

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 93 No. 97 (8 pages)

1893 - A Century of Service to Texas A&M - 1993

Friday, February 18, 1994

## Valentine passions erupt into Tulsa shooting spree

The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — A woman, who was one of six people wounded when a disgruntled employee opened fire in a fast-food restaurant, had repeatedly rejected the man's advances, but never thought he would react violently, her mother said Wednesday.

Marcus Muriel Thompson, 26, was being held on six complaints of shooting with intent to kill after a shooting spree at a Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers restaurant. Three co-workers and three high school students were injured Tuesday.

Thompson allegedly began shooting after arguing with his manager about having to clock in early. Police say he first shot Ericka Osborn, 19, who had rebuffed him a day earlier just minutes before she received a dozen red roses from her boyfriend for Valentine's Day.

"We had a talk about him a week ago," her mother, Susan Davis, said at St. Francis Hospital, where Osborn was in serious condition with a gunshot wound to the back. "She said he had asked her out, and she repeatedly told him no. But she didn't expect something like this. There's no way you could."

Thompson was scheduled to make his first court appearance at 2 p.m. in Tulsa County District Court. Police said it could be days before their report could be compiled, but Chief Prosecutor Tom Gillert said charges likely would be filed Thursday.

"This is not exactly a whodunit," Gillert said. "We should be able to have enough evidence to file charges pretty quick."

Hospital officials said Wendy's employee Doug Bowen, 37, was in serious condition with a gunshot wound to the head, and employee Richard Goldbrick, 47, was in serious condition; student Stacy Burgess, 15, was in good, stable condition with five wounds to the abdomen and student Heather Rowe, 16, was in good condition with a wound to the leg. Christina Ferris, 16, was treated and released.

About two dozen counselors were available at East Central High, where students were banned from leaving campus for lunch under a new district-wide policy that Superintendent John Thompson put into effect just hours after the shooting.

Counselors stopped by every classroom during the first hour. Principal Tim Cameron said about 20 students who saw the shooting spree were spending more time with the counselors.

"We have a couple who were there

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## Gage cites reputation for high retention rate

Interim president praises campus groups

By Melissa Jacobs

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Texas A&M University has a higher retention rate than any other university in the state, Interim President E. Dean Gage said.

Gage said A&M's reputation contributes to the high retention rate, and the University is recognized for the overall prestige of its academic programs.

Gage also praised A&M's 700 student organizations.

"A&M is not in a major metropolitan area, and the campus becomes a kind of Aggie family," he said.

James P. Morgan, speaker of the Faculty Senate, agrees.

"We try to make sure that people are given the chance to fulfill their academic abilities, and we have a fairly good advising system for students who get into academic trouble," he said.

Don Carter, registrar for the Office of Admissions and Records, said prospective students visiting the A&M campus see that students are courteous and polite.

"We have a good support system," Carter said.

"Many student organizations and the students have the perception that we care about them."

The University's high retention rate also affects the number of slots available for incoming freshmen.

Since more students stay here to complete their degree instead of dropping out or transferring to another university, fewer freshmen can be admitted to Texas A&M.

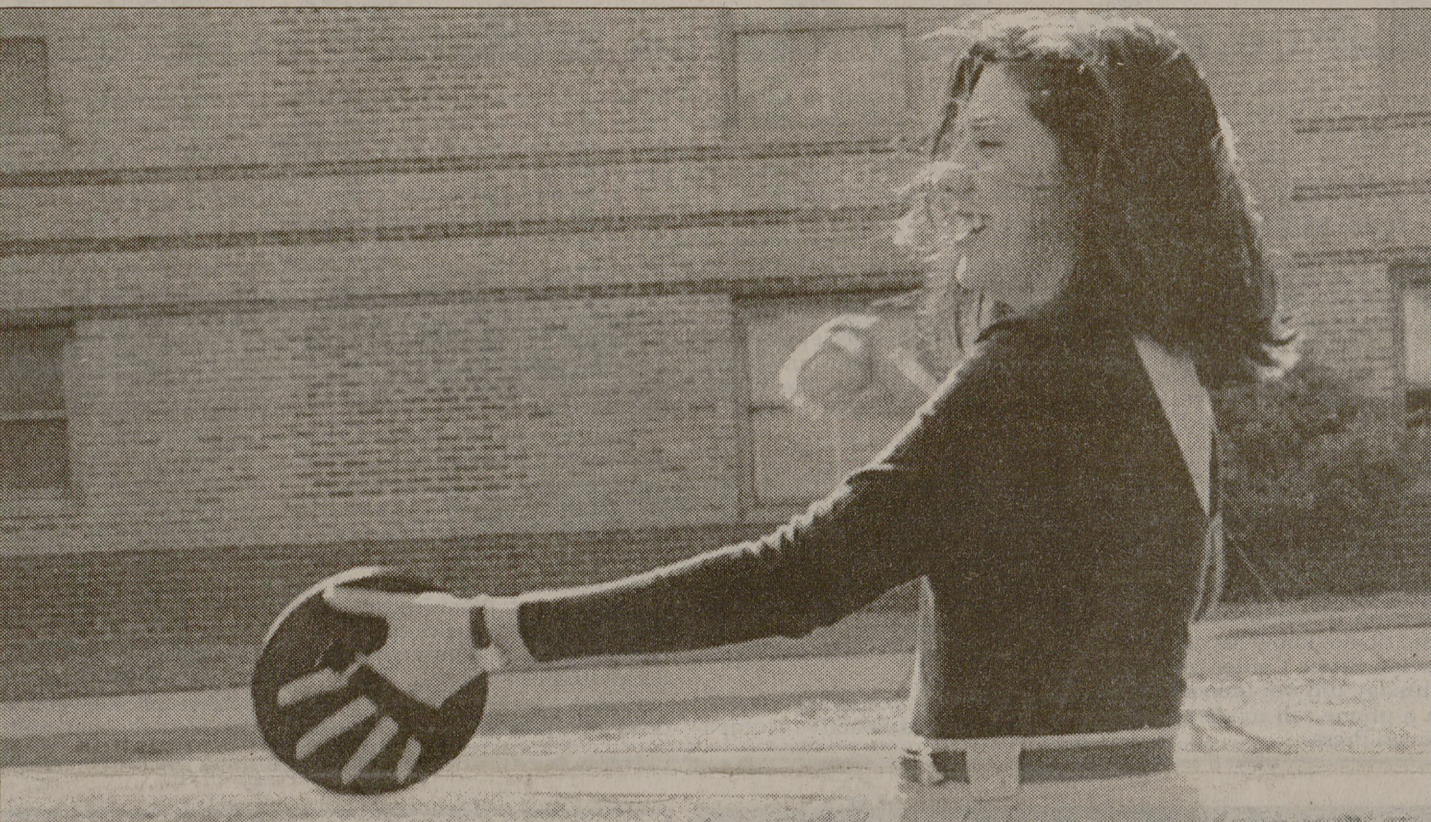
"It creates enormous pressure because of the high number of applicants," he said.

But Morgan said A&M's high retention rate does not affect a student's decision to attend A&M.

Although many students complete their studies at A&M, many take longer than the traditional four years.

Only 25 percent of A&M students graduate in four years, according to the Office of Admissions and Records.

## Fair weather sports



Amy Browning/The Battalion

Kathy Perez, a sophomore education major from San Antonio, enjoys the sun Thursday afternoon by playing catch with

some friends on the Quad. Thursday's high was in the mid-70s, and warm temperatures are expected to continue today.

## No make up planned for bad-weather day off

Texas A&M University students will probably not have to make up last week's bad weather day, said Interim President E. Dean Gage Thursday.

"The day will most likely not be made up," Gage said. "It would be difficult to do, and I don't think we'll make up the day."

Due to freezing rain and sleet, A&M classes were canceled last Wednesday night, all day Thursday, and until 10 a.m. Friday. Thursday morning.

There was speculation that the days might be made up either on reading day or at the end of this semester.

But an official in the Office of Academic Affairs said there is no policy about making up days in the Texas A&M rules and regulations.

Although high school students in Texas are sometimes forced to make up days missed because of bad weather or other reasons, the official said colleges and universities do not necessarily have to make up missed days.

## Faculty debates Japanese trade policy

By Eloise Flint

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Texas A&M University faculty members have mixed views on the Clinton Administration's threat to impose sanctions on Japanese imports into the U.S.

Japan currently has a \$60 billion trade surplus with the United States.

Kerry Cooper, executive director for International Business in the College of Business, said Japan has a production capacity geared toward exporting.

"It is difficult for them to respond to our desire," he said.

The Japanese prime minister is presently trying to restructure the economy and Cooper said this may not be the right time to push the trade issue.

"This does require strong pressure, but at the present time with the political uncertainty in Japan, we wouldn't want the United States to jeopardize the Japanese prime minister," he said.

Now that the Cold War is over, the issue of opening domestic trade markets is surfacing because there isn't as much concern for foreign policy,

Cooper said.

"The problem the Clinton Administration sees is how long there has been a trade surplus and the magnitude of it," Cooper said. "The U.S. has been letting nature take its course, waiting for the surplus to come down, and it hasn't happened."

Dr. Thomas R. Saving, director of the Private Enterprise Research Center at Texas A&M, does not agree with Clinton's plan.

"This hard line position we are taking with the Japanese is not the right approach," Saving said. "We benefit from the Japanese sending us products and, even if they are 'dumping' their products, it is still to our benefit."

Saving said Japan is selling products in the United States at different prices than in Japan, which constitutes "dumping."

But Larry Wolken, a finance lecturer, said the trade deficit is a result of population differences.

"We have two times the amount of people, and if you look at it on a per-person basis we enjoy a surplus," he said.

Wolken said this causes an unfair balance.

## Threat of sanctions causes Japan to trim record surplus

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Under the threat of U.S. sanctions, the government decided Thursday to develop a wide-ranging package of measures to trim Japan's record trade surplus and possibly head off a trade war.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and top trade negotiators agreed to focus on four areas — promotion of imports and foreign investment, deregulation, tougher anti-monopoly enforcement, and fairer government purchasing.

The decision reflects growing anxiety in Japan over U.S. threats of trade retaliation following a breakdown in talks in Washington last week on reducing the two countries' trade imbalance.

"The ball is in Japan's court," said the chief government spokesman, Masayoshi Takemura.

He said the government needs to plan the package carefully because it will "lead to a change in style and structure of the

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## Aggie accountants to offer free tax filing

By Angela Neaves

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The Accounting Society and the Texas A&M chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an accounting honors fraternity, will offer free tax assistance and electronic tax filing through April 15.

Kline Driver, coordinator for the event and member of Beta Alpha Psi, said the service will be offered in 501 Blocker Building Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and until 6 p.m. on Thursday.

"There are other sites in Bryan-College Station offering the free service," Driver said. "But we are the only ones offering electronic filing. We are also offering electronic depositing into checking and savings accounts."

An income tax return check may be expected within three weeks if filed electronically and within eight weeks if filed by mail.

Driver said the service is available to anyone in the community.

James Benjamin, head of the accounting department, said the service offers two major benefits.

"Primarily the students who use the service will benefit from

the training and knowledge of members of Beta Alpha Psi," Benjamin said. "They are good students and well-trained in the area. Secondly, refunds will be received quickly because of electronic filing and at no cost."

Clair Nixon, a professor of accounting, said the service is valuable because it is offered at no cost and because it is educational.

"Beta Alpha Psi will not only file taxes, they will also take time to review the taxes with people and explain how income is taxed," Nixon said. "When students get out and begin to earn money, they will have an idea about how the tax system works."

Cheryl Rodriguez, district manager of H&R Block, which charges \$74 to electronically file 1040 EZ tax forms, said there is no danger in having students file the forms as long as they make sure their parents are not claiming them as dependents.

"As long as parents are not claiming the students, there is no danger in the free electronic service," Rodriguez said. "If the form being used is more complicated than the 1040 EZ, I would suggest finding someone else to help you."

## Silent artillery brings about negotiations in Sarajevo

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Whole convoys of Bosnian Serb artillery withdrew from the hills around Sarajevo on Thursday in compliance with a NATO ultimatum to pull back or be bombed.

The pullout reported by U.N. monitors followed a pledge by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to meet NATO's Sunday deadline. Karadzic made the concession under pressure from Russia.

"We do think the war in Sarajevo is finally over," Karadzic told reporters after meeting with Vitaly Churkin, Russia's special envoy, in Pale, the Bosnian Serb stronghold southeast of Sarajevo.

Lt. Col Bill Aikman, a U.N. spokesman in the shell-shattered Bosnian capital, wouldn't specify what sort of equipment was being withdrawn, but said "we're talking heavy weapons."

"Literally they're moving out in convoys, not in individual vehicles," he said. "Clearly there's a major withdrawal going on."

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