

Warped

by Scott McCullar



## Public information officers spread A&M's good news

By KAREN MCINTOSH  
Reporter

Spreading Aggie pride and traditions nationwide through positive press coverage is the main goal of a small office located on third floor of the Reed McDonald building.

"We try to tell the A&M story," says Lane Stephenson, the director of the Office of Public Information. "The fact that A&M is so excellent makes our job easier."

The Office of Public Information provides articles written by A&M professors and staff as well as press releases about A&M to the wire services.

"Our primary mission is to provide information about the University at the state and national level," Stephenson says.

As a result of the office's efforts, articles about A&M appear regularly in newspapers such as the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Christian Science Monitor.

Stephenson says he thinks the

office has the responsibility of maintaining media relations. The office is the point of contact between the school and the media.

"We keep the members of the press apprised of what is going on here," he says. "We are the ones who make statements available to the media when there are problems."

Stephenson stresses positive relations. "I place high priority on establishing and maintaining excellent relations with the press at the local, state and national level," he says.

He explains that the office's four writers and one photographer divide the campus into different areas of coverage, like newspaper beats.

All stories generated by the writing staff that are of interest to an electronic media audience are sent to Doug Barstow, an electronic media coordinator, who is head-quartered in the KAMU radio station.

Barstow also hosts a syndicated 15-minute weekly radio program

called "Perspective" which is available to 200 radio stations.

In cooperation with KAMU, the Office of Public Information is working to establish a microwave satellite on campus before the end of the month.

The satellite could provide teleconferencing and the televising of special events such as sports events. "We could have our own television network," Stephenson says.

Another primary function of the office is publishing periodicals. The office produces the magazines Fortnightly, At A&M, Quest, and Texas A&M Today.

Sometimes the Office of Public Information has been incorrectly connected to The Battalion, Stephenson says. He says people come in to them with story ideas for the paper.

"We don't have any influence over the Batt, we don't want it," Stephenson says. "We provide the Batt with all the stories we produce, but they don't have to print them."

## Convicted killer says court ruling unfair

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Convicted killer Jay Kelly Pinkerton, spared from his scheduled Aug. 15 execution by 20 minutes, said Wednesday he was upset that the U.S. Supreme Court this week refused to consider his case.

"I don't like to be toyed with," Pinkerton, 23, said. "And that's what they're doing. Why did they grant me a stay?"

Pinkerton, an Amarillo meat cutter, was scheduled to die by lethal injection for the rape-slaying of Sarah Donn Lawrence, 30, during a burglary of her home in 1979.

He would have been the youngest person executed since capital punishment was restored nearly a decade ago.

Pinkerton was one of six Texas

death row inmates to be rebuffed by the high court in decisions handed down Monday.

"There's no logic in it," he said. "It's not fair. People have been here for years and I see their cases in the court of criminal appeals."

"It seems like they (the courts) are hand selecting people to die. It's a frustrating experience."

He said he expected he would receive a new execution date soon.

"If I get another date, I'll try to raise new issues and try to get another stay," he said. "I don't know what's going to happen at this point."

The Supreme Court in a 6-2 vote granted Pinkerton's stay 20 minutes before the scheduled midnight execution on the grounds that the court needed more information in his case.

Pinkerton said the appeal was based on his arguments that he was arrested illegally, that he had insufficient defense counsel and that testimony from a fellow jail inmate was allowed illegally at his trial.

He said he hoped to raise further questions about a palm print that was instrumental in his conviction. Pinkerton was convicted of raping and mutilating Lawrence at her home as her children, ages 4 to 8, slept in another room.

Pinkerton said he learned of this week's high court decision from a radio report and was surprised the court had acted so quickly.

"I knew they were going to reconvene and that they could rule, but I didn't think it would be immediate," he said. "I didn't think it was going to jump right back."

I do my best thinkin' on the bus. That's how come I don't drive.

You don't even know how to drive.

I don't want to know. I don't want to learn, see. The more you drive the less intelligent you are.



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