

Tattoos still making their mark on students

Jeremy Keddie
BATTALION

Michael C. Schwertner, sophomore major, sat in the chair at Tattoo Consortium and waited for the signs on Texas Avenue. His tattoo, a tribal design, was halfway through. It doesn't hurt now, but it did at first, Schwertner said. Schwertner had to first decide what he wanted, where he wanted it and how much he wanted to spend. He also had to think about having a life-long piece of art on his arm, as tattoos can only be removed surgically. After he made his decisions, his arm was shaved, scrubbed with alcohol, and stenciled. James Stevenson, a tattoo artist at Tattoo Consortium, said he worked on Schwertner's tattoo that pain caused by the outlining what most people complain about, rather than the color. He also said tattooing on fleshy areas is more uncomfortable. Schwertner said it felt like someone was pinching him at first, but during the outlining it was like someone was jabbing a

needle into him. And that is exactly what happened. Michael C, a tattoo artist at Tattoo Consortium, said the needle works like a cross between a quill and a sewing machine, driving one to two millimeters through the epidermis into the top of the dermis. This process results in a permanent mark which stretches with the growth of your skin. He said the most popular tattoos for college students are cartoon characters, Taz the Tasmanian Devil and Marvin the Martian, and the most popular place is on women's lower abdomens and on men's ankles. But he said he has seen tattoos on faces, and described those individuals as freaks. "As a professional artists I believe things should be coverable," Michael C said. Michael C said that tattoos came to the United States in the 1700's from the South Seas to California and Boston, Mass., and were then viewed as traveling side freak shows. Over time though, he said tattooing has become more popular and has yet to reach its peak. "Five years ago, college students who got tattoos were seen as radicals," he said. "Now you see people in the Corps and fraternities with them." He said college students make



Photo by Carrie Thompson/The Battalion
Michael C, a tattoo artist, applies a sun tattoo on Marc Mayo, a senior marketing major.

up 60 percent of his customers, but they only make up 30 percent of his revenues. With the rise in popularity of tattooing, the government is stepping in with regulations. Since last March, the tattooing industry is overseen by the state health department. The state has made an age requirement of 18, requires sterilization of equipment and prohibits tattooing individuals who are intoxicated. "I never thought there could be a lawsuit over this," Michael C said. "Maybe a few upset people would come in and try to bust me up." State law also ensures the sterilization of equipment. Needles and ink tubes are heated at 215 degrees Celsius for at least 35 minutes with 15 pounds of pressure applied, a process referred to as auto-encapsulation. "There is no fluid-to-fluid transfer from an individual to another," Michael C said. As Schwertner's tattoo was being finished up, Rebecca Ramirez, a freshman civil engineering major, waited. She chose a rose. "I've always wanted one, but today I'm going to do it," she said. "I don't think my parents would have let me while I was at home." Both are expected to be a bit sore today.

A&M football games heard worldwide

Shortwave radio provides broadcast link to the world, solution to television ban

Anas Ben-Musa
BATTALION

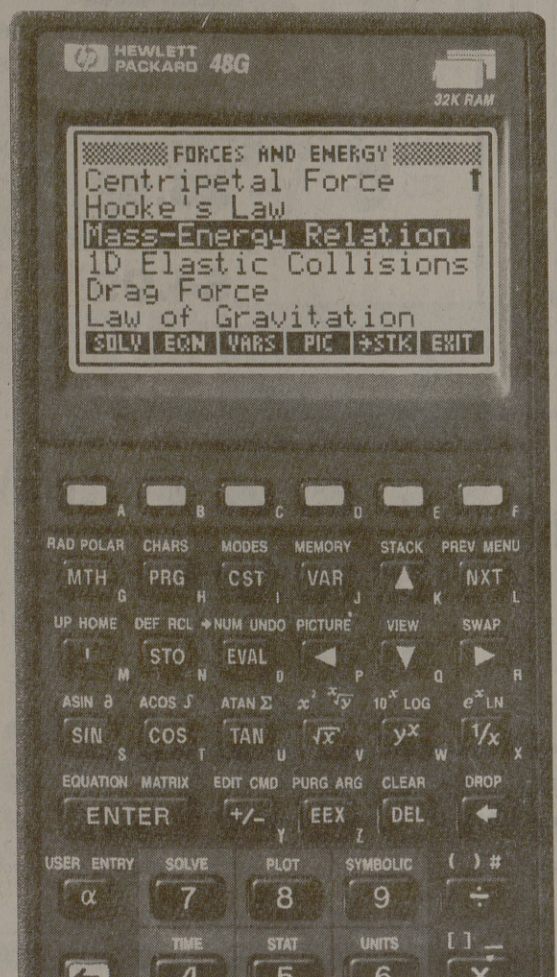
With the Texas A&M football team on probation, bone-crushing hits by the Redneck Crew or blazing touchdowns by those running back speedsters won't be seen on television. But A&M fans, students and alumni around the world will still be able to listen to every A&M football game thanks to Joseph M.

Costello and Dave South, "The Voice of Texas A&M," broadcasting for the third straight year on WRNO Worldwide. Anyone with short wave radio can listen in on the game anywhere in the world. Costello originally started broadcasting the New Orleans Saints football games several years ago. "LSU heard about it and decided they wanted their games to be broadcasted too," Costello said. Soon afterwards, Dave South inquired

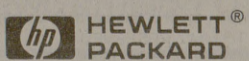
about short-wave broadcasting, and for the last three years with Costello, they have been broadcasting every game. Contrary to its name, short-wave frequencies are stronger than FM or AM frequencies. Chris Baur, an employee of Radio Shack, said not many universities are broadcasting on shortwave length. But Baur said, "There are many people who are happy that A&M is doing this." Costello, owner and general manager of WRNO, said all day games can be heard on 15.420 MHZ in the 19 meter band and all night games can be heard on 7.355 MHZ in the 41 meter band.

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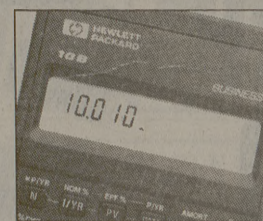
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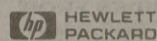
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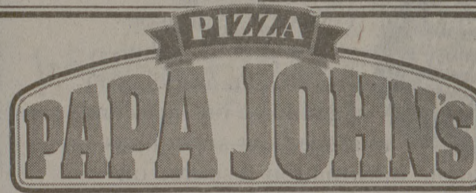
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