

AGS TRAVELING TO HOUSTON

- Flying out of the Houston Airports?
- Need Transportation to the Houston Area?

Formal Affair Limousine is offering a Limousine shuttle service on Dec 13,14, 15.


- Surprisingly Affordable and Cost effective
- Call for a reservation. All major credit cards accepted.

888-595-5990
Ag owned and operated

Do you feel out of control when you are eating? Do you think you have problems with binge eating or bulimia?

A short-term treatment program is now being formed at the TAMU Psychology Clinic to help with these problems. This will be an affordable and scientifically supported treatment that will address: gaining control over binge eating/vomiting, reducing weight and shape concerns, building self-esteem, and developing healthy eating patterns.

For more information call Michelle Cororve at the Texas A&M Psychology Clinic - 845-8017



MSC
Black Awareness
Committee
Nubian Nominations

Review Categories
Submit Nominations

<http://bac.tamu.edu>

Deadline:
Wednesday, Dec. 22nd

"Celebration of Achievement"

Texas Business Leaders &
Nubian Awards Reception

Thursday, Feb. 10th
3pm
J. Wayne Stark Galleries

No prosecution of gun law violations

HOUSTON (AP) — The state of Texas has not referred to prosecutors possible gun-law violations by hundreds of convicted felons during the four years it has screened concealed-weapons applicants, despite Gov. George W. Bush's stated support of enforcing gun laws.

Handgun-permit applicants must complete a gun-safety training program and demonstrate shooting proficiency at a firing range before applying. Federal law prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms, raising the question whether they trained with their own guns — thus breaking the law.

Instructors are not required to keep track of whose weapon the students uses.

From Jan. 1, 1996, when the state started issuing handgun licenses, through this past Aug. 31, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) denied 2,658 applications and approved 196,624 others. Felony convictions were given as the reason for denying 771 of the unsuccessful applications, according to records obtained by gun-control lobbyist Nina Butts.

Some of the felons were non-violent offenders with decades-

old convictions. Others, however, were convicted murderers and other violent criminals.

An undetermined number had completed deferred adjudication programs, meaning they could legally possess firearms under federal law even though they cannot legally carry a handgun in Texas.

Butts said she was surprised the records were not referred to federal or state prosecutors, adding that the DPS policy did not seem to jibe with Bush's advocacy of gun law enforcement.

"Governor Bush claims that the solution to gun violence is to enforce existing laws," Butts said yesterday. "Why are these felons going unprosecuted and unpunished? They have essentially turned themselves in to the state. But the state of Texas, under Bush's leadership, has done nothing."

DPS spokesperson Tela Mange said the DPS did not consider turning over information about possible gun violators a top priority, but that policy is being changed because Bush and Texas Attorney General John Cornyn have created the "Texas Exile" program to address gun violations.

Courts rule food contracts invalid

AUSTIN (AP) — Multimillion-dollar prison contracts for the food supplement VitaPro are invalid and the state need not pay for or accept any of the soybean-based meat substitute, the Texas Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

The state had contracted with Montreal-based VitaPro Foods, Inc., in 1994 as a way of reducing costs of feeding prison inmates.

By 1995, the contract was expanded from a five-figure purchase to a five-year deal for \$33.7 million. Plans also were made to repack and sell excess VitaPro, although most of those efforts flopped.

The contracts were questioned when former state prison chief James A. "Andy" Collins retired a few months later to work for VitaPro as a \$1,000-a-day consultant. Federal and state investigators were called in to see if competitive bidding laws were violated.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice halted VitaPro shipments in February 1996, and the state sued, claiming the deal was illegal.

VitaPro chair Yank Barry tersued, saying the contract was legally binding under an exception to state law allowing the state to buy agricultural commodities from sellers. With interest on the contracts, VitaPro sought more than \$40 million.

"We have felt strongly all along that the contract was invalid."

— Allan Polunsky
chair of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice

A judge ruled in favor of the state. An appeals court in Texas later ordered a retrial to determine whether VitaPro was an agricultural commodity.

The Supreme Court said it was "financially affected" by the deal, which was made in 1994. As part of the deal, VitaPro was to provide a "Texas Exile" program to address gun violations.

processed, its finished form and different article having a distinctive name, character or use.

VitaPro attorney Michael J. Dallas said he had not talked to the client and declined to comment.

"We have felt strongly all along that the contract was invalid," Polunsky, chair of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice said. "That is the board initiated an investigation of the VitaPro situation when it came to our attention."

Season's Greetings

from the Division of Student Affairs



Happy Holidays from
Dr. Malon Southerland
VP for Student Affairs

Be SAFE driving home!

10th Floor Rudder Tower
malons@tamu.edu
(409) 845-4728

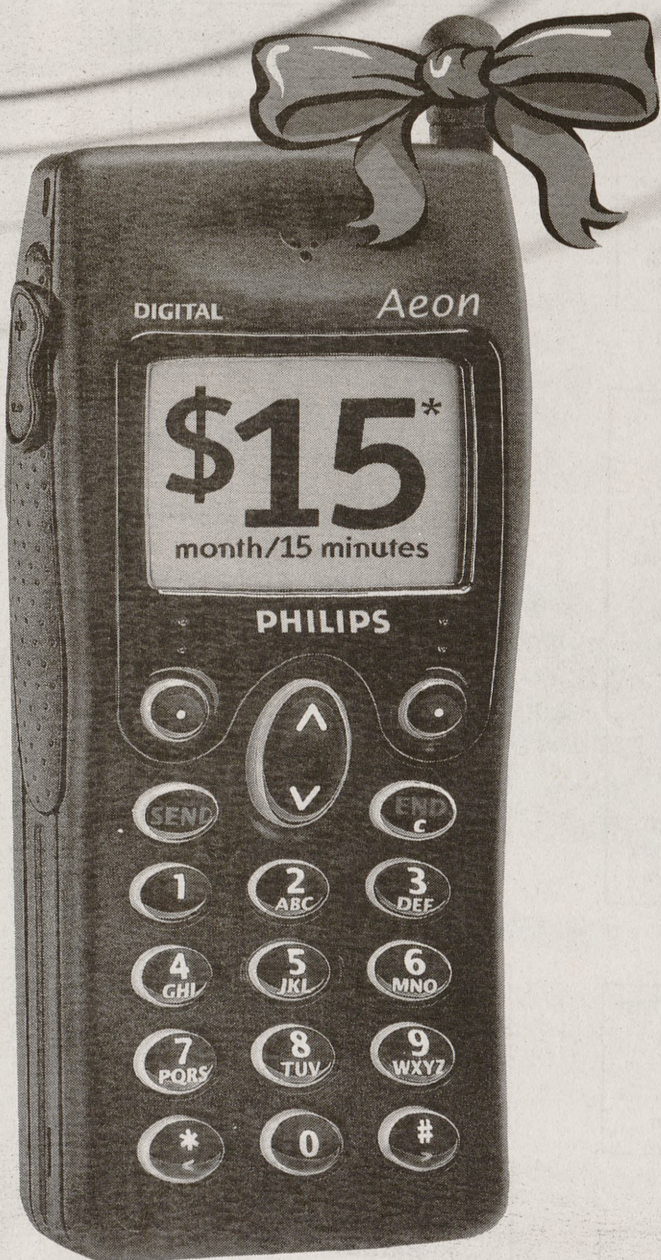
Class of 2000

You have been a part of the Aggie family. Now be a part of its family again.

AGGIELAND

Get your FREE Senior picture taken at AR Photograph today. Extended sitting also available for \$10. Visit 1410 Texas Ave. South or call 693-8183. Open 9-12 and 1-3:30 M-F.

Dreaming of a Wireless Christmas?



DIGITAL Aeon
\$15*
month/15 minutes

PHILIPS

| ANYTIME MINUTES / MONTH | COST* |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 250 anytime minutes/month | \$35 |
| 400 anytime minutes/month | \$45 |
| 600 anytime minutes/month | \$65 |
| 1100 anytime minutes/month | \$100 |
| 1600 anytime minutes/month | \$130 |

Extended store holiday hours!
9am-8pm Mon.-Sat.
12-5pm Sunday

May your conversations be merry and bright with wireless service for just \$15 a month. Plus, get a Philips digital phone for only **\$19.99***

'Tis the season to give the gift of Houston Cellular. Right now, we'll wrap up 15 minutes a month for just 15 bucks a month. And here's the real stocking stuffer — a Philips Aeon digital phone for just \$19.99. That's enough to make anyone break into song. Don't know exactly what to give? Try Houston Cellular gift certificates. They're the perfect way to make every day a wireless one.

houston cellular

Coming through again and again.

1-800-826-7626 • www.houstoncellular.com
Corporate customers call 1-888-389-0331

BRYAN
1801 Briarcrest Dr.
(Corner of Briarcrest & 29th)
409/777-7000

COLLEGE STATION
Post Oak Mall
(Foley's Court-Kiosk)
409/229-7000