

NEWS BRIEFS

Arson suspect arrested Tuesday

The Bryan Police Department arrested its first suspect Tuesday in the March 28 arson of the Bryan Public Library.

Ronnie O'Neal Jr. turned himself in to the Midland County Sheriff's Department Monday afternoon.

Sgt. Choya Wallings, public relations officer for the Bryan Police Department, said that another suspect, Clyde Newton Settles has informed the Bryan Police by telephone that he will turn himself in within the next few days.

Preregistration will include summer two

Beginning Monday, April 17, students will be able to preregister for all their fall and summer classes.

Registrar, Donald Carter, said until this semester, students could only preregister for the fall and the 10-week and first summer sessions. Students then had to register for the second summer session at a later date.

"Starting next Monday, students can preregister for the fall and all their summer courses," he said. "If they have their academic year planned, students will not have to wait to register."

Carter said due to programming and fee technicalities, students had to wait until June to register for the second summer session. He said there will be another preregistration date in June for students who have not already planned what they want to take or are not sure whether or not they are attending during the second summer session.

Senate approves university merger bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The Baylor College of Dentistry and East Texas State University would become part of the Texas A&M University System under bills passed by the Texas Senate.

One of the bills also includes a proposal already passed by the Senate to shift Texas A&M International University in Laredo to the University of Texas System.

Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, said she wanted the Laredo provision in more than one bill to give it another chance at passage in the 1995 Legislature. "It gives us another opportunity," she said.

The bills passed unanimously Tuesday and go to the House for consideration.

Under a bill by Sen. David Cain, D-Dallas, the independent Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas would transfer to the A&M System. Governing boards of the college and the system have endorsed the move.

Looking to right flank, Dole calls for school prayer TV values, looks to strengthen position in GOP

□ The Republican front-runner speaks of his conservative record and discusses social issues.

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Moving to shore up his conservative credentials, Bob Dole called for voluntary school prayer Tuesday and lashed out at Hollywood for promoting "casual violence and even more casual sex."

"We began as a people seeking religious freedom and have evolved into a nation whose government often seems the enemy of religion," the Republican presidential front-runner said as he campaigned in Ohio and Iowa. "The moral code we nurture in our churches and synagogues is under attack from our government."

Dole's overture to conservatives included tough talk on welfare reform and a promise to phase out federal funding for the arts and humanities, longtime targets of the Christian right. And he accused President Clinton of contributing to the nation's moral decline by abdicating leadership in the

war on drugs. Dole's courting of social conservatives came just a day after he made a major gesture to economic conservatives: pledging not to raise income taxes if elected president next year.

Taken together, the remarks underscored Dole's principal goal on his week long campaign announcement tour: to cement his position as the front-runner by strengthening his support among the conservative factions ascendant in GOP politics.

To rivals, these might be viewed as concessions to shore up weaknesses. But the Senate majority leader rejected that characterization during a conversation with reporters on his campaign plane.

He said he signed the tax pledge, after refusing to do so in his failed 1988 campaign, because this year's version allowed for the closing of loopholes.

As for his comments on values, Dole said that he had a proven conservative record on social issues but that it had received little attention in the context of his Senate career.

Nonetheless, in dropping his usual reluctance to discuss social issues Dole

highlighted the importance of religious conservative voters, and the competition among GOP contenders for their support. He made values the centerpiece of speeches at the Ohio statehouse and then later at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

Wading into the school prayer de-

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- Bob Dole

bate, Dole said: "If students can discuss sports and music or drama at school they should also be allowed to voluntarily — voluntarily — pray."

Some Republicans support a constitutional amendment allowing school prayer; Dole voted in favor of such an amendment in 1984.

His preference, however, is legislation allowing students to pray and lead peers

in prayer; school officials could not dictate prayers. Dole has not introduced such legislation and told reporters he was virtually no chance such a bill would clear the Senate next year.

In taking aim at Hollywood, Dole sounded much like former Vice President Dan Quayle, whose decision to veto the 1996 race is one reason the conservative vote is not seen as committed to any one candidate.

"Every parent knows the great challenge to family values is the way our popular culture ridicules them," Dole said. "Our movies and advertising regularly push the limits of decency, bombing our children with degrading messages of casual violence and even more casual sex."

Dole said censorship was not the answer because "we have more to gain than to gain from putting Washington in charge of culture."

Instead, he said individuals, families and communities needed to take the mission up themselves. "Share a powerful tool," Dole said. "We should use it. ... Let's put the heat on the entertainment industry."

COUNSELING

Blow of personal loss softened by time, family support

By Deborah Barton STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICE

Loss is a universal human experience that involves change — in relationships, location, health or a belief system.

Change can be intentional or unintentional, desirable or undesirable.

Grief is the feeling associated with coming to terms with loss. The grief process involves saying goodbye, gaining closure and moving on with the rest of life.

Grief can be thought of as a journey through stages. Some stages are visited more than once or a journey may skip some stages.

One stage may include a brief period of denial, shock or numbness. This period can allow a person to carry on duties like legal tasks, funerals or important exams.

Anger, yearning and denial of the permanence of the loss may occur next. It is a mistake to minimize feelings of loss or hurt.

A period of despair or disorganization can follow.

The reality of the loss sets in and underscores the meaning or value of the loss. Mourning is central to this time. Normal functioning may stop while the pain of grief is endured.

A time of reorganization or re-entry is next. Humor is recovered and a person can enjoy things or relationships again.

Remember that it takes a full year to experience holidays, special events, birthdays or other important dates after a loss.

The intensity of the grief will ebb and flow during this time. Grief lasting a year is not uncommon when someone you love dies.

Suggestions for coping with loss:

- Participate in the appropriate, familiar social and cultural ritual when possible. A funeral may intensify feelings, but aids in closure.

Some changes may require designing your own ritual. A divorce, for example, does not have a ritual ending in the American culture.

• Find and use support systems. Family members can help each other by talking with each other instead of holding painful feelings in. Talk. Cry.

Grief can be thought of as a journey through stages. Some stages are visited more than once or a journey may skip some stages.

Remember.

Sometimes family members are not available. Find a friend who can listen with empathy or find another person who has experienced a similar loss. Avoid isolation from other people.

• Acknowledge the meaning

of the loss. Name and accept the feelings accompanying the loss. Sometimes using writing, art or music helps.

• Stay with a routine, even if it feels like just going through the motions.

• Be gentle, forgiving and patient with yourself. It is all right to make mistakes or lose your concentration.

• Accept ups and downs. Some days will be better and some worse.

• Give yourself time. Time does heal, but how long it takes is an individual thing.

• Wait to make major life decisions.

• Stay away from depressive chemicals like alcohol that numb your pain.

When to get professional help:

People sometimes ask counselors for help if they don't have a support system or feel uncomfortable talking to family and friends.

Being stuck in one stage of grief or being told a grief reaction is prolonged or severe is a signal that counseling is appropriate. Some people develop prolonged physical symptoms such as stomach problems, difficulty sleeping, unusual fatigue or loss of appetite that signal a need for professional help.

Doubts about yourself or grieving process are also legitimate reasons to ask a counselor for reassurance.

Counseling:

Counselors are available to help with the grief process.

Students currently enrolled at A&M can make an appointment to visit a counselor calling the Student Counseling Service in Henderson Hall 845-4427.

Ferreri's 2702 Texas Ave. S. College Station, Texas 77802 (409) 693-0054 Fax: 696-0901

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