

NEWS BRIEFS

Second library arson suspect arrested

The Bryan Police arrested its second suspect Wednesday in the March 28 arson of the Bryan Public Library. Clyde Newton Settles turned himself in to the police Wednesday. Police arrested Ronnie O'Neal Jr. for the arson Tuesday after he turned himself in. Both men are from Midland.

The men are also suspects in the burglary of the Masonic Lodge and the slashing of six city vehicles' tires on March 28.

Police speculate that these three incidents were acts of revenge against the Bryan Police. Settles has said that the incidents were retaliation for police brutality in 1984.

Settles was arrested in October 1984 after he got into a fight with his brother.

Sgt. Choya Walling of the Bryan Police Department said Settles hit an officer when Settles was searched for weapons after he was arrested.

Three men rob bank in Normangee

WACO (AP) — A 24-year-old man was convicted Wednesday of killing an elderly woman after last year's botched heist of the Normangee State Bank, and two co-defendants were found guilty on federal bank robbery charges.

Jurors took about three hours to return guilty verdicts against Julius Sephus, 24, Hashim Esteban Thomas, 19, and his brother, Steven Lee Thomas II, 17, said U.S. Attorney Bill Johnston.

Prosecutors said Sephus planned the August 1994 heist and shot 82-year-old Ruby Parker to death at a cemetery where the bandits met after the robbery.

Sephus was found guilty of killing Parker, who was visiting her husband's grave when Sephus demanded her car and she refused, as well as bank robbery, two weapons charges and carjacking.

The Thomas brothers were convicted of bank robbery charges, and Steven Thomas was found guilty of carrying a weapon into the bank.

U.S. District Judge Walter Smith will conduct sentencing hearings for the three later this spring.

Four men who already had pleaded guilty to taking part in the robbery testified against Sephus and the Thomases during the three-day trial.

New Party will focus on community

Brazos County gets the first chapter of a new political party.

By Tracy Smith THE BATTALION

A new political party is making its way into College Station and may provide relief for those students who don't side with Democratic or Republican views.

Shalini Vallabhan, a Texas A&M political science doctorate student, said the New Party started as a grass-roots party that encompassed many progressive issues, including women's issues, labor unions, education, health reform and limiting donations to candidates.

"The party is different from many third parties in that it stresses the community, starting at the community level," she said. "Most of the third parties start at the national level and work their way down, but this one begins with the people."

She said that since the party's development, its ties have spread over 10 different states and are currently making their way across Texas.

The Brazos County will have the first official chapter in the state, which will bring the University and the community together under one party.

Adolf Gunderson, an associate political science professor, said that between 50 and 300 people started the New Party, with chapters cropping up almost simultaneously across the country.

"Last November, 53 percent of the voters expressed dissatisfaction with the two main political parties," Gunderson said. "People are ready for a change and many are willing to take a chance with a new party."

He explained that the New Party is set apart from other third parties because it does not damage the existing parties.

"We want to avoid being a spoiler to the either the Democratic or Republican Party," Gunderson said. "Each vote will really count toward the party because we don't intend to run someone we don't think can win."

Vallabhan said the party is against the current state of the democracy, which she described as "big bucks and the media."

Currently, the New Party is only at the local level, but Gunderson said the party plans to move up to the national level as soon as it can.

"We are building from the bottom up and this may take time," he said. "It is hard to predict when the party can reach the level of interest that would send it to the national level."

Gunderson said the nation's citi-

zens are expressing more and more disgust about the current political system.

"We don't lean to the left or to the right side of political views," he said. "We are aligned with the bottom-section, which deals more with the people."

Vallabhan said interest regarding the party has been expressed at the University, and the party plans to hold its first formal meeting on May 4.

"We have quite a few people interested in the party. However, many are skeptical," she said. "We want to move beyond this skepticism and develop a party that overcomes apathy and provides a voice for progressive issues."

"If you ask people about progressive issues dealing with education, for example, many will agree with the progressive views. We need to bring these views together into one organization."

Some people are apprehensive about the New Party, though.

Stacey Fehlis, a senior journalism major, said that while she sides with many progressive issues, she wants to be sure of the party's permanence before becoming affiliated with it.

"Third parties have a history of coming and going," Fehlis said. "I believe there is interest out there for a third party, but only in one that will be around for a longer period of time than the ones in the past."

Compromise not likely over Dallas condom ban

Dallas is the only county to prevent distribution of condoms by health workers

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County Commissioner Kenneth Mayfield says he has nothing against people using condoms. He just doesn't want health workers passing them out.

"We don't give nicotine patches to smokers, should that be any different?" Mayfield says. Mayfield and his fellow commissioners have vetoed the county health clinic's distribution of condoms, sterile sterilization kits and "safe sex" literature that has rankled some Texas health officials.

"There probably is no way to resolve this," Dr. Charles E. Bell, the Chief of the Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV Prevention at the Texas Department of Health. "It's negligent of any health care provider not to provide sex education. Just to tell them to not have sex is going to happen."

The ban, propelled by the court's newly elected conservative members Mayfield and Mike Castle, is a provision of a measure to accept more federal AIDS research, prevention and testing.

State health officials said Dallas County is the only public health provider in Texas that does not provide condoms to adults for disease prevention.

The ban fulfills Mayfield's campaign promise to change the county's policy on distributing condoms. The county should promote abstinence.

The ban also may affect doctors and nurses who come here to learn techniques in the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department between April 5 and April 10.

Criminal Mischief Dormitory 6 - The victim's room was entered and a pair of senior boots was damaged when someone rubbed them against the dormitory room wall.

Burglary of Habitation McInnis Hall - The victim reported that sometime during the semester break his Minolta 35mm camera with zoom lens, five unknown movie tapes and a black camera case were stolen from his first floor room.

Schuhmacher Hall - A Koss Model X52 stereo system, 100 compact discs, a portable disc

case and a civil engineering textbook were stolen from a second floor room.

Puryear Hall - A pair of blue jeans with a gray wallet was stolen from a residence hall room. The wallet had a driver license and other personal property.

Misdemeanor Theft Commons Bicycle Racks - A standard Schwinn High Plains tire was stolen from a bicycle.

Sterling C. Evans Library - A maroon backpack with a pair of Rayban sunglasses, a collapsible umbrella and three 3.5-inch diskettes was stolen from a sixth floor room.

Sterling C. Evans Library - A black nylon briefcase with a wallet and an AIWA portable personal AM/FM cassette player was

stolen. The brown leather wallet contained \$90, a North Carolina driver license, a TAMU ID card, a Texas driver license, an ATM card and a Visa card.

Disorderly Conduct Parking Area 2 - A subject observed urinating in public was issued a citation.

Driving While Intoxicated Joe Routt Blvd - The motorist was incarcerated in Brazos County Jail.

George Bush Drive - The motorist was incarcerated in Brazos County Jail.

Public Intoxication Parsons Mounted Cavalry - Two intoxicated individuals found on the property without authori-

zation were incarcerated in Brazos County Jail.

Attempted Burglary of a Vehicle Parking Area 30 - A 1991 Mitsubishi was damaged by someone attempting to pry open the passenger's side door panel.

Harassment Mosher Hall - The victim received an annoying call from an unknown male.

Hobby Hall - The victim received three annoying calls from a former acquaintance.

Attempted Theft Sterling C. Evans Library - The victim left his backpack unattended on the table on the sixth floor. When he returned, he dis-

covered his backpack was stolen and an individual standing by had a very full backpack. The victim asked to look into the thief's backpack. After an initial refusal, the subject opened the backpack and pulled out the victim's backpack. The suspect allowed to leave. The victim reported the offense to the University Police Department. The library was searched, however, the suspect was not located.

Arson (Criminal Misdemeanor) Band Drill Field - The fire-gating officer located a lit couch on the field and reported the College Station Fire Department personnel be notified. The fire was extinguished and investigation led to the identification of five suspects.

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PTTS UPDATES - TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Fall Parking Permit News: Student parking permits and bus passes purchased for the fall of 1995 are valid through May 31, 1996. Students who preregister for parking permits and bus passes before July 1, 1995 will receive them in the mail on or around August 10. The price of parking permits has changed from what is listed in the registration booklets due to the approval of price changes made by the Board of Regents. The new prices are as listed: Commuter Student...\$75 Resident Student...\$75 Night Permit...\$35 Summer Permit...\$55 Faculty/Staff (Reserved Lot)...\$100 Faculty/Staff (Reserved Number Space)...\$200 Garage Roof...\$180 Garage (Inside)...\$240 Garage (Priority)...\$270 Zachry Basement...\$270 Bus Pass...\$110* *Students may obtain a free night permit if a bus pass is purchased. Summer Parking Permit News: May 15 - 19 - Students who preregister before May 1, 1995, for summer parking permits of bus passes will receive them in the mail. May 25 - 31 - Student permits and bus passes may be picked up from the PTTS cashiers in the Rudder Tower lobby between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. Cost of Summer Parking Permits: Bus Pass...\$55 Summer Student Parking...\$20 Motorcycle/Moped...\$11.72 Night Parking...\$15 *Parking permits and bus passes purchased for the summer are valid through August 27, 1995. Summer permits are non-refundable. Bus passes are non-refundable in Summer Term II. During Summer Term I, the bus pass refund is \$27.50. Parking News: April 21 - PA 69 will be closed due to the SWC Tennis Tournament. GOOD LUCK WITH REGISTRATION!!!!