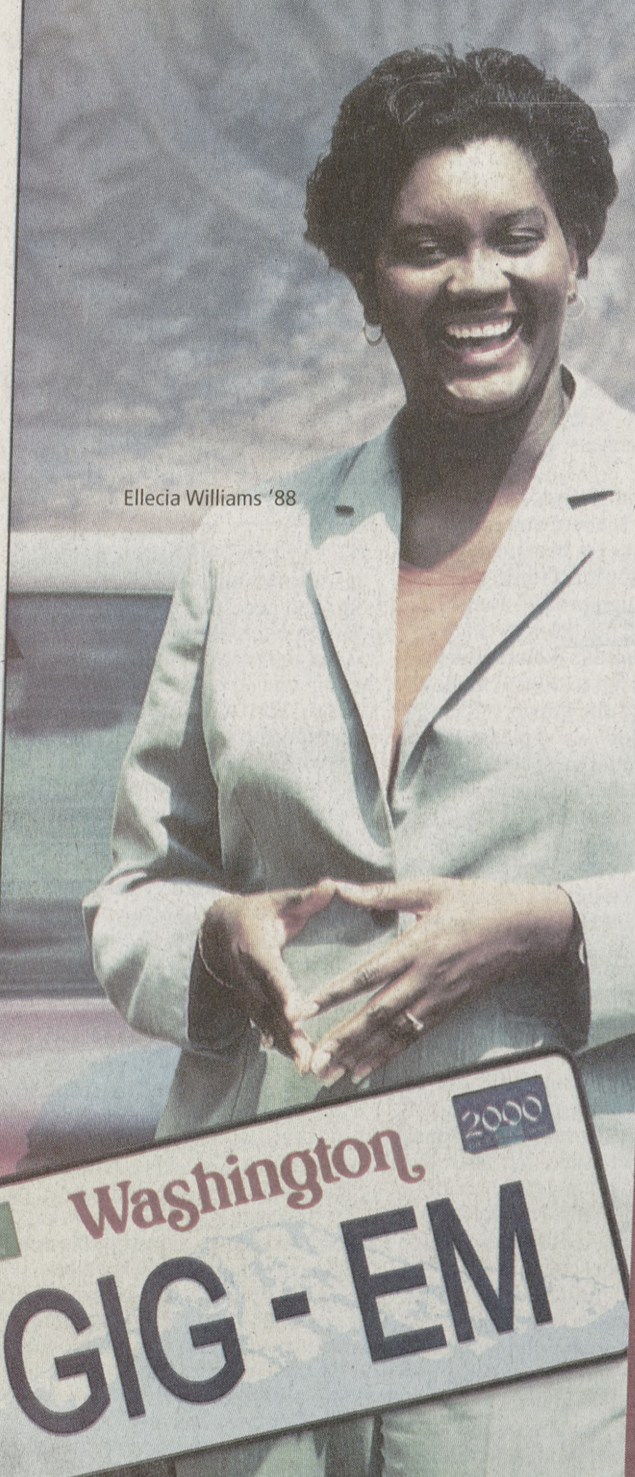


Aggies Know No Boundaries.



Ellecia Williams '88

Being the only African American student in a class of hundreds would have made me uneasy at many schools, but not at Texas A&M.

My experiences in Aggieland showed me the true meaning of The Aggie Spirit. We shared a common bond that cut through racial and religious boundaries, and I never felt like I didn't belong. In fact, I stay in touch with a lot of my classmates to share the progress of each other's freshman dreams.

I live in Vancouver, Washington and drive a maroon car with an Association of Former Students Century Club decal proudly displayed on the window. As for my Aggie Ring, it continues to keep me connected to The Aggie Network that I know I will always belong to. I am The Aggie Network.



The Association OF FORMER STUDENTS
We are The Aggie Network!

Email us your Aggie Network story at: Ringstory@afs.tamu.edu, and we just might use it in an upcoming issue.

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Smith awarded millions in Marshall estate settlement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal bankruptcy judge awarded former Playboy Playmate of the Year Anna Nicole Smith \$449.7 million Wednesday in her claim to the estate of her late billionaire husband, Texas oilman J. Howard Marshall.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Samuel Bufford ruled that Marshall's youngest son, E. Pierce Marshall, had deprived Smith "of her expectancy of an inheritance."

The decision also will result in Smith being awarded punitive damages, her attorney, Philip Boesch Jr., told The Associated Press Wednesday night.

Smith, who was in Houston on Wednesday, was "very pleased" and believes the ruling "puts the matter to rest," Boesch said.

"I think she knows that it's a first step and she's taking some time to digest this," he added.

Marshall called the ruling a "miscarriage of justice."

Bufford's decision came just a day before jury selection was scheduled to end in probate court in Houston in a dispute over the validity of

"We look forward to our trial continuing in Houston, where we expect our verdict to make the one in Los Angeles look small."

— Terry Giles
J. Howard Marshall III's attorney

Marshall's will, which left all of the oilman's estate to his youngest son.

That case pits both Smith and Marshall's oldest son, J. Howard Marshall III, against E. Pierce Marshall.

"We are very pleased that a federal judge has agreed with the position that we have been advocating for the last several years. We look forward to our trial continuing in Houston, where we expect our verdict to make the one in Los Angeles look small," said Terry Giles, attorney representing J. Howard Marshall III in the Texas case.

Smith testified in Los Angeles last year that E. Pierce Marshall defrauded her of between \$550 million and \$820 million she was entitled to as her share of her husband's estate.

The former model for Playmate Guess jeans and other magazines and advertisements, was working as a stripper at a topless club in Houston when she met Marshall. She was 26 and he was 89 when they were married in 1994.

McGinn executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Time finally ran out for convicted killer Ricky McGinn.

McGinn, 43, who avoided the Texas death chamber twice earlier this year — first because of a tornado and a second time when Gov. George W. Bush uncharacteristically stepped in with a reprieve — was quietly executed Wednesday evening for raping and fatally beating his 12-year-old stepdaughter.

"I don't want nobody to be mad at nobody," he said in a brief final statement while strapped to the death-house gurney, needles in each arm. "I don't want nobody to be bitter. Keep clean hearts and I will see y'all on the other side."

He smiled at his sobbing mother and siblings watching through a window a few feet away, then

closed his eyes, sputtered and uttered a slight groan. Eight minutes later, he was pronounced dead.

McGinn insisted he was innocent of the 1993 killing of Stephanie Flanary and said additional DNA tests on hair and semen evidence would prove his case. Only minutes before execution June 1, McGinn won a 30-day reprieve from Bush so new tests could be conducted.

That death date had been rescheduled because a tornado swept through his lawyer's office in downtown Fort Worth.

The reprieve from Bush marked his first use of a Texas governor's authority to halt an execution for 30 days. The action, in the midst of Bush's bid to secure the Republican presidential nomination, was viewed as an example of compassionate conservatism.

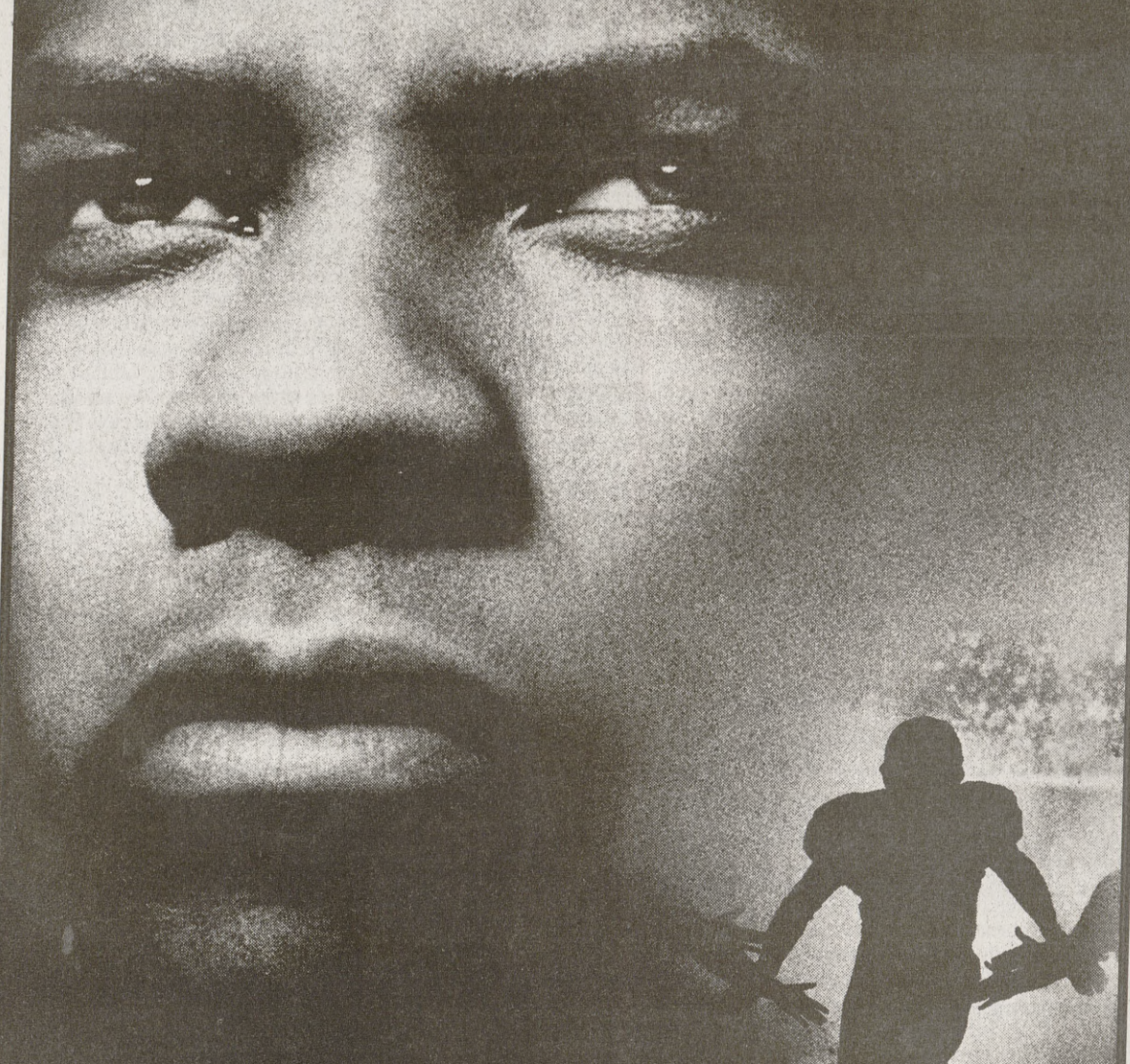
News in Brief Six arrested in health care fraud

DALLAS (AP) — Federal authorities have issued arrest warrants for six North Texas men alleged to have run a two-year scheme that bilked thousands of dollars from the state's workers' compensation fund.

According to federal indictments, the three chiropractors and three health workers defrauded the state by padding insurance reimbursement records with ghost employees.

Officials from the FBI, U.S. Attorney's office and the Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund had scheduled a news conference related to the charges for Thursday afternoon.

DENZEL WASHINGTON



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Some things never change! Parking at Kyle Field in the 1930s



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