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 —Marilyn Beck, CHICAGO TRIBUNE SYNDICATE

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 —Peter Travers, PEOPLE MAGAZINE

**WILLIAM HURT**

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Mon.-Fri. 7:20 9:45 Sat. & Sun. 2:15 4:50 7:20 9:45 <b>RUTHLESS PEOPLE</b> R	Mon.-Fri. 7:10 9:40 Sat. & Sun. 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40 <b>STAND BY ME</b> R

# 'Underground' paper provides forum for unusual ideas at A&M

By David Betz  
 Reporter

An underground society at Texas A&M is rarely heard from and sometimes considered non-existent, but *The Scannapiecan*, a monthly radical-moderate publication, is proof that a few liberals are alive and well at A&M.

Marco Roberts, a senior political science major and the driving force behind the underground paper, calls the underground at A&M "almost non-existent."

But, he says, A&M has elements that are out of the mainstream and *The Scannapiecan* (pronounced scan-a-peekin) is one of them.

The paper is named for Lynn Scannapieco, a former A&M student who Roberts says "did a lot to advance liberal causes at great personal cost." He says she left the area after Spring 1985.

The writers, Roberts and Michael Bise, wrote a description of the publication.

It's a paper that "seeks to provide Aggieland with news no one else will report (or probably cares about), an account of what is going on in the underground (if anything), and opinions."

Roberts, former president of Gay Student Services, says the aim of the paper is to provide an alternative forum for ideas.

"We cover A&M events *The Battalion* won't cover," he says. "Originally there was a lot of gay stuff in the paper. (But) I'm trying to make sure it doesn't become a gay paper."

The paper does support gay rights but is not a newsletter or medium for any particular organization — it's open to anything and will accept ideas and opinions from anyone, Roberts says.

Even though the paper isn't limited to liberal viewpoints, it occasionally appeals to the extremes, Roberts says. This explains the paper's claim of being "direct from the center fringe," he says.

The paper is "very radical about moderate issues," Roberts says jokingly. "The interesting thing about the paper is that it's not as left-wing as people think."

Most of the articles relate to A&M students, while editorials handle national and international topics.

When Roberts published the first issue of *The Scannapiecan* in January, only 12 people received

copies, he says, but since then circulation has increased to 300 copies.

He says response to the paper has been good. "It's been almost unanimously positive," he says. "Overall, people have been very enthusiastic."

The paper has a rumors column and cartoons that Roberts says are popular with readers and each issue always has at least one paragraph of something amusing.

Roberts says the underground publication encountered some problems especially with financial support.

The staff, he explains, is not very large when it comes to selling ads and advertising. Negative view of *The Scannapiecan* when first published because it stressed gay issues.

"Not many businesses want to be associated with Roberts says. "So far, most of the financing come from me."

A small amount of money also comes from 30 people who subscribe to the paper, he says. Roberts adds that the paper was distributed every month, but says that may soon change.

"There is a good chance the next issue will be charged for," Roberts says.

# A&M offers GED program to workers

By Polly Bell  
 Reporter

The Texas A&M Physical Plant is offering a General Educational Development Training Program for its employees to address the increasing problem of U.S. adult illiteracy.

GED classes are held during regular work hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Physical Plant training and information office.

About 20 employees have graduated since the program began in January, and 19 are enrolled in the new class.

Planning for the program began in December. At that time custodial supervisor Shirley Wineman and Gene Voelkel of the Physical Plant's Training and Information Office approached Dr. Don Seaman in the College of Education and Alonzo Wood, director of the Community Education Center for the College Station Independent School District, for help in setting up the program.

The College Station Community Education Program provided two instructors at no cost to the University.

Individuals pay \$10 for training materials and a standard testing fee of \$4 for every GED test they take.

To receive a GED certificate, individuals must pass tests in math, science, social studies, reading and writing.

Voelkel said employees who want to participate in the program are pre-tested with priority given to those who can complete the training in the shortest amount of time.

"Our program right now doesn't address the marginally literate,"

# Series to aid viewers in preparing for test

By Leigh Ann Rogers  
 Reporter

"Operation Second Chance," a new series of television programs designed to help viewers prepare for General Educational Development tests, begins Saturday on KAMU-TV, Texas A&M's public television station.

KAMU Program Director Rodger Lewis said the goal of the program is to help the estimated 25 percent of local residents over age 25 who did not complete high school.

"We're striving to call attention to the free classes in the area," Lewis said. "A lot of adults who didn't graduate from high school may be ready to take the GED, but they don't know it. A person can go to a class in their area and take a pre-test, then a teacher will evaluate the skill they need to work on or tell them if they are ready to take the GED now."

"The biggest obstacle we have to overcome is the fear and embarrassment people have because they don't have their diploma or can't read or write."

"Also, people think they have to wait until a certain time to start the program, but you can start the program anytime. Teachers are at the classes to give individualized help to students."

The television series consists of 43 programs pro-

duced by the Kentucky Educational Television network. KAMU will broadcast the programs Saturday afternoons at 5 p.m. Lewis said he has also scheduled three repeats of each program on McCaw Cablevision's new Channel 31.

Channel 31 repeats will be at 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Mondays and 10 a.m. Mondays so viewers have four chances to see every program.

Each program covers a basic skill in math, reading, science, social studies or writing. The program uses audio dramatization to illustrate literature and apply math to everyday situations, Lewis said.

He said students watch the programs and then complete exercises that correlate to the programs.

Project Second Chance at KAMU also offers a referral service for local people interested in the GED. The number is 845-5689.

The televised GED classes are free and will be offered for one year throughout Brazos County.

Judy Tipton, producer of the GED series, said these programs are different in that they present every video somewhat like MTV videos. Weaker actors who are actually reading the words of the script with the story being acted out by actors who speak.

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