

**FORECAST**

**FRIDAY**

Scattered T-storms  
High 85  
Low 65

**OPINION**

What has the Student Senate done . . . that has had any meaningful effects on our lives?  
— Stacy Feducia  
Page 11

**LIFESTYLES**

A&M sophomore utilizes swimming experience to coach Bryan youths  
Page 7

**SPORTS**

MEMORIES OF '89  
Texas returns to Olsen field and a legendary series  
Page 3

# The Battalion

## Crime rates increase in spring, summer months, expert says

By Alysia Woods  
The Battalion

A Texas A&M sociology professor said there is a definite relationship between crime rates and different times of year, with an increase in sexual assault during the spring and summer.

Dr. Ben Crouch, who teaches criminology and delinquency corrections courses, said the number of sexual assaults nationwide peak in the warmer times of the year

for a variety of reasons.

"The reasons are fairly straightforward," Crouch said. "More folks are out and about when the weather begins to warm up."

Another reason for the increase is because people — especially women — wear less clothing in the spring and summer, Crouch said.

"A young man's fantasy will turn into 'fill-in-the-blank' during springtime," he said.

Linda Castoria, executive director for

the Brazos County Rape Crisis Center, said her staff of volunteers does not stress the springtime theories and statistics in their work.

"The FBI did say that all crimes are accelerated in the spring months," Castoria said, "because windows are left open and a lot of people are outside."

Castoria said, however, that more recent statistics show that rapes occur year-round, and volunteers for the center try not to focus on a particular time period.

"The scary thing is that too many peo-

ple will adhere to statistics when they need to be careful all the time," she said.

Increases in all crimes are occurring, which Castoria said is unfortunate. These increases are shown in national statistics.

Crouch said rapes begin to increase in May and August, the months with the highest number of sexual assaults.

Robberies are the lowest in the spring and highest in the late fall around Christmas.

Murders, however, are evenly distributed throughout the year, Crouch

said.

"Aggravated sexual assaults and sexual assaults are the two violent crimes that follow what we (sociologists) call the thermal law of crime," he said.

Crouch said, however, that sociologists are concerned with collective national patterns and reported assaults which, for a number of reasons, do increase around the spring season.

"There is some basis for those patterns," he said. "You don't have to have a Ph.D. to know this."

## Tennis pro reveals he has AIDS

NEW YORK (AP) — Tennis great Arthur Ashe announced reluctantly and emotionally Wednesday that he has AIDS but declared, "I am not sick. I can function very well."

Ashe, the first black man to win the Wimbledon tournament, said he contracted the virus during a 1983 heart operation and learned of that fact in 1988. He said he was forced to go public now because a newspaper had inquired about his health.

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"I have AIDS," he said. "I am sorry that I have been forced to make this revelation now, at this time."

"Sadly, there is really no good reason for this to happen now. But it has happened, and I will adjust and go forward," he said.

Ashe, 48, said he has toxoplasmosis, a parasitic infection of the brain that is considered a marker for AIDS. Toxoplasmosis is one of many diseases that attack people whose immune systems are weakened by AIDS.

In November, former Los Angeles Lakers basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson announced he was carrying the AIDS virus. Johnson has not developed the disease itself.

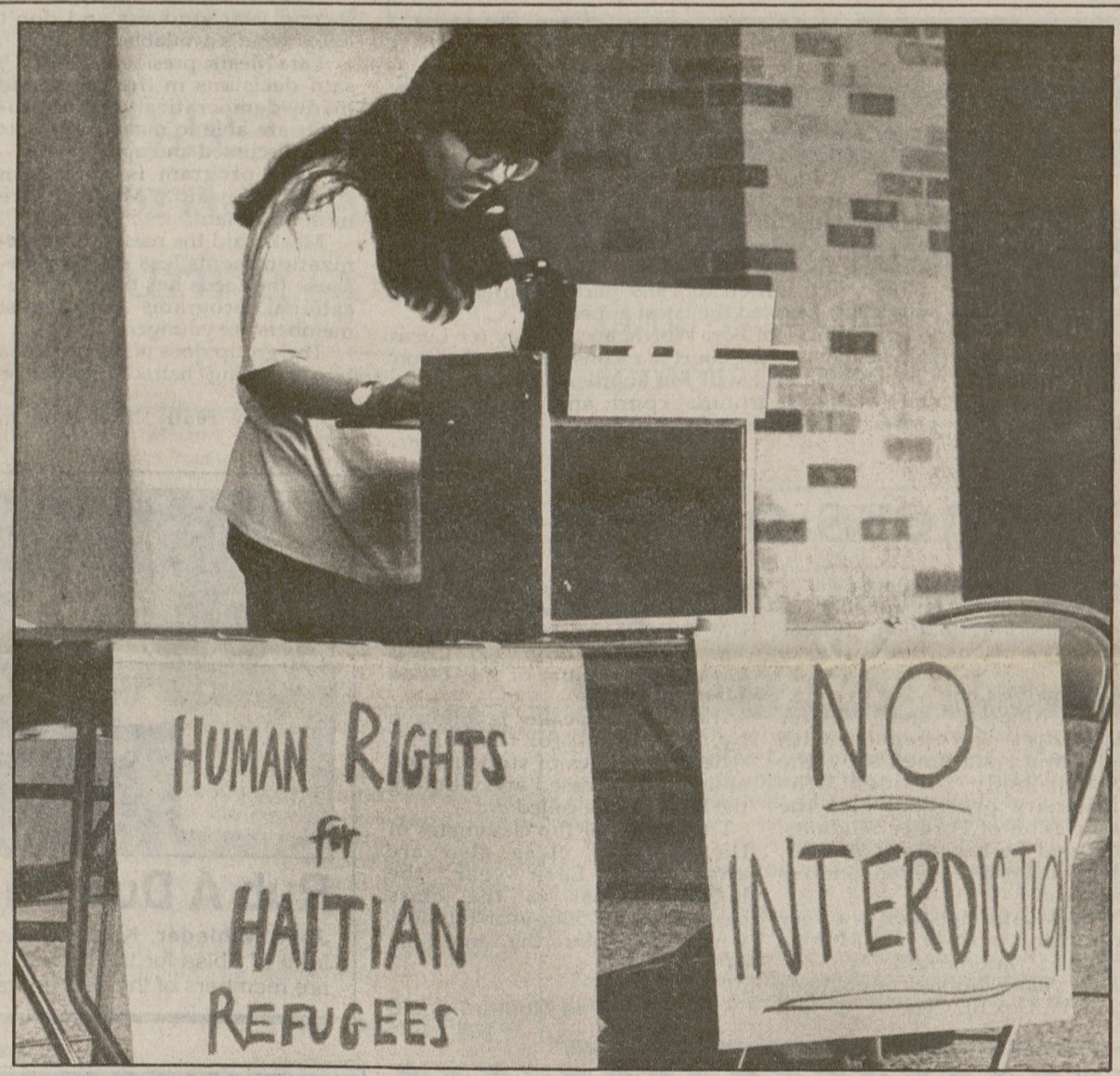
Johnson's agent, Lon Rosen, said in Los Angeles that Johnson is arranging to speak with Ashe.

"Earvin wants very much to speak to Arthur," Rosen said.

In a statement, Johnson extended his support and prayers to Ashe and his family.

"It takes great courage and strength to make such an announcement," Johnson said. "I'm

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

## Taking a stand

Sara Wikse of the Texas A&M chapter of Amnesty International speaks to a small crowd Wednesday in front of Rudder Fountain on the human rights violations the organization claims are occurring in Haiti.

Students gathered to protest the U.S. government's treatment of Haitian refugees who currently are being sent back to the

embattled island nation.

"Not surprisingly, in the climate of fear and real danger that exists there, many people have attempted to leave Haiti," Wikse said. "Article 33 of the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees says, 'No one should be forced to return to a country where they list serious human rights violations.'"

## Records show warning hours before explosion

Computers indicated problem at 4 a.m.

By Reagon Clamon  
The Battalion

BRENNHAM — Officials are investigating a computer record indicating a possible valve malfunction that occurred hours before an explosion shook Southeast Texas Tuesday morning.

George Mocharko, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board, said Wednesday night that workers knew of a change in the valve's status three hours before the blast.

The valve is operated by Coastline Gas Pipeline Co. and connects Coastline's pipeline to the Brenham Storage Salt Dome facility owned by Seminole Pipeline Co.

NTSB officials have been investigating the accident since the team took over the job from the Texas Railroad Commission Tuesday afternoon.

Mocharko said Coastline operation records tipped investigators off to the possible cause of the explosion.

At 4 a.m. Tuesday, a sensor station recorded a shift in the status of the valve, which could have been caused by the valve shifting position or malfunctioning, he said.

"They received a reading at their station, according to the records," Mocharko said. "At the time, however, they had their line closed and were not planning on delivering any product."

Officials, however, strongly cautioned that this possible explanation is far from being con-

## State denies disaster aid to blast area

By Reagon Clamon  
The Battalion

BRENNHAM — The governor's office Wednesday refused to declare the site of Tuesday's gas explosion an official disaster area.

Ed Laundry of the Texas State Emergency Management Team said he denied aid because of the localization of the damage and the fact that the majority of the residents affected had their own insurance.

The explosion, which occurred near a petroleum storage facility seven miles south of Brenham, devastated an area three miles across and damaged more than 40 homes near the blast.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency gives aid to communities that have been declared disaster areas, but the aid must be recommended by the governor.

Dorothy Morgan, a Washington County judge serving as liaison to the governor's of-

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## PUSHING FOR PEROT

### Petitioners attempt to force candidate on November ballot

By Melody Dunne  
The Battalion

If you did not vote in the Democratic or Republican primaries, Aggies For Perot want your signature on their petitions.

Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot must have 55,000 signatures on petitions by the first week of May in order to be on the state ballot for the November presidential election, said Lou Zaeske, a region coordinator for Texas Perot efforts.

Every state has different requirements to place a candidate on their ballot, he said. In some states it is a monetary fee.

Perot supporters gathered around a camper and tables in front of the vacant Rockyano's Pizza at 1037 Texas Ave. on Wednesday.

Jeffrey Ellis, a student organizer of Aggies For Perot, said there will be ballots available at the Rockyano's location until the beginning of May for anyone who would like to sign one.



KARL A. STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Rod Hawkins (far left) mans petition table across from eastgate.

"Many college students didn't vote in the primaries because they were registered in their hometown," Ellis said. "We expect some of them to sign the petitions."

Dan Eason, a junior economics major from Uvalde, said he supports Perot because he motivates and appeals to both Republican and Democratic voters.

Eason said Aggies For Perot is an extremely new organization and the group is trying to become unified and organized in order to

garner support for their candidate.

Robert Ray, a senior from Longview, said many people will support Perot because they are dissatisfied with the present choice of candidates.

Ray said that in the past, independent candidates have not had enough monetary support to finish a campaign.

"Perot has the kind of money to be competitive," he said.

Perot is a self-made billionaire who founded Electronic Data Systems in Dallas. Perot has pledged that he will spend up to \$100 million of his personal money if he is on the ballot in all 50 states.

Zaeske said that the campaign for Perot is not a third-party effort.

"It's a network of independent voters here in Texas," he said.

He said he is confident there are plenty of registered voters who will sign the petitions to meet the necessary amount of 55,000.

## Panel discusses social intolerance on campus

By Matari Jones  
The Battalion

Student organizations that relate only to themselves develop an intolerance to other groups on campus, said students participating in a panel discussion on social intolerance Wednesday night.

"(Minority) groups feel like they are not wanted by not being invited to other organization's functions," said Reggie Broaddus, a student participant in the panel.

The discussion was sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. Representatives of the Pan-Hellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Gay and Lesbian Student Services and the Corps of Cadets expressed their views on social bias.

Individuals need motivation to learn about other people's experiences, said Glenda Clausell, vice president of Sigma Gamma Rho.

Clausell said people lack growth when they relate only to their own kind, and as a result they are not prepared to deal with minorities in the real world.

One panelist said it's hard for

some people to come in and make themselves a part of A&M, and minorities have to make a personal effort to relate.

"Lack of communication is the biggest problem," said Corey Redmond, a female member of the Corps of Cadets.

"Ninety-nine percent of the guys in the Corps don't know what fraternities are about," he said.

The panel of students listed interaction with other groups, sensitivity and an increase in communication as solutions to the problem of social intolerance. Clausell said not everyone likes to go and drink at the Dixie Chicken every Thursday night.

"Student orientation programs are not geared toward minorities," Clausell said.

Another panelist said it is up to individuals to begin making an effort toward tolerance.

"Change starts with one person," said Wash Jones, panelist moderator and area coordinator for residence halls. "I am sure someone can influence somebody to reach out and make some changes."