things and doesn't sit back and wait until the end," Pargac said.

Benson said the hardest part of the job is knowing 20 to 50 years down the road people still will be looking at her work.

"Our work is going to be in the hands of old Ags and other people a long time—they're more collectors of items," she said. "So I think it's important to do your job well and get an accurate picture of what life was like during that year at A&M."

Benson said her biggest challenge will be asking the yearbook staff and students to put aside their beliefs about what the AggieLand has been like over the years and have faith that 1998's will be one of the best they have ever seen.

"The challenges will be for the staff to make it the best book," Benson said, "and for the student body to have the faith in us to buy the book. I think they'll be really pleasantly surprised when it comes out. In fact, I guarantee it."

### LAWSUIT

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He cited a U.S. Supreme Court case in which an abortion clinic suffered economic losses because of racketeering that caused personal injuries to workers.

"Your property injury can come out of someone else's personal injury," he said.

He said state product liability laws bars only individual smokers' suits against tobacco companies, on the theory that smokers knew the dangers of their actions.

Texas taxpayers, Tribe said, made no decision to absorb the risks of smoking. Thus, they are entitled to sue, he said.

Folsom said he would try to decide soon whether to dismiss the case because a trial date is set for September.

An afternoon hearing was set to determine whether Texas has failed to turn over to the tobacco companies the medical documents on individual smokers' cases that the companies have requested.

Another defendant in the case, Liggett, which makes Chesterfield and L&M cigarettes, struck a deal last month that ends its liability in the Texas case and 21 other similar state lawsuits.



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