

# The Battalion

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Student Government proposes overhaul amendment

## Referendum urges funding for library

By JULI PHILLIPS

The Battalion

Student Government will ask students to speak loudly about the state of the Sterling C. Evans Library - with their votes.

The Student Senate will place a referendum approving a student fee specifically for funding the library on the student elections ballot next month.

"We have done a lot of research on this," Off-Campus Senator Heather Cameron said at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday night. "Let me tell you, compared to other universities, our library is sad."

Northside Senator Russell Langley proposed an amendment asking the University administration to give the library 33 cents for each dollar students pay through the fee.

"This is an important issue," Langley said.

"Not only does the student body need to contribute, so does the administration."

But, David Brooks, the student who brought this proposal to the Senate, said getting money from the administration is wishful thinking.

**"Let me tell you, compared to other universities, our library is sad."**

*-Heather Cameron  
Off-Campus Senator*

"The Student Senate has no actual power and it can't make anyone do anything," Brooks said. "No matter how hard you lobby, you're not going to get matching funds out of

the University."

Langley also voiced concern that the referendum students will vote on should be very specific so there is no misunderstanding about where the students want the money spent.

"The Regents will have the final say," Langley said. "If the students don't speak clearly, the Regents won't understand what they are saying."

Brooks, however, said additional words would hinder the referendum, not help it.

The amendment must be kept short so students will not get lost in the words, he said. Lengthy wording would jeopardize the referendum because students vote against what they do not understand.

Brooks stressed the immediacy of the referendum.

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## Abortion opponent shoots doctor at clinic during demonstration

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PENSACOLA, Fla. - An abortion opponent shot to death a doctor during a demonstration outside his abortion clinic Wednesday, then calmly surrendered, police and witnesses said.

It was the first fatality ever reported at an abortion protest, abortion-rights activists said.

Dr. David Gunn, 47, was shot in the chest several times as he got out of his car at the Pensacola Women's Medical Services clinic he operated, police Sgt. Jerry Potts said. Gunn died in surgery at a hospital two hours later.

At the time of the shooting, a dozen anti-abortion protesters were gathered in front of the clinic, Potts said.

Michael Frederick Griffin, 31, of Pensacola was arrested and charged with murder, Potts said.

Potts refused to confirm the shooting was abortion-related. "I don't want to speculate, but it occurred while a protest was going on," he said.

During a service Sunday, Griffin had offered a prayer for the doctor at the Whitfield Assembly of God Church outside Pensacola, said John Burt, a lay preacher who led the protest.

"He asked that the congregation pray, and asked that we would agree with him that Dr. Gunn would give his life to Jesus Christ," Burt said. "He wanted him to stop doing things the Bible says is wrong and start doing what the Bible says is right."

Don Treshman, head of the anti-abortion group Rescue Amer-

ica in Houston, said Griffin told the doctor "Don't kill any more babies!" just before the shooting at about 10 a.m. He said several members of Rescue America attended the protest and called him afterward.

The shooting came at a time when abortion-rights activists have reported new tactics by opponents against clinics, such as noxious chemicals. In San Diego this week, anti-abortion activists sprayed five clinics with a foul-smelling substance, police said.

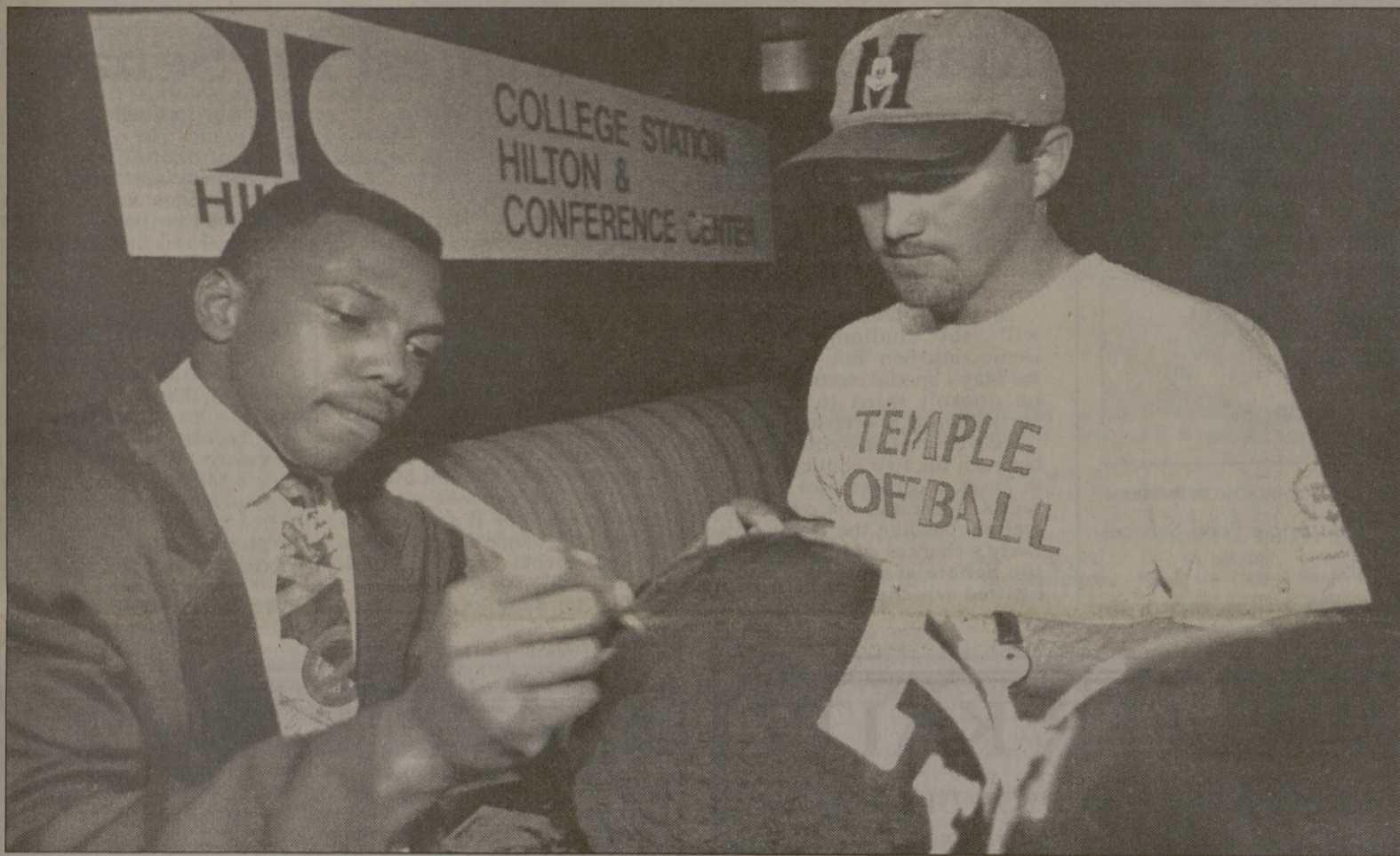
Although clinics have been bombed and abortion providers threatened with death, no one has ever been slain at an abortion protest, according to Sara Pines, a spokeswoman for the National Abortion Rights Action League.

"We call on Congress to immediately enact the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances bill to combat anti-choice terrorism and enact the Freedom of Choice Act to guarantee American women their legal right to choose," NARAL's president, Kate Michelman, said in a statement after the shooting.

Burt said Griffin occasionally participated in his demonstrations but never exhibited any tendency toward violence. He said he had gone to church with Burt on Sunday when Wednesday's protest was discussed. Griffin had said he would attend but Burt said he didn't see him until after the shooting.

Burt emphasized that his loosely knit ecumenical group had not intended any violence when it entered the complex Wednesday morning.

## NFL Aggies sign autographs



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Aggie alumnus Kevin Smith of the Dallas Cowboys signs autographs for James Jackson at the Hilton on Wednesday night. About 15

Aggie NFL players were there for an autograph/photo session for approximately 50 eager fans.

## Foreign laws plague spring breakers

By SHELIA VELA

The Battalion

Texas A&M students traveling abroad over spring break need to be aware of the laws of the country they will visit, said an official with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs.

Nyda Budig, public affairs officer for the bureau, said "Last spring in Tijuana and other neighboring places, there could have been approximately 100 students at any one time during the week who were arrested for violating laws regarding the use of alcohol in public because they were unaware of the country's laws."

Because other countries have different laws regarding drug and alcohol use, a student may think he or she is not breaking the law when they are, she said. The student may even find themselves spending the night in jail.

"It is an embarrassment and inconvenience for a student's parents to be notified that their son or daughter is in jail overseas," Budig said.

Many students assume that because they are American citizens they are protected by the U.S. government when traveling abroad, she said.

"The U.S. Constitution doesn't go with you when you travel," Budig said, "just because you're American does not mean you can get out of going to jail."

Attorney Rick Powell, assistant coordinator of legal services in the student attorney's office, said students must be careful of their actions when traveling into foreign countries.

"Students need to think about what they are doing, so they can come back in one piece," he said.

Powell said he has advised students for traffic accidents and illegal drinking citations abroad.

"Students of illegal age should stay away from liquor because having it in your car or just holding it for a friend does get you in trouble, too," he said.

Budig also warned students to be cautious of others trying to get them to carry packages or to drive a car across the border of another country. If these items contain illegal drugs, the student may be held responsible for possessing them, she said.

Budig said, "Getting caught and convicted of drug possession could ruin a student's future for college and employment."

Linda Taylor, of the office of the Texas A&M University System's general counsel, said students should watch out for their money, cameras and passports while traveling in another country.

"Make sure you are very careful to keep up with your passports or you may not get out of that country and back into the U.S.," Taylor said.

## Stop the press!



MARK YBARRA/The Battalion

After making a comment about the appearance of another person's room, Mark Nelson, a junior chemistry major from Weatherford, returned after class to find his own room redecorated.

## Police arrest 2 A&M cadets linked to ax-handle attack

By JEFF GOSMANO

The Battalion

Two members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets were arrested in connection with an attack that occurred in the College Station Police Department parking lot Tuesday morning.

University Police Director Bob Wiatt confirmed that Andrew Scott Wlazlinski, 18, and Jonathan Michael Thornberry, 19, were arrested early Tuesday by College Station police in front of the University Center Parking garage.

Both were released on bail from the Brazos County jail.

According to a police report, Michael Scott Fagan, a 22-year-old from Austin, was followed from a College Station club to the CSPD parking lot by two white males. The report said Fagan was assaulted by the two men and attacked with an ax handle.

Wiatt said a University officer saw two men outside of Dorm 8 who fit the description given over police radio.

The officer immediately called CSPD and arrested the men on charges of aggravated assault.

If convicted, they face a punishment of 2-10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.

## Student Gov't bids on the rise

Election filings drawing 'steady flow,' Aggie senators say

By JULI PHILLIPS

The Battalion

Filings for the Student Government elections are going smoothly and drawing a great response, student senators said.

Business administration senators Tom Delaney and Amy Jenkins said there has been a steady flow of applicants for student body president, class presidents and senators.

Jenkins said, "There have been a lot of students coming in. Mostly students have been filing for senatorial positions because there are more openings."

Delaney said although filings do not close until Friday, students should not wait that long.

"I wouldn't recommend students waiting until the last minute to file, since you have to have a certain amount of signatures to get on the ballot," Delaney said.

Students filing for student body president must

turn in 200 signatures by Friday to get on the ballot. Students running for other positions must turn in 50 signatures.

A small fee is also required for a place on the ballot: \$15 for student body president, \$10 for class presidents and \$5 for all other positions.

Delaney and Jenkins speculated that the Yell Leader and student body president elections will be the most interesting to watch.

The senators said they could not give out any names, but Student Body President Steve Beller said six students have filed for the student body president position.

A mandatory meeting for all candidates will be held Sunday. After the meeting, names of the candidates will be released.

Student Government will accept election applications, fees and signatures in Room 133 of the Student Services Building until 5 p.m. Friday.

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