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# The Battalion

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## Senate backing fee hike

By ED ALANIS Staff Writer

After heavy debate, the Student ate voted in its last meeting of the ar to support the referendum to crease the student center complex ee by \$10 per semester over a three

fter starting the meeting late due to he lack of a voting quorum, the sen-ne voted 23-13 in favor of supportgoption 1-b of the referendum.

his option would raise the fee to the ximum ceiling set by the Texas gislature and establish a special re-ve fund to be controlled by stu-

The referendum will be put to a vote the upcoming student elections. It ll be the first time students at exas A&M have been given the oportunity to vote directly on a fee in-

udents will vote on one of three op-

• Increase the student center plex fee by \$6 per semester over ree year period.

• Increase the student center complex fee by \$10 per semester wer a three year period, and establish a special reserve fund.

• Leave the student center comblex fee at the current \$10 per se-

The University Center currently ofers services such as check cashing, owling and games, food services, a bookstore, meeting rooms, print and topy facilities and a craft center. The University Center is also currently operating with a deficit of nearly \$160,000. It has been drawing oney from a reserve fund, but that und will be depleted by September.

If a fee increase is not passed, a decrease in services and an increase in he individual charges for them will the only alternative left for the enter, says Eric Conner, executive ice president for administration and student coordinator of the referen-

Brian Hay, a graduate senator for the College of Agriculture led the pposition for the resolution.

"The students are going to vote no on this," Hay said, "and if Student Government supports it we are going

Hay said he favored increasing the price of individual services, letting the students who use them pay for them on an individual basis.

Other members of the senate opposiion questioned whether or not students would actually have control over the reserve fund, which will amount to \$1 million in just four



Asleep at the wheel

Vernon Hartsfield, a Texas A&M heavy equipment operator naps Wednesday afternoon on his bulldozer near the civil en-

# District attorney drops charges against Geter

**United Press International** 

DALLAS - Armed robbery charges against Lenell Geter, who claimed his conviction was the result of a racist judicial system, were dropped Wednesday by the district attorney, who said he had another suspect in the case.

Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade announced the charges against Geter, who was sentenced to life in prison in an earlier trial, had been dropped and a suspect from Harris County had been brought to

Dallas for questioning.

Geter, 26, was convicted and sentenced to life in 1982. He claimed he was the victim of "shoddy" police work and a racist judicial system. The black engineer spent more than a year in prison before winning a retrial in December. The trial had been

scheduled to begin April 9. Reached at his office in Greenville Geter said the decision came as a shock

"I wasn't expecting it. It's wonder-

He said he had already called his

mother in South Carolina. Wade said in the past 10 days, new information had developed on an-

He said Curtis Eugene Mason, who was being held in Houston on robbery charges, had been identified in a lineup by witnesses and had been in the Dallas area in August 1982, when the robbery for which Geter was tried was committed.

Wade said it was not likely Mason would be tried in the case because the trial involving Geter had tainted witness testimony and because evidence in the case had been tampered with. The information linking Mason to

the Dallas robbery came from a confidential informant, Wade said.

George Hairston, an attorney with the NAACP who led Geter's defense and efforts for a new trial, had hoped all along the case would be dismissed.

But Wednesday, he said he was surprised at the suddenness of the announcement.

Norm Kinney, the lead prosecutor in the case, said despite the criticism that had been leveled against the district attorney's office for its handling of Geter's case, "I feel that personally we're the only ones that have done anything for him. So if he should thank anybody, it should be us." Edwin Sigel, Geter's attorney in

the first trial, said he would not quar-

rel with prosecutors "since they've exonerated Lenell."

"I think basically what they did wrong was that they were just too hard headed. We had plenty of alibi witnesses. We asked for one week so we could research it, but they shoved it to trial and railroaded the man.

"All I can say is it took a lot of lawyers a lot of time to undo what they did over there at that courthouse,"

The district attorney's office joined a defense request for a new trial last December after an interview with Geter was televised on "60 Minutes," the CBS news magazine. In that story and other media stories, co-workers placed Geter at E-Systems close to the time the robbery was committed.

Other witnesses at the restaurant, who did not testify in Geter's trial, said that he was not the person who committed the robbery, though five state witnesses identified him as the

Geter's case for a new trial was also enhanced by the acquittal last fall of his former roommate. Anthony Williams, on similar robbery charges.

#### No apparent damage to either ship

# U.S. aircraft carrier, Soviet sub collide

WASHINGTON - The U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk and a nuclear-powered Soviet attack submarine collided in darkness in the southern Sea of Japan Wednesday but neither ship suffered apparent damage, officials said.

Reports from the conventionally powered 80,000-ton carrier said none of the 5,000 personnel aboard were injured in the collision with the 5,200-ton submarine and there was no damage to its hull.

Officials said the massive U.S. ship "shuddered" as it came in contact with the sub, which sources identified as a Victor-1 Class attack

craft that carries a crew of 90 and 18 torpedoes.

There was "no apparent damage" to the submarine, a Pentagon statement said. A Pentagon official said the Kitty Hawk, whose home port is San Diego, Calif., stood by "to render any assistance it can to

The collision occurred at 8:07 a.m. EST - 10:07 p.m. local time - as the carrier steamed at 15 knots toward the Yellow Sea 150 miles east of South Korea, the Pentagon and military sources said.

President Reagan was informed of the incident and "has what details are available from the carrier,"

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said.

It was not known whether the carrier hit the sub or vice versa, but the sources said the "burden is on the submarine" concerning the right of way on the high seas. One source said he thought the sub hit the carrier as it was surfacing

In a formal statement, the Pentagon said, "Following a noticeable shudder which was felt throughout the ship, observers on the starboard (right) side of Kitty Hawk saw the outline of the sail (conning tower) of a submarine resembling that of a Soviet Victor Class moving away

from the ship." The statement did not identify the sub specifically.

After the collision, the submarine moved away slowly in a northerly direction under its own power and was joined by a Soviet Kara Class cruiser, the Petropavlovsk, the

A Soviet submarine was known to be shadowing the carrier, which was participating in "Team Spirit 84" joint exercises with South Korean navy units. The carrier was not conducting flight operations at the time of the collision, the sources

"The submarine is on the surface, the Pentagon statement said, adding that a visual sighting of the boat by one of the carrier's SH-3H helicopters "indicated no apparent damage. Ships of the battle group are remaining in the area to render assistance if required.

Another Pentagon official said, 'The Soviets never accept any help from us.'

That was the case Nov. 2 when a later model of the Victor Class, a Victor-3, surfaced in distress in the Atlantic Ocean about 470 miles east of Bermuda. It eventually was towed to Cuba for repairs.

# Repairs delayed for Southwest Parkway

By KAREN WALLACE

Staff Writer

Even the best drivers may find entering Southwest Parkway from Wellborn Road a hazardous experience but an end to the danger may be

Dodging construction equipment while two-way traffic drives down one side of the street isn't the most convenient way to travel.

But Alfred Miller, director of public service for College Station, said there is just one element to blame for

the delayed construction on the road — the weather

We were hoping to finish over Christmas, but we had the worst winter in 40 years," Miller said. "The

weather keeps getting in the way."

Miller said the repairs on Southwest Parkway should be completed up to Welch Avenue within the next 45 days — weather permitting.

'We're working, but everytime we get going the weather slows us down," Miller said. The damage to Southwest Parkway was thought to be from the heavy shuttle bus traffic, but that was not the main cause, Miller said. The age of the street and how it's

built caused it to deteriorate," he Daniel Mendoza, who lives in the Oakwood Apartments on Southwest

Parkway, said another inconvenience is the changed shuttle bus route. The shuttle bus takes too long to

arrive now," Mendoza said. Doug Williams, assistant director

of the shuttle bus service, said the

You would run out of room with two buses going down the same road," Williams said.

The old route ran from Wellborn Road down Southwest Parkway, then back up Southwest Parkway again. The new route runs from Wellborn Road down Holleman Drive, through various back streets, then back up Souhwest Parkway.

"We changed the route to decrease the danger of accidents caused by construction equipment," Williams

Williams said there were a few complaints at first about the changed route, but nothing could be done by the shuttle bus service.

Cris Thompson, who works at the Texaco Station on the corner of Southwest Parkway and Welch Avenue, said the construction hasn't hindered the station's business.

"It hasn't affected the amount of work that's been coming in to us, but it's made the traffic a lot worse,' Thompson said.

## Texas A&M freshman befriends killer, speaks out on capital punishment

By CHRISTINE MALLON

Staff Writer A Texas A&M student who has rresponded and visited with death inmate "Candyman" Ronald Slark O'Bryan said if O'Bryan is exeated as scheduled on March 31, it ill be a waste of a human life and a oss to the human race

Kim Manganaro, a freshman jouralism major from Houston, told The Battalion that O'Bryan began writing to her last fall after he read an anti-capital punishment editorial she wrote to the Houston Post's Sound-Off column.

Manganaro said she had never heard of O'Bryan and at first thought his letter must have been a oke. After some research into his case, however, she decided to write to prison, she said she was nervous but

began to feel comfortable with him. 'It especially struck me how human he was," she said. "He is very intelligent and speaks four languages. He seems concerned about me -

about my studies and my activities." Manganaro said when she began corresponding with O'Bryan, she never thought the execution would actually take place.

"I'm preparing to deal with his death as if I were dealing with the death of a close friend," she said. She said O'Bryan has asked her to

be there when he is executed next "If my presence in anyway can help Ron deal with it all, I will be

there," she said. Manganaro said her parents and friends were skeptical at first about her relationship with O'Bryan.

Lisa Hollabaugh, a friend of Man-ganaro's, said she was wary at first about her friend's correspondences with a prisoner, but she said she is now very understanding about the whole thing and has grown to admire

and respect Manganaro because of it. Manganaro said, although she feels strongly against the death penalty, she doubts she would ever put herself through something like this

"But I definitely don't regret it," she added.

O'Bryan, 39, is scheduled to die by a lethal drug injection after 12:01 a.m. March 31 for giving his son Timothy, 8, a Giant Pixy Stix laced cyanide on Halloween night

Prosecutors said the former Deer Park optician planned to collect more than \$60,000 in insurance money by feeding the granular candy to his son, his daughter Lane and three neighbor kids. Only Timothy ate the

Manganaro said she has never told anyone whether she believes he is in-

nocent or guilty.
"We've become such a judgmental society. We say it's wrong to kill, yet we kill others as punishment," she

She said O'Bryan has sent her handmade gifts on holidays, and he is a very artistic person."If his execution goes through, it will be a loss,'

"If he's innocent, look what we've done," she said.

### In Today's Battalion

#### Local

• Student debaters voted last night to close the University's campus to through traffic. See story page

• Women history professors here discuss the changes that women are facing at A&M. See story

page 5. • A GSS speaker lectures about the problems parents face upon finding out that their child is gay. See story page 7.

#### State

 A San Antonio youth was arrested for the shooting death of his mother. See story page 5.

• Panhandle residents are criticizing energy officials for ignoring farmer's needs when planning nuclear waste dump sites. See story page 4.