

Tuesday, April 23, 1991

The Battalion

## Rape victim speaks at Austin gathering

Halbert will fight 'to last breath' for privacy

AUSTIN (AP) — A rape victim appointed by Gov. Ann Richards to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice said Monday that she will fight "to my last breath" to keep news media from printing the names of other rape victims.

Ellen Halbert spoke to at least 250 people who gathered at the Capitol for the fifth annual crime victims' memorial, in conjunction with National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Halbert in 1986 was raped by a Ninja-costumed assailant who hid overnight in her home. During the morning attack, he stabbed her in the chest and neck, hit her in the head with a hammer and hammered a knife into her skull. He later was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life in prison.

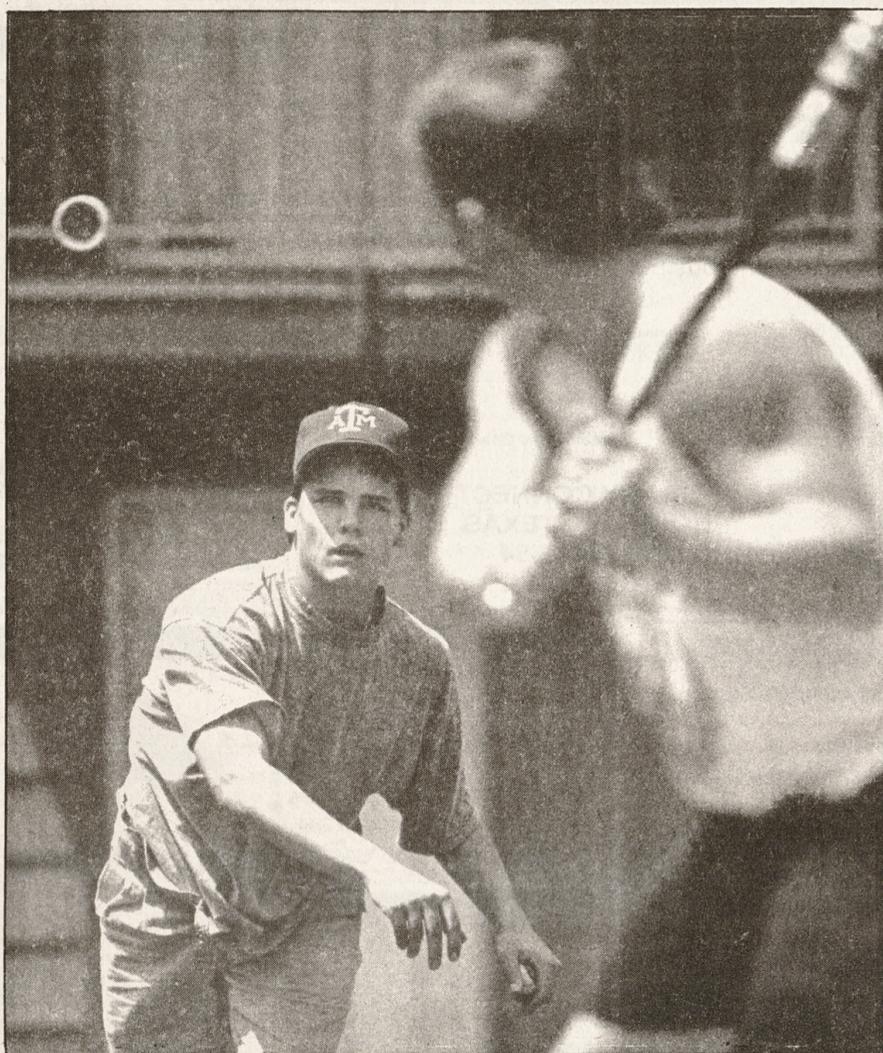
The issue of whether to make public the names of rape victims drew attention last week, when some news media named the alleged victim of a rape at the Kennedy family estate in Palm Beach, Fla.

"Let me tell you from one who has been there, I will fight to my last breath to defend a woman's right to heal in private," Halbert said to crowd applause. "Her very ability to heal may depend on that."

The rally drew victims' rights workers from around the state. Some wore buttons with ribbons and pictures of slain family members. A scroll bearing the names of the 100,000 crime victims last year in Travis County was rolled down the front walk to the Capitol, some 320 feet.

One in four Texans will become crime victims this year, rally organizers said. Texas has the second-highest number of rapes in the country, and only one in 10 are reported to police, Halbert said.

Gov. Richards said she would work with the demonstrators "toward that day when, God willing, none of us is ever again victimized by the indifference and the insensitivity of our government."



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

## No home runs, OK?

Eric Bryant and Robert Watson, both mechanical engineering majors from Baytown, play a game they invented called "half-ball" Monday at a courtyard at Tree

House Apartments. The game involves hitting a tennis ball cut in half, which helps reduce the distance the ball will travel after it has been hit.

## Police seek bank heist suspect

This week the Bryan Police Department and Brazos County Crime Stoppers need your help to identify the person responsible for an April 3 burglary.

During that day, an armed robber made an unlawful withdrawal from the Flores Finance Co. at 400 N. Main Drive in Bryan.

Witnesses state that at 3 p.m. an African-American man entered the office, asked the clerk for the time and then sat down saying he was waiting for a friend.

After some customers left the office, the suspect approached the clerk, stuck his hand under a jacket he was carrying and then threatened the clerk with what she believed was a handgun. After getting some cash, the robber fled the office.

Witnesses report that the man is in his 50s, about 5-foot-5 inches tall, weighing approximately 160 pounds and is unshaven.

The suspect was last seen wearing a black cap, black frame glasses and khaki pants. He also was carrying a green jacket and a white bank bag.

Bryan police believe the man is a transient who lives near the downtown area of Bryan. They also believe he was familiar with the company's operations.

If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When you call, you will be assigned a special coded number to protect your identity.

If your call leads to the arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 in cash. Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of any wanted fugitive.

## In Advance

Free sitar demonstration will be Wednesday

The Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC-MACAY) is sponsoring a free program at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Rudder Theater.

It is a concert and lecture/demonstration on a sitar, an Indian instrument, by Budhadity Mukherjee.

## Correction

In Monday's edition of The Battalion, a story incorrectly reported that Danica Milios was the subcommittee chairwoman for Muster awareness. She is a subcommittee member.

Subcommittee co-chairs are Paris North and Alison Gardner.



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