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# Professor says Indian religion improves villages

By Ashley A. Bailey  
 Reporter

Over the past 40 years, "Swadhyaya," meaning self-study, has transformed about 100,000 Indian villages comprising about 20 million people into self-sustaining and self-reliant communities, Dr. Robert Unterberger said Thursday night in Rudder Tower.

Unterberger, a Texas A&M geophysics professor, told the International Development Forum that Swadhyaya, pronounced (swa-dee-yay), a type of religion stressing God in self, is India's silent revolution for peace.

"Swadhyaya is a self-study movement led by a Ghandi-like figure named Pandurang Shastri Athavale, commonly called 'Dada,'" Unterberger said. "In English 'Dada' means older brother. This term applies because even though Dada is their spiritual leader, there is no caste system in Swadhyaya, and everyone is brother and sister under God."

Because Swadhyaya is a peaceful movement to increase the people's awareness of God and to do God's work, publicity is not used, he said.

"People in India find out about Swadhyaya strictly by word-of-mouth," he said. "This way they can carry out God's work very quietly and unselfishly."

Profits from volunteer farms, orchards, fishing boats and temples go back into the local communities, he said. This creates an impersonal wealth that can be used to help the needy, he said.

Unterberger, his wife, Betty, and about 30 other people from all over the United States were invited to India last year to participate in and study a three-week Swadhyaya celebration, he said. They were invited because of their interest and involvement with self-study, he said. He and his wife, who is an authority on Indian practices, have a self-study group at A&M.

Dr. Betty Unterberger, an A&M history professor, will give a more in-depth lecture and slide presentation at the April 18 IDF meeting in 207 Harrington. The meeting will be co-sponsored by MSC Great Issues and the India Association, and will feature members of the Swadhyaya movement now living in the United States.

# Study attacks reliability of expert testimonies

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Former death row convict Carl Harris is one of the few lucky condemned criminals who have escaped the executioner.

But he admits that if he had been a juror at his trial, he too would have voted for the death penalty in the murder of two women in Galveston County more than 20 years ago.

"But people change," said Harris, a 41-year-old prison trustee who was one of 47 Texans whose death sentences were commuted as the result of a brief U.S. Supreme Court ban on capital punishment in the early 1970s.

"You're not the same person you were when you were 20 years old. You change. Your ideas change."

Harris said prison psychiatrists and psychologists predicted that he and other death row inmates who got commutations would endanger other prisoners.

"Every single one of us was listed as being a threat to the inmate population and to the officers," he said.

Those forecasts failed to materialize, and Harris and the others who got commutations became the subject of a study that attacks the reliability of speculation on inmate behavior by expert witnesses in capital cases.

The study by James Marquart, assistant professor of criminal justice at Sam Houston State University, and Jonathan Sorensen, a graduate student, examined the behavior of those convicts from 1973 to 1986.

The inmates were all sentenced to death before 1973 — 37 of them for murder, seven for rape and three for armed robbery. More than a third of them were tried in Houston.

As of Oct. 1, six had died, 18 were in prison and 23 were out of prison.

The study, which did not evaluate the death penalty directly, examined

the reliability of predictions by qualified officials that the convicts would pose a "substantial threat" to guards and other prisoners if not put to death.

The study found: "They did not kill other inmates or staff. A minority of the commutes committed the majority of prison-rule regulations (violations). Of the 28 released on parole, one committed a new homicide."

In response to an argument that Texas assessed executions differently before 1973, the study found that killers whose sentences were commuted after 1973 "did not commit any less heinous offenses" than convicts currently under sentence of death.

The study adds, "Until our techniques of analyzing human behavior over long periods is sharpened, the reliance on clinical predictions of dangerousness, especially in the courtroom, is unacceptable."

"The current state of knowledge in the fields of psychiatry, psychology and sociology preclude any concrete individual determinations of long-term violence."

"Gazing into the crystal ball when someone else's life is at stake is totally unacceptable."

To assess the death sentence, Texas jurors must agree that a person convicted of capital murder will be a continuing threat to society. Otherwise, the person receives a life sentence.

Harris has shown no sign of being dangerous and has accumulated 31 years of good time credit in prison without losing any time for disciplinary infractions.

About 267 convicts are on Texas' death row, which leads the nation in executions.

Twenty-seven convicts have died by injection since the state resumed the death penalty in 1982.

# What's Up

Monday

**SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS:** Dr. John Mayer of the National Science Foundation and international president of SME, will speak at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC about "Competitiveness Through Advanced Technology."  
**MSC JORDAN INSTITUTE:** will present a slide show "Many Conflicts, Many Hopes: A Tunisian National Park Today," at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder.  
**AAUW:** Dr. Gabriel Carranza will speak about "Keys to Improving the Relations Between the United States and Mexico," at 7:30 p.m. at the University Fellowship, 305 Wellborn Road.  
**AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS:** will meet to continue organizing the Special Olympics at 7 p.m. in 267 G. Rollie White.  
**HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR 1988:** Campus and community organizations will offer free information and demonstrations on health-related topics from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the MSC hallway.  
**COLLEGIATE 4-H CLUB:** will have officer elections at 8 p.m. in 123 Kleberg.  
**AMA MARKETING SOCIETY:** is awarding two scholarships for the highest grade-point ratio and two scholarships for outstanding members. Applications are available through Friday on the AMA board in Blocker. Only club members are eligible to apply.  
**MSC AGGIE CINEMA:** will have a Disney film festival at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.  
**AGGIES ABROAD CLUB:** will have its last meeting and will elect officers at 8:30 p.m. in 401 Rudder. For more information contact Mary Beth Butler at 846-0544.

Tuesday

**WILDLIFE BIOLOGY SOCIETY:** Mr. Bill Clay will speak about "Animal Damage Control" at 7 p.m. in 201 Harrington.  
**DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** David Kroenke will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.  
**MSC JORDAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS:** will present "Texas Business in the International Market: Can We Compete?" at 8 p.m. in 206 MSC.  
**STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN:** will have officer elections at 7 p.m. in 407 Rudder.  
**MSC ALL-NIGHT FAIR:** Officer applications are available through Friday in the Student Programs Office.  
**TAMU HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** will have officer nominations at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.  
**WATER SKI CLUB:** will meet to organize the Mississippi College tournament at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder Tower. Check the monitor screen for the room number.  
**MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE:** will have a general meeting and will introduce its new chairman at 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY/PI SIGMA ALPHA:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 202 MSC.  
**CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will have aerobics (Catholic style) and a discussion from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church.  
**INTRAMURALS:** Entries close for archery doubles, the Penberthy softball tournament and baseball hitting and home-run derby in 159 Reed.  
**CLASS OF '90 COUNCIL:** Applications for class chairman positions are available through Friday in the Student Publications Office and in the guard room.  
**BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION:** will have a general business meeting to elect officers at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medicine.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only print the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submitters are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

# Officials still searching for clues to 11 slayings

FORT WORTH (AP) — Three years and six months after the slayings of 11 local women, only one of the crimes is solved, leads are down to a trickle and residents remain fearful.

The young women slain included waitresses, schoolteachers, receptionists, a bartender, a student and a homemaker. They died of stab wounds, gunshots and strangulation.

One woman's body remains missing.

A multiagency group spent more than a year investigating the deaths and, at one point, ballooned to more than 40 officers. While the agency carried out interviews and compiled lists of suspects, the slayings made headlines and captured national media attention.

"It was on all our minds," Bernice Barker said of a friend of one of the women slayed. "It was the conversation everywhere. Everyone was wishing that some of these women would be found."

Detectives conducted more than 3,000 interviews and compiled a list of 7,000 suspects, including friends, acquaintances and relatives of victims. Police Chief Thomas Windham

estimated the investigation more than \$1 million.

The different slaying convinced police more than one killer was responsible, Capt. Bernice Barker said. Police today say they suspect in three of the slayings lack the evidence needed to charge.

Police Detective Curt Brannan, one of the investigators, often goes back to the spot where Sarah Kashka, 15, disappeared. Police Detective Curt Brannan told the *Worth Star-Telegram* that he occasionally returns on the same spot the week she vanished to piece together where the woman headed after leaving a friend's apartment.

"When you go to a crime scene and see the things we do, and see the family, you know the family depending on you," Brannan said. "It's difficult to spend an evening shift working on the case, go down and go home."

Kaska disappeared Dec. 30, 1984, after spending the evening with friends. She was found stabbed to death two days later near Mustang Creek Lake in southwest Tarrant County.

**MSC CAMERA**  
**Photo Competition**  
 Categories

Studio Portraits  
 Studio Tabletop / Still Life  
 Nature  
 Sports & Action Shots  
 Human Interest

Categories will be further subdivided between color and B/W.  
 Ribbons will be awarded to all winners including two best-of-shows.  
 Entries will be accepted from April 1st through 13th at the MSC Craft Center 845-1631 (Basement MSC).  
 Restrictions: All Photos must be mounted. 8 X 10 is standard format. No larger photos will be accepted. Competition is open to Texas A&M students only. No Entry Fee. Limit two entries per person.  
 Judging will take place on Friday April 15th. Winners will also be placed in the MSC Showcase.  
 Judges: Mr. Howard Eilers, Mr. Paul Glenn, Dr. Simon Priest

**MSC Political Forum**


# POLITICAL FORUM

## Officer Positions Available

Mandatory Orientation Meeting  
 Monday, April 11  
 7:00 pm, MSC rm. 228

MSC Political Forum is an educational, non-partisan political programming committee whose goals are to bring quality political programs to the University and to promote student development among our members.

**Time's Running Out**



Call Battalion Classified  
 845-2611