



**WEATHER**

**TOMORROW'S FORECAST:**  
Mostly sunny and warm  
HIGH: 84 LOW: 60

## Anonymous gay sex occurs in A&M restrooms

By Melissa Naumann  
Of The Battalion Staff

The Academic Building is thought of as being the center of the Texas A&M campus, a hub of activity, the heart of the University. To different people, however, this can mean different things. Anonymous homosexual bathroom sex occurs in bathrooms across the country, and on the A&M campus, it occurs most frequently, according to gay students, in the Academic Building.

Jim, a gay A&M student, said the second floor of the Academic Building has been a popular gay meeting place for years.

The Academic Building is listed in a book called "Places of Interest," a guide to gay meeting places across the United States.

Most of the activity takes place at night in the men's bathroom, with some people staying as late as 4 a.m., Jim said.

Jim said he studied in the Academic Building before he knew what went on there. Then, after he learned, he watched to see who went in the bathroom and how long they stayed.

"People would stay in there for hours on end," he said.

Jim said when he went there, at least one person waited in the bathroom at all times, with around four waiting outside "until something better went in."

The actual sexual activity used to take place through "glory holes,"

### Academic Building will be locked after hours

By Melissa Naumann  
Of The Battalion Staff

The Academic Building, traditionally open 24 hours a day, will be locked at night and on weekends as soon as the last few locks are installed, a Texas A&M official said.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, associate provost, said the building is being locked for safety reasons.

"More and more faculty and graduate students are there working and studying at nights and on weekends," Gaston said.

The move to lock the building has been in process for almost two years, said Gaston, who initiated the move.

Dr. Luis Costa, Academic Building proctor and head of the Department of Modern Languages, said a number of thefts have occurred in the building.

"If you've been in the building late at night, it's rather scary," Costa said.

Gaston and Costa said rumors of homosexual activity

in the building were not the reason for locking the building.

"Whether such activity goes on or not, it was not the primary reason," Costa said.

Antonio Caraballo, a lecturer with the Department of Modern Languages, has worked in the Academic Building for 10 years, first as a graduate student and then as a faculty member. He said he has known about the homosexual activity for years.

"I wouldn't be surprised that it influenced the decision (to lock the doors)," Caraballo said.

Caraballo said he received a memo saying the building would be locked at nights and on weekends beginning Oct. 13, but Costa said the last locks have not been installed yet.

Once the locks are installed, the doors will be locked at 5:30 p.m. except for the north door that allows access to the language labs. That door will be open until 8 p.m.

The building will be open on weekends when there are major events on campus, such as football games, Gaston said.

holes drilled in the partitions between bathroom stalls through which participants can engage in anonymous anal or oral sex. The Academic Building, however, was remodeled last spring and the holes are no longer there.

Antonio Caraballo, a lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages, said he has worked in the Academic Building for 10 years, first as a graduate student and then as a faculty member. He has known about the homosexual activity in that bathroom for years and he said the traffic in the bathroom slowed down somewhat.

"That particular bathroom was redone because of that," he said. "It got to the point that many of us would never use that bathroom."

Jim said that, after the partitions were replaced, people tried to remove the toilet paper dispensers to make new holes.

Most of the people who went in the bathroom, Jim said, were older, probably between 30 and 40 and didn't look like students. The younger people usually stayed outside.

Caraballo said he never was approached nor did the activity interfere with his teaching.

"It was never a problem for us as professors to do our jobs or even work," Caraballo said. "It never really hindered our teaching and I never felt threatened or worried about it."

Jim said he stopped going because people who saw him there began spreading rumors that he actually engaged in homosexual sex.

"I want people to realize that not all gay people are like that," he said. "A lot of people, especially ones who've just come out, are just curious."

Although Jim said he didn't know how many people were there on any

given night, he said most of his gay friends know what goes on there.

In fact, a clerk at the Lobo Bookstore, a gay bookstore in Houston, said he had heard about the Academic Building.

"It's pretty well-known," he said. Jim said he has seen the building listed in a gay magazine as one of the "Top 10 Hot Spots" in Texas.

Terry Walker, president of Gay Student Services, said the GSS is aware of it but doesn't condone this anonymous bathroom sex. Instead, he said, GSS is supposed to give people an alternative to this kind of activity.

Walker said there is a difference between the gay community and the gay population. The gay community, he said, consists of people who lead productive lives both in the gay community by, for example, working for gay rights, and the community in general.

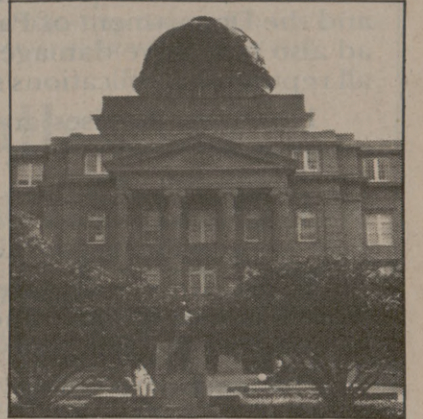
The gay population, on the other hand, includes people who are not as open and therefore resort to such activities as anonymous bathroom sex, he said.

"GSS is trying to promote participation in the gay community," Walker said. "We try to offer something positive."

Bob Wiatt, director of security and the University Police Department, said UPD has received numerous reports of homosexual activity, but not always in the Academic Building.

"The Academic Building seems to be a gathering ground on occasion but not consistently," he said.

Wiatt said that once a police offi-



The Academic Building

cer responds to a report, word spreads, and the activity moves to another restroom.

Jim said the same activities go on in bathrooms in Rudder and Harrington towers.

Wiatt said those who participate in homosexual activity can be charged with one of three things: public lewdness, indecent exposure or homosexual conduct.

Public lewdness, which is engaging in any sexual act in a public place or being reckless about someone being present who would be offended, applies to sexual intercourse, sexual contact, oral contact and deviant intercourse. Deviant intercourse refers to participating in anything other than normal sexual intercourse. This definition includes oral and anal sex, Wiatt said.

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## Two A&M graduates survive blast at Phillips chemical plant

By Selina Gonzalez  
Of The Battalion Staff

A Phillips Petroleum Co. employee who is a May 1989 Texas A&M graduate is listed in critical but stable condition after she suffered second- and third-degree burns over

50 percent of her body in Monday's Pasadena chemical plant explosions.

Stephanie Sneed, who has a chemical engineering degree, worked as an engineer in the polyethylene plant where a series of explosions occurred, Andrew Means, Class of '88, said.

Means, who has a mechanical engineering degree, works as a project engineer at Phillips about one-half mile from the polyethylene plant.

"I heard the emergency siren go off and I saw a vapor cloud form over the plant," Means said. "After about five seconds, it was a giant fireball."

"Shock waves followed and lights came crashing down and my office ceiling fell in."

The engineers carry voice pagers hooked to the emergency radio channel, he said. If the emergency siren goes off, the pager tells the engineer the extent of the problem.

Means said although the emergency siren sounds about once a week, the problem is usually minor.

Employees in the polyethylene plant saw and smelled gas vapor just before the explosion, Means said.

"They just started running," he said.

"With all the wreckage, you can't realize the extent of the damage unless you've seen it beforehand," he said. "The skeletons are the reactors and all the lower buildings and equipment are flat."

"It's hard to imagine the force it took to do that."

It was an emotional scene at Phillips after the explosions, he said. The workers had many close relatives working in the same plant and many employees lost brothers or sisters.

"For many, once they picked a plant (to work at) they stayed there for years," Means said.

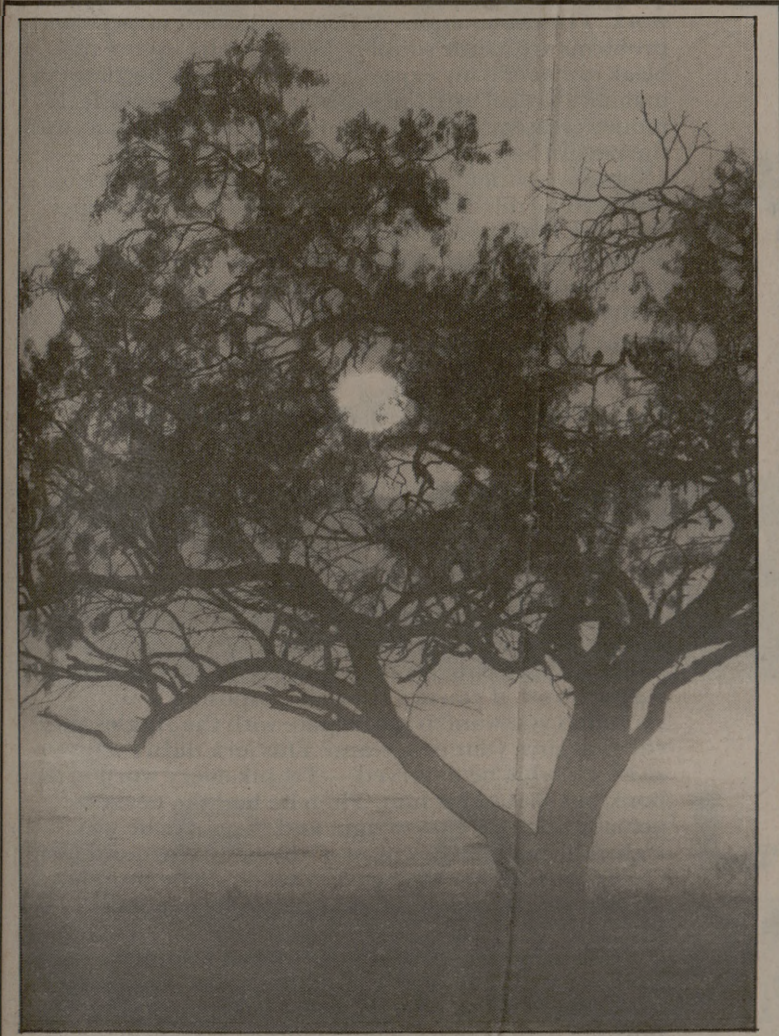
Many employees lost close friends in the accident.

Means said he has several close friends in the polyethylene plant because he worked there for a short while.

"I wondered about all my friends," he said. "Other than Stephanie, I have one friend who is missing and presumed dead."

Means said his plant was not seriously damaged and should be operational in about two weeks.

"Everyone knows the danger of the business," he said. "Monday just reminded us how much."



Morning has broken

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

This early morning scene will be seen even earlier after this weekend. Daylight-saving time ends Sunday at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set clocks back one hour.

## Parking situation continues to confuse, anger students

### Administrator attempts to clarify permit rules

By Pam Mooman  
Of The Battalion Staff

Contrary to what most Aggies think, it is possible to park on Texas A&M's campus at night without getting a ticket.

Kathie Mathis, parking administrator for A&M's Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, said a permit is required for parking on campus at any time.

"If you even pause on campus, you must have a permit," she said. "(But) after 4 p.m., the whole campus opens."

Mathis said that while on-campus parkers must have a permit, a night sticker is not required for night parking. However, community members and students purchase the \$15 night permit to make parking on campus easier.

"A lot of students ride buses during the day, so they don't have a sticker at all," she said. "It's just an inexpensive permit that allows the community and off-campus students to access campus."

There are, however, exceptions to PTTS's evening open-campus policy. Lot 26, off Lewis Street, and lot 27, off Jones Street, are 24-hour reserved lots and parking spaces on Hogg Street are reserved 24 hours for random staff.

Other illegal parking places are handicapped spaces, all numbered reserved spaces, golf course parking spaces, residence hall spaces and visitor

spaces. Mathis said PTTS's 1989 Motor Vehicle Regulations brochure explains all of the parking rules.

"It's really plain if (people) read the map," she said.

But Randy Wood, a senior computer science major from San Marcos, said the brochure is hard to understand.

"It's not as explicit as it should be," he said. "It just doesn't define all the rules very carefully."

Wood said he usually parks in day spaces even in the evening, although he recently read PTTS's regulations and found out that he can park in faculty spaces. Wood has never received a ticket at night.

But Micah Murphy has. Murphy, a senior secondary education major from Houston, said once she had no permit and was ticketed. Murphy said when she goes to the library to study at night, she usually parks at the Administration Building on New Main Street.

"When I came, I would park all over the place," Murphy said. "(But) I've pretty much got the hang of it now."

Murphy, however, said she calls for an escort if she is leaving the library late at night, unless she is parked at the Pavilion.

But Mathis said that there are many parking places around the library that should prevent women from having to walk long distances to their cars at night.

## Student services distributes pamphlet explaining random ticket distribution

By Michael Kelley  
Of The Battalion Staff

Only those seniors wanting seats in sections 230-233 of the second deck of Kyle Field need to wait in line at the athletic ticket office to pick up student football tickets. All other seats are distributed randomly on specified days according to student classification, regardless of when they are drawn.

In order to spread this information to students, the Student Services Committee of the Student Senate, in conjunction with Penny King of the Athletic Business Office and Jim Koch of the Athletic Ticket Office, have created a "Student Ticket Information" pamphlet that will be distributed next week at the ticket office.

The pamphlet was designed to help students understand the random selection of tickets, except for senior sections 230-233.

"Most students don't know that if they wait until later in the day to get their football tickets, they'll have the same chance to get the same seats as someone who draws them earlier in the day," Ronald Liston, a member of the Student Services Committee, said.

The randomization of the ticket

distribution process is supposed to benefit those students who need their student identification cards during the day to eat in the dining facilities. This gives them the chance to get their football tickets at any time from 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at their own convenience.

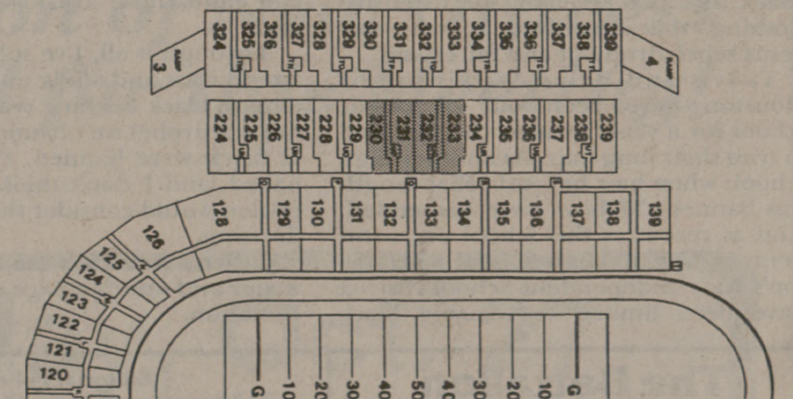
Those seniors who want to try to get tickets for sections 230-233 may do so starting at 7 a.m. on senior and graduate days (see graphic). This is usually on Monday, but for the Arkansas game it will be on a Thursday.

"We're (A&M) is one of the few universities that has reserved student seating for home football games that is set up by student classification," said Kim Copeland of the Student Services Committee. "A lot of other schools have general seating on a first-come-first-served basis."

"We feel that our system is good because by seniority students who have been at A&M longer get better tickets."

A student is allowed to pick up a maximum of 10 football tickets and a student identification card is required for each student ticket. At least half of the identification cards must be of that day's classification or higher.

Non-student guest tickets may be obtained by converting a student



The shaded area represents the seats for which graduates and seniors can get tickets by going to the athletic ticket office at 7 a.m. on senior ticket distribution day.

ticket by purchasing a guest label, or by purchasing a guest ticket and label at any ticket window. A guest ticket is treated as an underclassman ticket.

Tickets are distributed randomly by classification beginning five school days before the game. Section seating is as follows:  
Senior Sections: 131, 132, 227-

236 and the first 15 rows of 330-333.  
Junior Sections: 130, 224-226, 237-239 and 329-334.

Sophomore Sections: 129, 327, 328, 335 and 336.  
Freshman Sections: 128, 324-326, and 337-339.

For more information contact the Athletic Ticket Office at 845-2311.