

STUDENT ELECTION RUN-OFFS

Run-offs for student body president and other offices will begin today with absentee voting.

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INTERVIEW WITH DURAN DURAN

With a cover album, *Thank You*, hitting the stores this week, Duran Duran keyboardist Nick Rhodes talks about coming out of the '80s and into the '90s.

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THE BATTALION

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A&M professors study violence in the workplace

Concern over workplace violence heightens after five Corpus Christi refinery workers were fatally shot by a former employee.

By Lynn Cook
THE BATTALION

A former employee of a refinery inspection company walked into the company's main office, killed five employees and then turned the gun on himself Monday in Corpus Christi.

The Houston Chronicle reported that a former co-worker said James Daniel Simpson was an intelligent man who just didn't fit in.

Violence in the workplace is a growing trend in America.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, released this past October by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, stated that in 1992 homicide was the second leading cause of death, behind transportation-related injuries, in the nation's workplace.

A recent Wall Street Journal article reported the Northwestern National Life Insurance Co. found 2.2 million workers had been attacked in the workplace in a one year period, from 1992 to 1993.

Dr. Ricky Griffin, professor of management and director of the Center for Human Resource Management in Texas A&M's College of Business Administration and

Graduate School of Business; Dr. Anne O'Leary-Kelly, assistant professor of management; and David Glew, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Management, will be surveying the top 600 American business companies to document experiences of violence in the workplace and how company officials dealt with the incidents.

Griffin said their work began a year ago when they interviewed managers to see how they feel about violence issues, and compiled case histories of those who committed violent acts.

Beginning in May, the group will send surveys to the top Human Resource Management officials in large American companies, including most on the current Fortune 500 list.

O'Leary-Kelly said most of what the public hears about are the extreme cases where fatalities are involved.

"I think we need to start defining violence in the workplace broadly," O'Leary-Kelly said. "Often, we only focus on it when something extremely violent happens."

"There's not a lot of hard data out there on numbers of incidents of violence or how severe they have been. We only hear about the severe cases like what happened in Corpus Christi Monday. But there is reason to believe that smaller events happen a lot."

Griffin said individuals who commit a violence act in the workplace

fall into three general categories.

The first type, he said, is the former employee who has been fired or passed over for promotion.

"These people are likely to be brooding over what happened to them for months," Griffin said. "After the anger builds up, something triggers them to do something violent."

The second type include individuals with a personal problem.

Griffin said estranged family members or spouses are prone to go looking for a persons at their place of work.

The third type involves random acts such as the 1991 massacre at a Luby's restaurant in Killeen, when a

man drove his truck through the front of the restaurant and opened fire, killing 24 people.

O'Leary-Kelly said there appears to be a pattern to the personality types who commit these crimes.

"It seems that most people who commit these types of violent workplace crimes are white males who are loners, and may have past military experience or a fascination with guns," she said.

That trend, O'Leary-Kelly said, only pertains to the most-violent scenarios that receive media attention.

The survey, she said, will look at all types of violence in the

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Faculty Senate holds elections

The newly elected senators will be confirmed on May 8.

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

A&M faculty members elected 36 members to the Faculty Senate Tuesday.

Twenty-two positions were unopposed and three seats did not have nominees, thus requiring write-in candidates.

Dr. Mark Weichold, speaker of the Faculty Senate and electrical engineering professor, said the Faculty Senate is the reporting body to the University president.

"While the Faculty Senate may play a behind-the-scenes role, our faculty members see the importance of the job," Weichold said. "Many of our members enjoy what they do and decide to serve more than one term."

Twelve members were up for re-election this year, all wanting to serve another three-year term.

Weichold explained that senators can serve additional terms, as long as they serve no more than six years during a nine-year period.

"After sitting out for those three years, faculty members can then run again," he said.

The voting procedure for the election involves faculty members ranking their choices from one to three, instead of just voting for one person.

If one person does not have a majority after the first place votes have been counted, then the second votes are tallied. This is done to eliminate the need for a re-election.

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Lawmakers seek to toughen gun bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Reeling from two separate shootings that killed seven people in their city over a four-day span, Corpus Christi lawmakers vowed Tuesday to seek to toughen licensing requirements in the concealed handguns bill.

Rep. Vilma Luna, D-Corpus Christi, said she would try to amend the bill to increase training requirements from the current 10-hour minimum to a 40-hour minimum.

The bill, which passed the Senate last month, is pending before the House Public Safety Commit-

tee, on which Ms. Luna sits. The committee has already rejected an amendment to increase training requirements, but Ms. Luna said she would try again when the bill is considered by the full House later this month.

"My intention is to make sure we're very careful and that this is a well thought-out bill, and that we put requirements in the bill that are reasonable and make sense and will help promote the ultimate goal of making sure that

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Two A&M students arrested, charged with marijuana possession

The Center for Drug Prevention and Education urges students with drug problems to seek help.

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

Two Texas A&M students were arrested and charged by authorities with the possession of marijuana after a small amount of the drug in a residence hall room Monday night.

University police arrested freshmen Michael Shorter and William Hodge Jr. In addition, Cedric Rodgers and Lloyd Crouch, who are not A&M students, were also arrested.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said the University police received a report from a resident in Walton Hall around 10:30 p.m. about a strong marijuana smell coming from one of the rooms.

When the police officers searched the room with the four suspects, they found several

hand-rolled marijuana cigarettes.

"There were seven people in the room," Wiatt said. "Three of the four arrested complied with the officers; however, we did have one who resisted."

Wiatt said Crouch jumped out of the second window when the police entered the room. He was caught and also charged with evading arrest.

The suspects were transported to the Brazos County Jail and incarcerated there on misdemeanor offenses.

Kim Walters, coordinator of the student judicial services at the A&M conflict center, said that although every case is mitigated differently, the students also face possible disciplinary action as outlined in the University regulations handbook.

Depending on the nature or seriousness of the case, the regulations state that cases involving drug-related violations by students will result in suspension, dismissal or expulsion from the University.

"We are also concerned with educating the students about drug abuse," Walters said. "Students' getting treatment, whether

in or out of school, is important to us and hopefully will prevent any recurring violations."

Although Walters said the Student Conflict Resolution Center doesn't see a large number of drug-related incidents, she thinks there probably is more of a drug problem on campus.

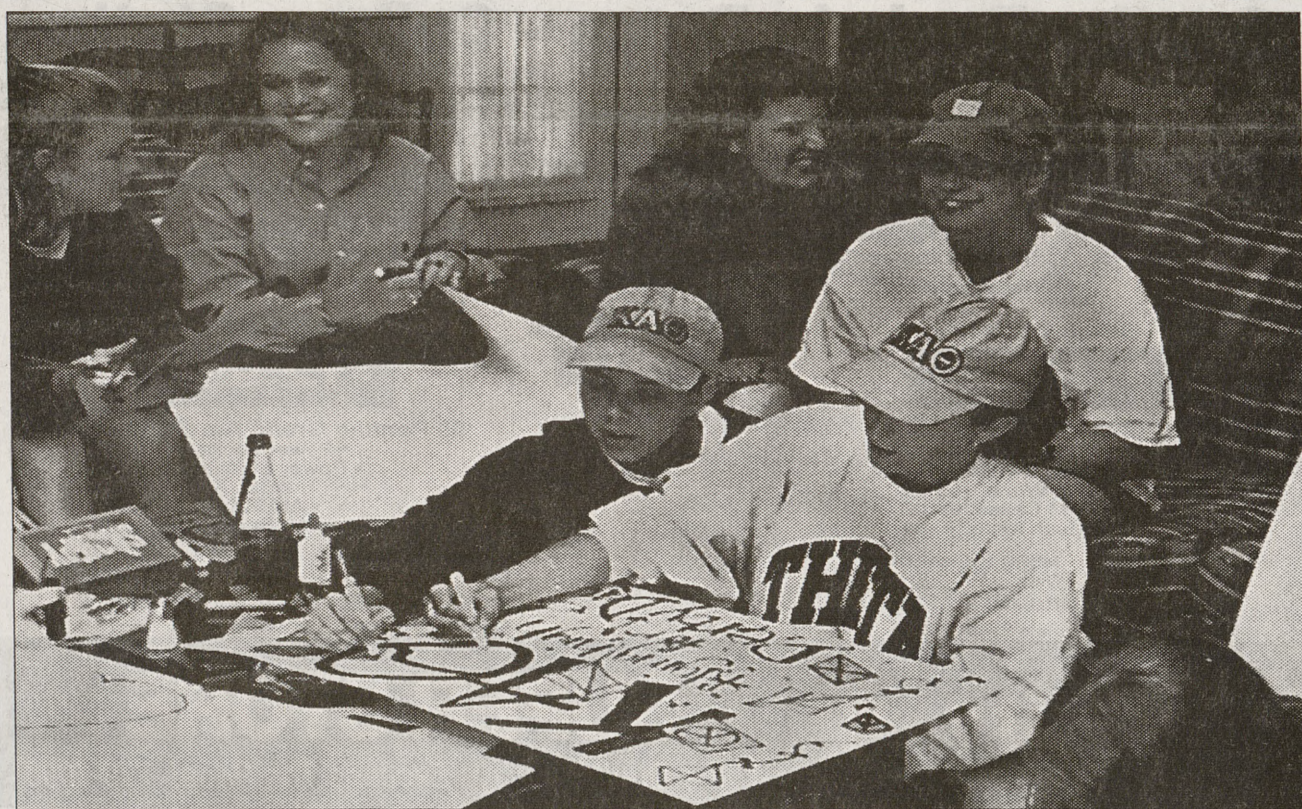
"We only get to deal with the students who get caught," she said. "But, we think there are quite a few students who don't ever reach this level."

Walters suggested that students with a potential problem get help before they get into legal trouble.

The Center for Drug Prevention and Education educates students about drugs and allows students to discuss their problems.

Helen Janss, assistant coordinator for the CDPE Rainbow Center, said many students may not know the effects drugs have on the body.

"Marijuana can cause fatigue, paranoia or possible psychosis," she said. "If anyone is concerned that they may have a drug problem or one of their friends has a problem, the center can provide help."



Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

Derby Dazed

Members of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority make posters to show their spirit for the Sigma Chi sponsored Derby Days on Tuesday afternoon.

Congress considers overturning 1994 gun ban

A&M students and professors react to the decision to reconsider the ban, and NRA and gun-control supporters voice concerns.

By Brad Dressler
THE BATTALION

The U.S. House of Representatives' consideration of overturning the 1994 gun ban has prompted concern from members of the National Rifle Association as well as gun-control supporters.

Dr. Roy Fleming, an A&M political science professor, said the most important issue is achieving a balance between preventing crime and allowing citizens to hunt and bear arms.

"The real question is not if the gun ban is necessary or should be repealed," he said. "It is how to achieve a balance between Constitutional rights and safety."

Fleming said that currently there is a handgun and rifle for every man, woman and child in the United States.

He said there are more gun-related deaths than automobile-related deaths.

"Concern," Fleming said, "is a major issue

facing the American public."

Jay Merkle, a lecturer in health and kinesiology and representative of the NRA, said members of the NRA believe a burden is being put on Americans.

"Members of the NRA believe that the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans are being compromised," he said.

Merkley said the 1994 gun ban was intended to ban 19 semi-automatic weapons, but the language of the ban is easily misunderstood and misrepresented.

"The gun ban focuses on the cosmetic appearance of the weapons," he said. "It targets the ban of certain cartridges of weaponry, threatening the use of almost 200 semi-automatic weapons."

The NRA is also attempting to initiate instant background investigations prior to gun purchases, similar to the checks recently started in Virginia.

These background checks would allow quick approval or disapproval of customers by comparing their name and social security number to criminal records and could possi-

bly take place over the telephone.

Bryan Jones, a University professor in political science, said that while the instant background check could be a good concept, he is somewhat skeptical.

"My concern is that law-abiding individuals who buy a gun in a moment of anger or confusion would have easy access to a weapon," he said. "The current system under the Brady Bill allows a waiting period in which such individuals may resolve their

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— Dr. Roy Fleming
A&M political science professor

problems in a less violent manner."

House hearings will continue on the issues of gun control and the repeal of the 1994 gun ban. A hearing scheduled for today will discuss Second Amendment rights, and will include testimony about interpretations of the amendment.

House leaders seek elusive GOP support for tax cuts

Tax-cut legislation is the last key item in the "Contract With America."

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the eve of a showdown, House leaders worked Tuesday to coax rebellious Republicans into line behind tax-cut legislation, the last key item in the "Contract With America."

President Clinton called the measure too costly and said, "I think we need to focus on the deficit."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich countered that Republicans stand for "a lower deficit, less taxes and a smaller government."

Republican critics of the measure fell into two groups: one favoring curtailment of a proposed \$500-per-child tax credit so fewer wealthy families would quali-

fy; the other opposing a provision to have federal workers pay more into their retirement fund.

Several Republican sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, put the number of shaky GOP votes — those opposed or uncommitted — at 20 or so.

The GOP can suffer 12 defections and still prevail if, as expected, Democrats unanimously oppose it. Even so, several leadership aides predicted that the measure would pass.

Taxes aside, the House unanimously approved a separate item in the "Contract With America."

It provides for increased prison terms for anyone convicted on federal charges of child pornography or prostitution.

In the Senate, Republicans and Democrats wrangled inconclusively over a bill to cut previously approved spending by roughly \$15 billion.