

Abortions not given in B-CS

Women wanting to terminate pregnancy must go elsewhere

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students seeking abortions must travel to other Texas cities because there are no abortion facilities in Bryan or College Station.

Dyann Santos, clinic manager of Brazos County Planned Parenthood, said that the clinic refers patients who want abortions to the Houston Planned Parenthood. The patients receive follow-up care at the Brazos County Planned Parenthood, she said.

"This is a conservative community," she said. "There are no physicians here willing to do abortions."

Dr. David R. David, a Bryan family physician who specializes in obstetrics, said he does not perform abortions because of his religious beliefs.

"My religious views are that I think they are wrong, so I don't do them," he said.

David said he refers patients seeking abortions to physicians in Houston or Dallas.

"It would be wrong for me to push my views on other people," he said. "If a woman comes here for an abortion, I make sure she has thought it through. If she has, then I refer her to a competent doctor."

David said physicians should have the

"Just as a woman has a choice, as a doctor, I also should have a choice."

—Dr. David R. David,
family physician

right to chose if they want to do abortions, just as women have the right to chose to have an abortion.

"I'm not saying we should take the right away from women," he said. "Just as a woman has a choice, as a doctor, I also

should have a choice. Doctors should not be forced to perform abortions."

The Bryan-College Station community is not the only one without abortion facilities.

According to a survey by the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), the number of physicians willing to perform abortions is decreasing in nearly every state.

In Texas, 102 physicians performed abortions in 1985 and by 1988 that number had decreased to 91.

NARAL research has shown that women cannot obtain abortions in 83 percent of the counties in the United States.

Sherry Paul, director of the Brazos Valley Crisis Pregnancy Center said she is pleased that there are no abortion facilities in Bryan or College Station.

"We don't see the lack of abortion facilities in the area as a negative, we see it as a positive," she said.

Pat Cornelison, chief executive officer of Brazos Valley Medical Center, said the public has not shown disapproval with the absence of abortion facilities.

"No one has expressed problems to me that we don't do it," she said.

Various birth controls offered to students

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

College students have a variety of birth control options available to them, but many health care providers recommend abstinence.

Dr. Kenneth Dirks, director of student health services, said that abstinence is the best form of birth control, because it is 100 percent effective.

"We recommend abstinence to unmarried patients," he said. "The best option is abstinence until they are ready to start a family."

Dyann Santos, clinic manager of the Planned Parenthood of Brazos County, said although abstinence is an excellent form of birth control, it is not al-

ways an option.

"It is a good method," she said, "but most of the clients we see are already sexually active and are looking for birth control."

Sherry Paul, director of the Brazos Valley Crisis Pregnancy Center said she encourages people to abstain from sex until marriage to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases.

Planned Parenthood offers many forms of birth control at government subsidized rates.

Santos said that a complete exam and four packs of birth control pills cost between \$20 and \$25.

It also provides condoms and

Please see **Options**, Page 6



Jennie Mayer/The Battalion

Studying 'cultures'

Catherine Devine, a senior Bio-Medical major from Nacogdoches, studies a culture she is growing in biology lab.

Hate crime reports inaccurate, unbalanced

Hundreds of cases go unreported by officers each year

AUSTIN (AP) — Hundreds of hate crimes have been reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety since 1992.

What no one knows is how many went unreported by peace officers.

Minority and gay rights advocates point to the fact that the San Antonio Police Department, for example, hasn't classified any offenses as hate crimes in reports to the state.

The Bexar County sheriff's office also reported no hate crimes in 1992 and 1993, the Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday.

"Obviously, that's not true," said Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The reporting, to me, appears to be a bit skewed," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

Federal and state laws define a hate crime as any crime motivated by bias or hatred,

whether it is a serious felony such as murder or a common misdemeanor like vandalism.

Any disregard of a hate crime may mean the perpetrator does not receive the proper punishment.

A Texas law passed in 1993 increases the penalties for crimes if they are hate-motivated.

Law enforcement agencies in Texas have been required to report hate crimes to the DPS for two years and four months.

In 1993, 421 were reported, compared with 480 in 1992.

But DPS officials acknowledge that the reporting has been lopsided and imprecise, the American-Statesman reported.

"You're going to find certain parts of the state have problems," said Charlene Cain, program administrator of the uniform crime reporting unit at DPS.

"I would say we need another year or two on this (data collection) until we start doing a lot of comparisons," she said.

She said DPS already has worked with two law enforcement agencies to try to correct reporting problems.

San Antonio was one of

them. The other was the Tarrant County sheriff's department, which was reporting incidents in 1992 that did not meet the hate crimes criteria, DPS officials said.

Sgt. David Ramos, a spokesman for the San Antonio Police Department, said his agency "had a problem with the way we reported. I don't really know how much hate crime we have. I don't think it was extensive."

He said 1994 San Antonio crime statistics should show some hate crimes in that city.

San Antonio officers have been sent to DPS training on hate crimes reporting, and DPS officials visited San Antonio in March.

The highest number of hate crimes reported in Texas in 1993 was by the Fort Worth Police Department, with 60.

Fort Worth police attribute their high number to intensive initial training followed by weekly reminders during officers' roll call.

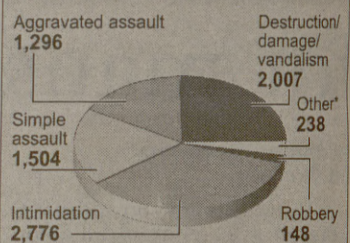
Such training is vital to proper reporting, officials say.

The police, not the victim, make the final determination of whether to report an offense as a hate crime.

FBI report on hate crimes

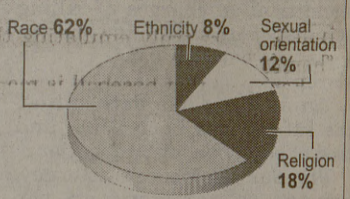
The FBI recorded more than 7,600 incidents of hate-motivated intimidation, vandalism and assaults in the United States in 1993.

Number of offenses classified as hate crimes in 1993:



*The category "other" includes murder, forcible rape, arson, burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and other miscellaneous crimes against persons or property.

Hate crimes by bias motivation in 1993:



Houston expects more from NAFTA

Businesses fear they are getting short-changed by pact

HOUSTON (AP) — Six months after the North American Free Trade Agreement took effect, some Houston promoters are wondering if other Texas cities are getting too many of the pact's benefits.

It first seemed as though Houston would have no trouble cashing in on NAFTA since the city is home to the Port of Houston and Intercontinental Airport.

But some Houstonians now are worried about where the NAFTA proceeds are going.

The latest concern is the so-called "NAFTA Superhighway," and whether it will pass through Houston or Dallas.

Detractors say if the past is

any indication, Mexican truckers won't be coming through Houston on their way to Canada.

"I think Dallas is kicking our rear end," former City Councilman Vince Ryan, who is running for Harris County judge, was quoted in Sunday's editions of The Houston Post.

Apart from a lagging lobbying effort on the highway fight, Ryan and others point to Dallas' snag of the crucial NAFTA Labor Secretariat — a federal office that will oversee the treaty's labor aspects.

And the North American Development Bank and a new Environmental Protection Agency border office went to San Antonio and El Paso, respectively.

Some critics believe Houston lost the edge in those fights because business leaders and politicians were poorly organized and outgunned by the competition.

Others contend the NAFTA prizes were given to those cities for the support they gave to the treaty.

Now, the new fight concerns a complicated, multi-level struggle for freeway dollars and designations.

Several Houston leaders acknowledge they started a bit late on lobbying efforts, but they claim a new, aggressive approach to what may be the biggest NAFTA plum yet.

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School seals lockers, bans backpacks

Junior high school attempts to alleviate crowding and crime

DAYTON, Texas (AP) — The lockers are being bolted shut and backpacks are being banned next month at Wilson Junior High School in an attempt to ease crowding and campus crime.

Instead of having to haul around textbooks, students will be given a set to keep at home and classrooms will contain another set for use at the Liberty County school about 40 miles northeast of Houston.

Principal Larry Wadzeck hopes the plan will lessen congestion during class changes; cut tardiness; reduce hiding places for guns, drugs and other contraband; eliminate locker thefts; decrease the number of lost books; and help forgetful students.

Students will need to carry writing material, library books and possibly jackets during the school day, he said.

Dayton voters have twice rejected issuing

bonds to pay for projects to provide more space. Though bolting the lockers won't provide more space, Wadzeck believes it will ease the hallway crowding since students won't be huddled in hallways around lockers between classes.

"It's not a panacea, but it's a step in the right direction," he said.

As for the backpacks, he said he believes the only useful purpose they served was to carry books. But pupils, he said, carried everything from contraband to video.

Wadzeck said he has heard no parent complaints about the plan, which takes effect Aug. 16 and is similar to locker-elimination policies at some other area schools.

Horace Mann Middle School in Baytown and Huntsville Junior High stopped using lockers last year. Huntsville also banned backpacks; Horace Mann is studying the idea.

The Dayton school board's decision to plunk down an additional \$25,000 in local tax money to pay for duplicate books also comes at a time when the state has announced it is short \$100 million to pay for updated textbooks.

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