



George Sauer/Special to THE BATTALION

### Talking heads

Engineering technology junior **Dustin Martin** peers over a wall to talk with fellow engineering students, junior **Kevin Orr**, left, and senior **Todd Grae**, during a class break Wednesday afternoon.

## Young mothers face double risk of premature births, study shows

BOSTON (AP) — A large new study suggests that biology, not just poverty, is to blame when teen-age births turn out badly.

About 13 percent of all children in the United States are born to teen-agers. Statistics have long shown their babies are especially likely to be premature and undersized.

The reasons for this have never been clear. But because these young mothers are often poor, ill-educated and from racial minorities, many experts assumed their living conditions, not their age, explained their pregnancy problems.

The new work challenges this belief. It found that even middle-class teen-agers are almost twice as likely as older women to deliver premature babies.

"In general, all teen-agers should be encouraged

not to get pregnant," even those who are married, said Dr. Richard Ward, the study's senior author.

Just how the mother's age contributes to prematurity is unclear.

Understanding prematurity is important because it is the leading cause of newborn deaths. Babies born too soon simply cannot survive outside the womb, no matter what doctors do.

The new study attempted to sort out the causes by focusing solely on white, middle-class females in Utah. Two-thirds of the teen-agers in the group under age 18 were married, and 95 percent were still in school.

The study concluded that even when poverty is not a factor, the risk of prematurity remains high, especially for the youngest teen-agers.

## Gore trumpets hope for one of nation's most poorest areas

**The vice president visits the Lower Rio Grande Valley touting an administration plan for rural and urban 'empowerment zones'.**

WESLACO (AP) — Vice President Al Gore visited one of the nation's poorest regions Wednesday with a message that Washington can help bring economic development and raise hopes for the next generation.

"These children will have a greater opportunity to stay here, raise their families, have a good job and a better way of life," Gore said, gesturing toward a group of elementary school children who attended a town meeting.

The vice president's trip to the Lower Rio Grande Valley touted a Clinton administration initiative for rural and urban "empowerment zones" — needy areas targeted for special tax incentives, job training, low-interest loans and community grants.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley — with unemployment and poverty rates consistently among the highest in the nation — is one of only three designated rural empowerment zones so far, each eligible for about \$40 million.

Gore told business and community leaders that the rest of the nation will be watching the Valley as a model for future empowerment zones.

Despite the enthusiastic response Gore received about the empowerment program, some audience members wanted to know his reaction to the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City.

"At a time like what we find is that the people who see the U.S. government as their enemy are surprised that the reaction to their terror and hatefulness is a surge of the strongest support they could possibly imagine for our self-government," Gore said.

"We're going to stand against those who hate it and despise it and see it as an enemy. They're never going to prevail," he said, drawing loud and spirited applause.



Al Gore

**"As someone who grew up in Brownsville and is a product of the Valley, I think this is a dream come true."**

— Frederico Pena  
transportation secretary

Gore toured St. Mary's Sewing Factory in Edcouch with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and Transportation Secretary Frederico Pena, a Valley native.

"As someone who grew up in Brownsville and is a product of the Valley, I think this is a dream come true," Pena said. "This will help us to lift the Valley, create jobs and address the problem of rural needs and job training."

## BRIEF

### Corps member honor fallen Aggie

Representatives from the Band and the Ross Volunteers attended the funeral Wednesday for a former cadet who died in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

Kenneth McCollough, A&M Class of '80, was assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration, which was located in the building.

Brian Taylor, Ross Volunteers commander, said the Volunteers were requested to attend the funeral in Edmond, Okla., to honor McCollough.

"We try to stay away from funerals for every Aggie that away because we don't have the finances for it," Taylor said. He family requested the Ross Band there and contacted the office and Dr. Southerland.

"We wanted to help out and provide any emotional we could for them."

Maj. George B. administrative officer for ROTC at A&M, said the Volunteers sent a seven-member detail, led by a squad leader, to attend the funeral. The Band were also present. Col. Thomas Owen, military for the Ross Volunteers.

### Convicted murderer gets execution

HOUSTON (AP) — A convicted murderer has been given an execution date for seven years.

James Ronald Means, 40, has been the forgotten man in the past seven years because his files were misplaced after a judge rejected his first bid for execution.

Ron Dusek, spokesman for Attorney General Dan Morales, said someone in the U.S. District Clerk's office "obviously dropped the ball" in notifying parties of the decision.

The system finally caught Tuesday when state District Judge Doug Shaver scheduled an execution for Means, who was sentenced to death in 1981. In 1983, District Judge Ken Hoyt overturned the death sentence.

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**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. Please verify your address with the Fiscal Department.

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 listed below will be effective Fall '95 ed.

Option Code	Types of Permits and Prices
10	Commuter Student.....\$75
30	Resident Student.....\$75
09	Night Permit.....\$35
12	Motorcycle/Moped.....\$35
	Summer Permit (Effective Summer '96).....\$55
	Faculty/Staff (Reserved Lot).....\$100
	Faculty/Staff (Reserved Number Space).....\$200
	Garage Roof.....\$180
	Garage (Inside).....\$240
	Garage (Priority).....\$270
	Zachry Basement.....\$270
15	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 or bus passes will receive them in the mail.

May 25 - 31 - Student permits and bus passes may be picked up from the PTTS cashiers at the Rudder Tower lobby between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Option Code	Cost of Summer Parking Permits:
15	Bus Pass.....\$55
32	Summer Student Parking.....\$20
12	Motorcycle/Moped.....\$11.72
09	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.

**Visitor Garage Parking:**

Visitor Parking per Hour.....\$.60 Visitor Parking per Day.....\$4.80

\*This will be effective in the 1995 Fall Term.

**Parking News:**

April 28 - 30 - The University Center Garage will be reserved for Parent's Weekend '95. PTTS encourages all permit holders to park in their designated lots so the garage will be available for incoming visitors.

**GOOD LUCK WITH REGISTRATION!!!!!!**

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