

# The Battalion

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## Gay-insulting poem plagues College Republican meeting

By KEVIN LINDSTROM

The Battalion

The president of the Texas A&M College Republicans denied any knowledge of a poem degrading gays in the military that was passed around the chapter's Tuesday meeting with city council and student body president candidates.

Mark Clements, a local businessman and a former member of the Sam Houston State University chapter of College Republicans, distributed the poem along with a letter discussing actions by democratic congressmen before the meeting.

Clements said he attached the poem to his letter to amuse the people who would see it.

"I wanted to show the poem to the

people at the meeting because I thought it would humor them and I believe they hold the same opinion as I do - "Gays should not be in the military," he said. "I believe that the gay issue is just another part of the social agenda of political correctness."

Phil Meuret, president of the Texas A&M chapter of College Republicans, said he would have asked Clements not to distribute the poem if he had known it was attached to the letter.

Meuret said he had been given a copy of the letter three weeks ago, but it did not include the poem and he had not read it.

"We agree gays should not be in the military, but no group should be made fun of," he said. "I regret that it was dis-

tributed, but it was an open meeting and, even if I had known about it, the only thing I could have done was ask him not to pass it out."

**"I believe that the gay issue is just another part of the social agenda of political correctness."**

-Mark Clements

College Station councilman Jim Gardner, who attended the meeting, said he was not aware of the poem.

"I guess that is one way of editorializing (gays in the military)," he said. "I think it is a cheap shot."

The other city council member candidates attending the meeting could not be reached for comment.

The following is excerpt is the first four lines of the 16-line poem: "Falling fairies from the sky. I broke a nail, oh, I could cry. Don't you like how my tushy sways? We are the fags of the Queen Berets."

The poem continues with various references to sexual acts.

Clements said he received the poem from a person he met in passing and does not remember the person's name.

Kim Rettig, president of the A&M chapter of Gay and Lesbian Student Services, said that kind of literature encourages hatred.

"That's pathetic," she said. "It shows

the immaturity within the Republican Party on campus, used to facilitate ignorance and fear."

The meeting was organized as a forum for candidates for the student and city council elections. Student body president candidates Jason Arbaugh and Jimmy Stathatos attended the meeting and asked for the support of the audience.

Both said they did not know of the poem until informed by The Battalion.

Arbaugh said, "Whoever wrote that has the right to express their opinion, but it is sad that people are still stereotyping others."

Stathatos said, "That poem was very insensitive and closed-minded. I don't have a lot of respect for him (Clements). It was blatantly unacceptable."

## Ku Klux Klan to hold April 24 rally in B-CS

Press release invites 'white public'

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan will hold a rally April 24 in College Station for those who "stand for conservative values . . . of this once-Christian nation."

Grand Dragon Michael Lowe said the KKK will appear on behalf of requests from members who are A&M students. He said about a dozen A&M students are members of the KKK.

"We had three rallies in February, and some members from Texas A&M were with us who suggested we have a rally in College Station," he said.

Lowe said State Rep. Ron Wilson's involvement with the University inspired the KKK to target College Station.

"He (Wilson) made fun of white people who asked questions when he spoke to the A&M campus," Lowe said.

In a press release to The Battalion Wednesday, the organization cited gays in the military, Wilson's criticism of A&M, Cultural Diversity Week, free speech for whites and the decline of moral values in U.S. society as reasons for the public to attend the rally.

Accompanying the release was a copy of a cartoon depicting Wilson as a black dog barking at the heels of a Texas A&M Corps of Cadet member's boot.

This cartoon, which appeared in The Battalion last fall, was a reaction to Wilson's disapproval of an A&M fraternity's "jungle party" at which pledges painted their faces black.

Steve O'Brien, Battalion editor in chief, said the release did not place the cartoon in its proper context. In addition, the newspaper never gave the KKK permission to use the cartoon, which is copyrighted material, he said.

"If the KKK had contacted us about permission to use the cartoon, I would have opposed the idea because the cartoon was never intended to be racist," O'Brien said. "And I think it's obvious the KKK is a racist group."

Lowe said the cartoon of Wilson was placed on the KKK's letter because it was the center of so much controversy.

"Everyone has seen this picture, and most people reacted to it as if it were a joke," Lowe said. "But Ron Wilson made so much of it."

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## Student body elections continue today



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Troy Mills, a junior industrial distribution major from Rockdale, and Becky Irby, a sophomore English major from Duncanville, share a ballot as they cast their votes at the library in student elections

Wednesday. Polling officials said that there seem to be more students voting this semester than in past semesters. Elections continue until 6 p.m. Thursday.

## 'The Child is King'

CBS medical analyst promotes children's health care

By STEPHANIE PATTILLO

The Battalion

America needs to follow the Swedish motto of health care, "The Child is King," said CBS news medical correspondent Dr. Bob Arnot Wednesday night.

Arnot spoke about keeping children healthy at a three-day conference sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Health care and food are not privileges but rights, he said. "Without adequate nutrition,



Arnot

children won't have a chance to learn their ABC's or read adequately," he said.

Arnot talked about the short comings of America's current health care system.

The lack of preventative health care is one of the country's greatest problems, he said.

"We need to take the child and make him first by providing

prenatal care, well-baby care and immunizations for all," Arnot said.

Currently, one in five women don't receive prenatal care.

The threat of health care costs is also a problem that needs attention, he said.

"We need to look at the individual problems and fix them," Arnot said. He proposed to take the two to three hundred billion dollars of waste in the health care system and pay for preventative care for young children.

"We can do this without socialized care," he said.

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## Death row inmate protests sentence with hunger strike

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE - Convicted killer Gary Graham, sentenced to die for a murder committed when he was just 17 years old, said Wednesday he was on a hunger strike to protest his impending execution and what he believes is racism in the administering of the death penalty.

"What I hope to gain is draw attention to the situation and hopefully people will stir the community and conscious-minded individuals in general to stand up and begin demanding the dismantling of basically two systems of criminal justice, one for the blacks and one for the whites," Graham, who has an April 29 execution date, said.

Graham, 29, who is black, was convicted of killing an Arizona man, Bobby Grant Lambert, during a scuffle at a Houston supermarket May 13, 1981. Lambert, who was white, was shot and robbed of change from a \$100 bill he used to make a purchase. Untouched were \$6,000 in \$100 bills he was carrying.

At his sentencing following the trial, Graham cited his youth and his troubled family history as mitigating evidence that pointed to life in

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## Student body elections today; I.D. required

Students can vote today from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the MSC, Sterling C. Evans Library, Blocker Building, Kleburg Center and Zachry Engineering Center.

Voting is open to all students including graduating seniors. Students need to bring their student i.d. with them to vote.

The election results will be announced at midnight Thursday in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue.

## Oldest Aggie celebrates 105 years

'Old Army' alumnus recalls life as a band freshman in 1911

By MARY KUJAWA

The Battalion

Ossie W. Greene, class of 1915, once led the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band as its captain. He reportedly is the oldest living Aggie and still has fond memories of his days at Texas A&M University.

Greene, who recently celebrated his 105th birthday, arrived at Texas A&M in 1911 at the age of 23. He joined the band as a private in his freshman year.

Greene rose to the position of corporal in the band in his sophomore year and to first sergeant in his junior year. He played first baritone.

"We were limited to a total of 30 (in the band)," Greene said. "But we came up two short, and there was only 28 the year I graduated. So we had a 28-man band."

As a senior, he assumed the role of captain, one of the highest offices in the college band. This gave the seniors in the band an equal standing with the seniors in the companies. Band officers were chosen

on their ability to govern the men.

It also was during his senior year that the band was moved to its own building.

"The whole band as a unit was transferred to this one building," he said. "It was a very small dormitory, and it was kind of off to itself. They put the band over there so they wouldn't make so much noise practicing."

Band members were paid a nominal salary per month.

"I think the first horn got \$8. It seems like it was \$8, \$6 and \$4," Greene said.

The band played at games, athletic rallies, military ceremonies and concerts.

Greene said the band often would go on tour to entertain or to educate. They played at halls, high schools and small colleges.

"We never went out of Texas," he said. "We mostly went to small towns." "Somebody in the

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Ossie W. Greene '15 celebrates his 105th birthday last November 18 with his daughter Jane March (far left) and Association of Former Students Councilman-At-Large James G. Kimrey '58 (far right). The two other persons are unidentified.

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