

Getting some fresh air

staff photo by Eric Mitchell

Kelly Gimberg, a freshman biology major from Fort Worth, finds studying under a clear, blue sky behind Mosher much better than sitting in a study carrel.

Religious violence raises questions across country

United Press International
With the recent deaths of religious clergy in west Texas and the general increase of violence against religious figures and churches nationwide, experts are wondering what is causing the brutality and how it can be stopped.

"There is a lot of thought on this, everybody is asking, why are these people being murdered, but who to follow, I don't know," said Father Joseph Tabone, vicar of the diocese of Amarillo.

Recent violence against religious figures in west Texas has been chilling.

Sister Tadea Benz, 76, was found dead in her room at an Amarillo convent late last October. She had been raped, strangled and beaten. An Amarillo teenager was charged with mur-

der in the case and is currently awaiting trial.

The Rev. Patrick Ryan, 49, priest of a Denver City Catholic church, was missing for Christmas Mass last December. Police found his nude body in an Odessa motel room. He had been bound, gagged and beaten to death.

Ryan's replacement, Father Thomas Vazheparampil, told police he had been threatened by a telephone call in Lamesa, where he lived before moving to Denver City. After his arrival in Denver City, Vazheparampil received threatening mail.

In addition to those acts of violence, it is not unusual to have churches broken into for the purpose of robbery and vandalism — not only in Texas, but around the country. Ministers attempting to protect church

property frequently are beaten up by the assailants.

A Dallas psychiatrist says attackers of religious figures can be motivated by a host of psychological reasons, but people who make unprovoked attacks generally feel helpless.

"There are a lot of religious figures who are attacked because they dare to say things that people don't want to hear about," said Dr. Myron Weiner, professor of clinical psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas. "But we're probably not talking about that motivation in these cases."

"I think a person who would beat up a priest would not pick a fight in a bar. They're not going to pick on someone who's a big, burly cop. Generally a person who makes an unprovoked attack feels very helpless and is trying to assert that he or she is potent, that he or she can have some strong influence on someone or something. When you attack someone who doesn't fight back, you feel very potent while taking a very minimal risk."

Weiner said the fact that these people are readily identifiable as religious figures makes them more vulnerable. And Father Tabone agrees.

"Any people who become a

kind of group or clan get attention, whether it's positive or negative," Tabone said. "Any one who lumps himself in a group receives it."

There are several other possible psychological motivations for attacks on clergymen, Weiner said.

"Priests and nuns and other religious folks frequently symbolize parents," he said. "The common denominator here is a person who would want to strike out against a very harsh religious upbringing. It may not have been really harsh, it may have just been interpreted that way."

In addition, Weiner said attackers of clergymen may feel oppressed by their particular religion.

"There could be people who feel their religion has crushed their individuality, their opportunity, their capacity for joy in life," he said. "And the people attack someone who symbolizes the religion," he said.

"I imagine this would happen in religions which emphasize a great deal of self-denial and self-control, where there's a lot of shoulds and musts and nots. In those circumstances the people might get pretty intense and pretty angry."

Beauty pageant bilks contestants

United Press International
HOUSTON — All the contestants in the Miss Texas Princess Pageant lost.

And the man who promised fame to the 11 potential beauties has been indicted for felony theft for taking \$50 from each of the women, officials said Monday.

Frank John Baptist Bagley, 28, of Corono Del Mar, Calif., was indicted by a grand jury Monday for receiving the pageant fees in January, but failing to stage the Feb. 7 contest as promised.

According to the indictment, Bagley did not produce a photographic portfolio of each entrant in return for the \$50 they paid him.

Assistant District Attorney Harvey Hudson said 11 contestants filed complaints, but many other young women were bilked in the deal. The woman had responded to Bagley's newspaper advertisement for the statewide contest.

The ads said the contest was sanctioned by the Miss America Princess Pageant, which turned out to be a one-man operation staffed by Bagley, the prosecutor said.

The responding females, who ranged in age from infancy to the early 20s, were put through photo sessions in January. Up to 75 females were photographed in one day in three different sets of clothing, officials said.

But, Hudson said, the man left town before the pageant was

Microsurgery giving patients helping hand

United Press International
BALTIMORE — Factory worker Jimmy Mims had given up hope for the index and long finger of his right hand. A meat processing machine had just sliced them off.

"I thought that was the end of it," said Mims, reflecting on the trauma of six years ago.

But Mims benefitted from recent breakthroughs in the intricate process of microsurgery.

Today, the truck driver enjoys 75 percent use of both fingers and has regained enough strength in his right hand to handle tractor-trailers.

Last September, 5-year-old Jonathan Angst got his left arm too close to a corn silage blower while tagging along with his father at their McVeytown, Pa., farm.

Jonathan's mother, Susan Angst, explained: "Our little boy was watching to see what his dad was doing, and my husband didn't realize he was around. The next thing he knew Jonathan came around the side of the (corn-blower) and said: 'Daddy, I lost my arm.'"

Two months later, following 16 hours of surgery and the passing of a series of infections, young Angst is working toward recovering full use of his sewn-on arm.

Mims and Angst were treated at the Raymond M. Curtis Hand Center in Baltimore's Union Memorial Hospital — a place in the vanguard of the science of sewing appendages back into place. There are similar facilities in San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Louisville and Durham, N.C.

Dr. Raymond Curtis is the founder and head of the center, which has performed about 1,200 operations each year since 1975.

Special emphasis is placed on restoring the "pinching grip" of a patient's hand, Curtis said, even if it means amputating a patient's toe and replanting it on the hand. The theory is that a person can do without a toe, but not without a "thumb."

Curtis learned the technique of tying micro-sutures, drilling holes in bones and other exacting tasks involved in the replanting process from Dr. Sterlino Bunnell. It was Bunnell who established the Army's hand centers during World War II.

In Bunnell's day, the chances of "replanting" a finger or hand were 10 percent. Today they are 75 percent, chiefly because of the work of Curtis and other doctors like him in the United States and the People's Republic of China.

Contemporary microsurgeons know enough to get rid of badly damaged tissue and bone before trying to put appendages back on. They know the importance of "packing" severed members in sterile gauze and then ice so they keep until they may be replanted.

Those breakthroughs provide new hope for the thousands of Americans whose appendages are cut off each year. Yet problems persist.

Too often, for example, the veins and arteries are properly reattached and blood flows normally only to stop once it reaches the capillary network.

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CO-OP OPPORTUNITY IN CANCER RESEARCH

On Tuesday, March 2, and Wednesday, March 3, 1982, representatives from the Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research (associated with St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston) will interview students interested in the Cooperative Education Program. They will choose (3) three students to start co-op this fall. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required.

The Stehlin Foundation wants to interview pre-med, pre-vet, and pre-dental students as well as ANSC, Biomedical Science, Biology, Biochemistry, Bioengineering, Microbiology and Zoology majors. The pay is \$850.00 per month for the first work term, and the positions are in Houston.

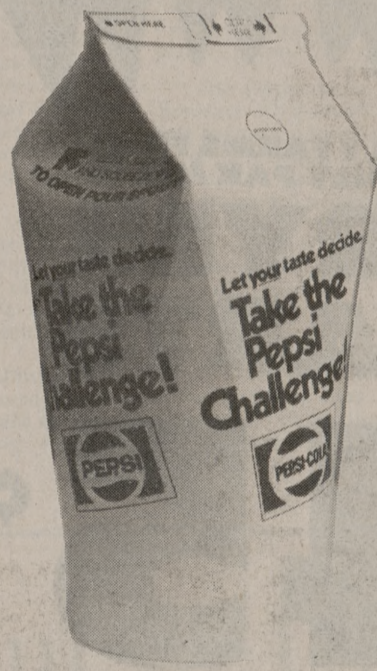
You must call the Co-op office at 845-7725 or come by Room 107, Harrington Tower for an orientation to co-op and complete your application prior to your interview with the Stehlin Foundation.

NOTE: In the past, the Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research has employed summer students from other universities and co-op students from Texas A&M University. All students who worked for them and desired to go on to medical school have been accepted to medical school.

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