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IBM The Bigger Picture

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Police examine shooting death in Houston mall

HOUSTON (AP) — Police continued their investigation Wednesday into a fight between black and Asian teen-agers at a local shopping mall that led to the shooting death of a New Mexico youth who was in Houston visiting relatives.

Officers were questioning a 15-year-old youth who allegedly fired the fatal shot to Khanh Quoc Bui, police spokesman Al Baker said. He is expected to be certified as an adult and charged with murder. No charges had been filed Wednesday.

Bui, 18, of Albuquerque, was shot to death when one of the black youths fired a single shot from a .22-caliber handgun, investigators said.

Bui died from a wound to the heart at Ben Taub Hospital, about an hour after the fight began.

Three other black teen-agers and three Asian youths involved in the fight at Sharpstown Mall in southwest Houston also were questioned and released by police.

Witnesses said two blacks started arguing with Bui and his friends in the food court area on the mall's second floor about 3:20 p.m. Tuesday.

One of the blacks made a snide remark concerning the appearance of one of the Asian youths, setting off the fight, Baker said.

Shoppers and mall workers said both sides then exchanged racial slurs and obscene gestures.

They then moved outside to the sidewalk, where four Vietnamese and two blacks began throwing punches.

Baker said the 15-year-old was standing outside after the fight ended when he reached through the door and shot Bui in the chest with a .22-caliber pistol.

What's Up

Thursday

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: Will meet at 6 p.m. in 145 MSC. For more information call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: Will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 027 MSC. For more information call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.
ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS AND FREETHINKERS: Will meet at 7 p.m. in Rudder Tower.
STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: Will meet at 11 a.m. in 251 Bizzell West. For more information call Cathy Schutt at 845-0544.

Friday

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Will meet at 6 p.m. at 103 Nagle St. in the Student Center.
KANM STUDENT RADIO: Will meet at 10 p.m. at Brazos Landing. For more information call KANM at 845-5923.
INDIA ASSOCIATION: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 212 MSC for Independence Celebrations. For more information call V. K. Dorai at 845-1616.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McCombs no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only take 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. Submissions 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.

Jordan talks of politics over hospital breakfast

AUSTIN (AP) — Former U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan, hospitalized since Saturday after nearly drowning, talked politics over breakfast Wednesday.

Doctors described Jordan, 52, as doing "better — much stronger, more cheerful."

Brackenridge Hospital listed Jordan as being in serious but stable

condition, which was unchanged. Jordan underwent a number of medical tests Tuesday, including brain and chest X-rays, as well as a heart examination known as a cardiogram.

Nurse Greg Pfahles said Jordan was "fiesty and spunky but a pleasant and cooperative patient."

'Cocktail' proves a drunken effort

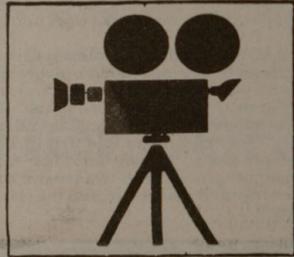
By Staci Finch
Reviewer

America's latest heartthrob, Tom Cruise, is at it again. From the high skies of Top Gun and the seamy pool halls of The Color of Money, Cruise's latest is as a sweet-talking, fast acting bartender in Cocktail.

Flashier than flash, Cruise is Brian Flannagan, recently released from the Army and ready to make a million. Instead he starts making drinks behind a bar and taking business courses at a city college after learning there is nowhere to go as an executive without a degree.

But the real school is in the bar, and the real teacher is John Cogliin (Bryan (F/X) Brown), a cynical old bartender who shows Cruise the ropes. Not an amazing plot, and not an amazing movie.

Cruise is no longer the naive, do-gooder as in some of his previous movies. Actually, he's a jerk in this one. He seduces a girl Jordan (Elizabeth Shue of "Adventures in Babysitting") while working in Jamaica, but dumps her on a bet that he can seduce a rich older woman in a bar.



There are some good sports movie is entertaining, even if it doesn't have much to say or see there are the bars. As Flannagan Cogliin work together, trying to money to start their own place, acrobatics with liquor bottles, and glasses are nothing short of circus. Impressive and exciting guys' synchronized pouring stirring of drinks must have a lot of work, were fun to watch, will probably start a trend with tenders across the country.

Also, Brown was excellent as Cogliin. A cynic who only wants easy road, Cogliin alienates Flannagan in his quest for the best, and final scene between the two is ping. Also, the almost-trade between the duo throughout the movie is good, and you never if the scene is going to end in a punch or a smile.

However, apparently the producers thought America couldn't take their hero without some redeeming factor, so they included a scene where Flannagan cries while reading a farewell letter from his mentor Cogliin, a scene that shows an emotion as fake as the glycerin tears in Cruise's eyes.

If that isn't enough sap for you, there's a sappy reconciliation ending with Jordan that belongs on the late-late show.

The movie had some good spots especially the scenes in the bar, the scenery of Jamaica was spectacular. Too bad the rest of the didn't follow suit.

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