

## NUTZ



BY R. DELUNA SLOCUM

Continued from Page 1

Wally Groff, Texas A&M athletic director, said Slocum's new deal further illustrates Slocum's success as a coach. "He (Slocum) has gone about his business in a classy manner and has done so with a high regard to compliance with NCAA and Big 12 rules," Groff said. "I believe this package is comparable to other top football coaches in the country, and R.C. Slocum is among the top coaches in the country."

## Presbyterian committee votes to recommend gay ministers

FORT WORTH (AP) — After more than eight hours of heated debate, a Presbyterian church committee voted yesterday night to recommend allowing the ordination of gays and lesbians as ministers.

In a 24-14 vote, the Church Orders and Ministry committee recommended striking a clause from the church's constitution that forbids the ordination of "self-affirming, practicing homosexuals" to the ministry.

The issue now goes to the full 560-member assembly later this week during the denomination's annual meeting in Fort Worth. Approval would require a simple majority.

If the measure passes, it goes before the ordained Presbyterian ministers and elders nationwide for approval.

The committee almost did not vote on the measure Tuesday night. Committee members considered delaying a vote until next year's assembly, but came back after a dinner break and took up the ordination issue once more.

"I am pleasantly surprised by this," the Rev. Don Stroud, a gay man who was ordained before the 1978 amendment that prohibits gays from ordination, said.

**"Our presbyteries are put in the situation where they are not in accordance with the word of God, which asks us to love everyone."**

— Rev. Don Stroud

"Before the assembly, I was hopeful but not optimistic. They've been at it for a long time, but when they came back (from dinner) and started talking, I realized they were going to vote for this thing."

Opponents have argued the gay lifestyle goes against biblical principles.

"It is scandalous to the gospel the way these people behave," the Rev. Stephen Moss, a committee member, said during a heated debate. "I know of no other behavior that the scripture forbids that is upheld by the church as proper."

Proponents say the church discriminates against gays and lesbians by keeping them from fulfilling their calling.

"Our presbyteries are put in the situation where they are not in accordance with the word of God which asks us to love everyone," Stroud said. "I am a gay man that was blessed to be called by the church and what this says is my right to serve the Lord is based on me being heterosexual and not the grace of God."

At last year's general assembly, the church postponed a similar decision. In 1996 and 1997, the Book of Order language on gays and lesbians was altered only slightly. Pressure from both sides for a ruling brought it to the forefront again this year.

## Bush raises \$1 million on capital trip

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush huddled yesterday with members of Congress on his first trip to the nation's capital since forming his presidential exploratory committee, and fattened his campaign bank account by \$1 million at a lobbyist-studded fund-raiser.

Together, the events affirmed the strong support for Bush, the front-runner among Republican presidential candidates in the polls and in the race for campaign dollars.

Bush's Washington foray also offered ammunition to Republicans

hoping to defeat him in next year's presidential primaries and caucuses and to Democrats hoping to beat him in the general election. Republicans criticized his ties to the lobbyists helping him raise money for his campaign, and Democrats blasted his links to congressional Republicans in the wake of last week's defeat of new gun control legislation.

Before an enthusiastic crowd of 2,000 supporters, Bush declared, "I'm proud to be a compassionate conservative. On this ground I will take my stand."

Continuing a hallmark of Bush fundraising events, costs were kept to a minimum. There were no tables and no waiters; guests stood and dined on hot dogs, hamburgers, brownies and cookies. There was an open bar.

Standing in front of 26 American flags and the sound of George Strait singing "Heartland" in the background, Bush called for tax cuts, more money for the military,

reforming the legal system and the need to improve education.

"Every child will be educated and no children will be left behind," he said. "I believe in the power of high standards and high hopes."

Behind closed doors, Bush met first with 32 senators and then with 100 members of House, most of whom already have endorsed the governor.

"I came by to say thanks for their strong support," Bush said after his Senate meeting. "I'm really pleased with the support I've received inside this building."



BUSH

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Evans group names new president

Ron Beard, director of Food Services at Texas A&M, is the new president of the Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library organization.

Beard said in a press release one goal of the organization for the millennium is to increase community awareness of the group and what it does for the University's libraries.

"Another is to visit with library friends at another university to enhance our knowledge base and stimulate ideas for further support of our own library system," Beard said.

Serving with Beard is Charles Thurston of San Antonio, vice-president elect; Harwood Hinton of Austin, vice president of membership; Jeanne Mitchell of Bryan, secretary; and JoAnn Treat of College Station, treasurer.

### Prof warns against pets in truck beds

A Texas A&M professor of veterinary medicine said though dogs seem to love riding in the back of pickup trucks, it can be deadly for the animals.

Dr. Deb Zoran, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine's Small Animal Clinic said in a press release that she sees numerous cases of dogs being injured because they were riding in the back of trucks.

### These dogs' owners think a serious injury...

but it often does. And the dog is injured or has to sleep," she said.

There are no laws on owners from placing dogs in the back of pickup trucks. The vehicle is in motion.

"It's legal to let a dog ride in the back of a pickup but it's not something we recommend," she said.

She said if dogs are injured from a moving truck, the fer broken legs, hips or

### Contribution to new grad program

A gift from Texas Instruments of \$5.1 million to Texas A&M for a new electrical engineering program was announced today.

The program will include a new building and a new program of analog and digital design and systems.

Analog technology is used in many areas of research for almost two decades and a research center established last December.

The center has research teams in the Netherlands, Spain and

## Settlement reached in fen-phen lawsuits

HOUSTON (AP) — The second fen-phen lawsuit in the nation to go to trial was settled yesterday for an undisclosed amount.

Attorneys for pharmaceutical giant American Home Products Corp. and relatives of Mary Marisa Smith, who claimed the once-popular diet drug killed the 35-year-old, made the announcement in a joint statement.

"We're glad to have reached a resolution that brings closure to this case for all the parties involved," the statement read.

The release also noted that "previously publicized reports of a potential settlement figure have been unfounded." It had

been speculated that a million-dollar settlement had been reached.

The trial, the first in a death, began June 1 and was expected to finish in 1997 while trying to

Her family's lawsuit was filed against the Madison-based company over diet marketed as Pondimin.

A North Texas case only other to go to trial earlier this year with a settlement.

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