

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Police identify body in creek as Cardenas

By Loyd Brumfield  
Senior Staff Writer

A week-old search for a missing Texas A&M graduate in Belleville, Ill. ended in tragedy Monday when police positively identified a body found in a dry creek bed as Audrey Cardenas, a victim of an apparent murder.

Cardenas, a 24-year-old May journalism graduate from Houston, had been missing from her job as a newspaper intern at the *Belleville News-Democrat* since June 20.

A badly-decomposed, partially-nude body was found Sunday morning in a creek bed near Belleville East Township High School, where Cardenas was known to jog.

A school custodian found the body, Belleville Police Chief Robert Hurst said.

Cardenas' keys and other personal items were found near her body, but police wouldn't elaborate on what else was found.

The St. Louis Major Case Unit was called in on the case, but authorities would not elaborate if there were any leads or suspects.

An autopsy was performed Sunday night, but results from it and an official cause-of-death statement were not expected to be released until later this week.

Dental records were flown to Belleville from College Station Monday to try to identify the body.

Hurst said murder was the most likely cause of death, but the deteriorated condition of the body made it impossible to tell if sexual assault was involved.

Cardenas, who had been working for the *News-Democrat* 10 days, was last seen Sunday June 19 by a Belleville police officer at a local Wurster celebration.

The town, located about 16 miles from St. Louis, was in shock, said an



Battalion File Photo

Audrey Cardenas

employee of the *News-Democrat*.

"This is a very close-knit community," said Fred Ehrlich, assistant city editor. "Something like this is a very rare occurrence here and it's a numbing feeling."

Ehrlich said Cardenas, who also worked for the Bryan-College Station *Press*, was a stellar intern for the newspaper.

Her last assignment before she disappeared concerned the completion of a new part of a highway interstate.

The newspaper previously offered a \$5,000 reward for information on Cardenas' whereabouts, but upped it to \$10,000 for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for her death.

Cardenas' mother and father had flown to Belleville to assist the police and were preparing to return to Houston Monday.

A memorial service is scheduled for today at 3 p.m. in the chapel of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville.

## Hall resident reports attack

University Police still searching for man suspected in case

By Ashley A. Bailey  
Staff Writer

University Police are still looking for a man who assaulted a Haas Hall resident at 12:30 a.m. Sunday in her second-floor dorm room, Bob Wiatt, Director of Security and University Police at Texas A&M University said Monday.

Wiatt said the suspect was described as a white man in his 20s.

He is about 6-feet tall and weighs about 170 pounds.

He has brown hair, a brown mustache and slanting eyes, Wiatt said.

The man apparently entered the woman's room through her unlocked door while she was in the bathroom, Wiatt said.

When she saw him hiding in the hallway adjacent to the bathroom, he grabbed her and threw her against the closet, he said.

The woman then screamed and the suspect

told her to shut up, Wiatt said.

The two struggled momentarily until the woman's roommate entered the room, he said.

The suspect then left the room, ran down the hall and exited the dorm, he said.

The victim's roommate said that neither she nor her roommate knew the suspect.

Wiatt said the UPD responded to the call by covering the area with several patrol units in the hope of locating the man, but the suspect was not found.

The crime is still under investigation and the department is trying to respond to any similar calls they get that might lead them to the suspect, he said.

Wiatt said security around Haas or any other dorm has not been increased because of the attack report made by the resident.

"We don't have the luxury of flooding one

area with security and disregarding other areas," Wiatt said. "There are many dorms and other areas that have to be patrolled and we don't have that many officers on duty. We also have a multitude of other calls to respond to."

Wiatt said, however, that the department is certainly aware of the incident and that patrol of the area would be increased as much as it could considering the quantity of officers the department has available for patrols.

The victim's roommate said she was bothered by the fact that other people heard the commotion but did nothing.

She said her roommate is suffering from a bruised arm and a slightly-swollen face, but otherwise is fine.

She also said her roommate was withdrawing from A&M for the rest of the summer because of the incident and would be back in the fall.

## Earthquake jolts Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A strong earthquake jolted Northern California on Monday, causing San Francisco skyscrapers to sway and briefly halting commuter trains, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injury.

The state Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento said the quake hit 5.2 on the Richter scale, while the U.S. Geological Survey office in Menlo Park said the quake registered 5.0.

The epicenter, USGS spokesman Pat Jorgenson said, was about 16 miles south of San Jose, along the San Andreas Fault. The time was set at 11:43 a.m., she added.

There were no indications of injury or damage, San Jose police said.

The quake was felt over a large area, extending from Santa Rosa, about 60 miles north of San Francisco, to the Santa Cruz area 70 miles to the south.

The temblor lasted up to 10 sec-

onds in many areas. The 38 trains running on Bay Area Rapid Transit lines were halted briefly to allow a check for track damage and then allowed to resume operation.

"It hit real hard like something going into the side of the building. Nothing fell, but light standards swayed back and forth," said Tom Honig, city editor of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*.

Walt Glines, news editor of the *Dispatch* in Gilroy, said half the workers in the newspaper's city room "didn't even notice" the rolling quake, which he said seemed to hit that area in two waves.

"The first time, I thought it was a caffeine rush. But when the second one hit, I knew," he said.

A South San Francisco police dispatcher, who identified herself only as Pat, said her department had received a few calls, but none reporting damage.



Photo by Jay Janner

### Cool it

Starter Rick Allenstein cools off a starting block before a race at the Aggie Open Swim Meet at Cain Pool Saturday. Seventeen teams were in the meet, which was sponsored by the Aggie Swim Club.

## Bentsen makes list of possible VPs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, who moved into the congressional forefront over the past three years in the Democratic drive to sharpen the nation's edge in global trade, is once again in the spotlight as Michael Dukakis mulls over his vice presidential options.

A Southwestern conservative, a Protestant, a Washington insider — Bentsen chairs the powerful Senate Finance Committee, a record on defense that is hawkish but not stridently so — what more could likely Democratic nominee Dukakis ask if a balanced ticket is his goal for the fall campaign?

No Democrat has been elected president in this century without carrying Texas, and Bentsen would be a formidable opponent in one of the states all-but-certain Republican nominee George Bush calls home.

In fact, the Texas senator knows all about defeating Bush — he did it in the 1970 senate race.

Bentsen, an elegantly tailored, silver-haired patrician, is the scion of a wealthy landed family from the Rio Grande Valley, often seen tooling

around Capitol Hill in a cream-colored Mercedes-Benz convertible.

Friends describe Bentsen's way with a speech as "not incendiary." Actually, his carefully qualified, never overstated commentaries on the nation's foreign trade outlook have been known to draw yawns and glazed eyes.

Bentsen mounted a 1976 run for the Democratic presidential nomination but excited little interest. In 1984, he was on Democratic nominee Walter Mondale's list of possible running mates — one of the few white males in a field that included former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein and eventual pick Geraldine Ferraro.

On the negative side, Bentsen created a furor in February 1987 when it was revealed that he had asked lobbyists to pay \$10,000 apiece to join him for breakfast once a month.

The breakfast club, called the "Chairman's Council," held one meeting and was quickly disbanded with Bentsen promising to return the money collected from an estimated 40 lobbyists.

Bentsen was born Feb. 11, 1921,

in Mission, Texas, the son of "Big Lloyd" Bentsen, who migrated to the Rio Grande Valley after World War I and made himself wealthy as a rancher and by buying land and reselling it, largely to Midwest farmers who wanted to become citrus producers.

He received a law degree from the University of Texas in 1942 and joined the Army Air Corps, earning his pilot's wings and flying bomber missions over the Third Reich. He served as a Hidalgo County, Texas, judge from 1946 through 1948, when he was elected to the U.S. House.

Bentsen was a member of the House until 1955, when he retired to go into business and enhance his family's fortunes. He took over the operation of a small insurance company and transformed it into a financial holding company, increasing its size several times in the process.

He also kept his hand in Texas politics, serving as state finance chairman for Lyndon B. Johnson's campaigns. Content with his business achievements, Bentsen re-entered politics in 1970, defeating lib-

eral incumbent Ralph Yarborough in the primary and broadening his appeal in the general election to defeat Bush.

Bentsen could be of as much value off the ticket as on it. He is up for reelection this year and his much-vaunted organization could make Dukakis competitive in Texas if Bentsen leads the state office ticket.

As Finance Committee chairman, Bentsen presides over tax and trade legislation and this year was sponsor of a catastrophic health insurance bill.

Record trade deficits in recent years combined with layoffs caused by import competition and resulting congressional ferment have put the focus on Bentsen. Voluntary restraints on Japanese auto shipments to the United States were imposed after he and Sen. John C. Danforth, R-Mo., offered legislation that would have made import curbs mandatory.

The bill was largely a gesture on their part and Bentsen has most often been a critic of protectionism, although in 1984 he did vote in favor of legislation to roll back Asian textile imports.

## Regents plan second round of interviews

The Texas A&M Board of Regents Presidential Selection Committee Monday announced that it will meet to interview candidates for the office in Dallas Wednesday, the second such meeting in the last week.

Bill Prenal, executive secretary of the Board of Regents and secretary of the Search Advisory Committee, said the meeting would begin at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the DFW Airport Hyatt Hotel in Dallas and would go into executive session.

Prenal would not name the candidates to be interviewed, but said there would "not be many."

Prenal also refused to name the three candidates interviewed at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York June 22, but said that the interviewing was conducted by committee members David Eller, chairman, Dr. John Coleman, Douglas DeCluitt, William McKenzie, John Mobley and Chancellor Perry Adkisson.

## Catholic bishops plan new, updated paper about AIDS

COLLEGEVILLE, Minn. (AP) — Acknowledging weaknesses in a controversial paper on AIDS, a national conference of Roman Catholic bishops decided unanimously Monday to write a new, updated statement in consultation with the Vatican.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, who made the motion for a new paper on AIDS teachings, said the paper "The Many Faces of AIDS — A Gospel Response" could still be used however bishops wish.

The last of the major items on the agenda at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops at St. John's University, the AIDS paper proposed to have the church teach about condoms as a way to stem transmission of AIDS. It had been criticized by some church officials as an apparent endorsement of condoms.

"We're not replacing it," Archbishop John May of St. Louis told a news conference after Monday's session.

"This new document will be a document of the whole conference, all the bishops together," he said. "It will carry the discussion further."

The church leaders said the existing paper on AIDS should have been clearer on the church teachings about condoms and should have been drafted in closer consultation with the Vatican.

The paper, written by the conference's administrative board, also framed sharp differences between conservative and liberal factions and questions over the role

of the bishops conference in teaching parishioners.

The AIDS paper stresses abstinence from sex outside marriage and fidelity within marriage. But, noting that many in society reject church teachings on sexuality, it says education programs could include "accurate information about prophylactic devices" as a means of preventing transmission of AIDS.

The incurable, fatal disease is spread mainly by the exchange of blood or semen during sexual contact or by intravenous drug use.

A Vatican official, in a private letter to the bishops, criticized the AIDS paper and faulted them for sowing confusion among Catholics by considering it.

The *Milwaukee Sentinel* said it obtained a copy of the letter by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who says bishops should approve use of condoms under no circumstances and should have consulted the Vatican. Ratzinger, chief of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, had the comments included in a confidential booklet prepared for the bishops' study.

In conclusion, Ratzinger expressed confidence the bishops would follow "these considerations, which are known to his Holiness and have his fullest support."

Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland said he was surprised because the letter marked the first time the conference had received a private communication from Rome before discussing an issue.

## Amino acid may lower side effects of epilepsy drugs

By Juliette Rizzo  
Reporter

A Texas A&M scientist has found that glycine, a simple amino acid used in dietary supplements, may improve the effectiveness and reduce the side effects of drugs used to prevent epileptic seizures.

Dr. Steven Peterson, associate professor of pharmacology said most anti-convulsant drugs used to treat epileptics have sedative-like side effects such as drowsiness or mild intoxication.

"There are three major types of seizures associated with epilepsy," Peterson said. "The seizures often can be controlled by medication, but each responds differently to treatment."

Epilepsy is the recurring activity of a large number of nerve cells in the brain.

"A lot of cells activate or fire at the same time," he said, "causing various peripheral manifestations or the loss of control of bodily functions."

More than one million Americans suffer from grand mal, petit mal or psychomotor seizures. Each type of seizure can be associated with epilepsy.

Grand mal, which involves the embarrassing loss of control of the bodily functions, is the most familiar form of seizure associated with epilepsy. Petit mal, otherwise known as the absent seizure because the patient stops and stares blankly, is the most prevalent form.

In the medical science laboratories at A&M, Peterson is using glycine, an amino acid, simultaneously with anti-convulsant drugs to poten-

tiate or increase the drugs' therapeutic effects while minimizing their toxicity.

He said the problem doctors face with epilepsy is being able to give the patient a strong enough drug to prevent a seizure without promoting excessive drowsiness or other side effects such as depression which is associated with grand mal seizures.

So far, he found that large doses of glycine seem to reduce the dosage of two common anti-convulsant drugs used to prevent epilepsy-like seizures in laboratory animals.

"Glycine seems to be relatively nontoxic," he said. "It makes the drugs more protective, without increasing toxicity, but this does not mean glycine will work in every case," he said.

Peterson's research is part of a five year study he is conducting for the National Institute of Health. His work is based on past research that found that extremely large doses of glycine given alone might provide some protection against seizures.

"The idea was that if you could give a large dose of glycine—say, a pill with your breakfast every morning—then you could cut back on the patient's anti-convulsant and still get protection from seizures," he said. "With less anti-convulsant, you might have fewer side effects from the drugs."

Peterson said clinical testing of glycine is in the future.

"There have been two reports, not scientifically based, that several grams of glycine have made a difference in preventing seizures," he said. "But right now, we are still in the experimental stage."