

SPRING 1996 FINAL EXAMS SCHEDULE

Friday, May 3		Monday, May 6		Tuesday, May 7		Wednesday, May 8	
CLASS	FINAL	CLASS	FINAL	CLASS	FINAL	CLASS	FINAL
MWF 5:45-7	7:30-9:30 a.m.	MWF 9:10-10	8-10 a.m.	MWF 10:20-11:10	8-10 a.m.	TR 12:45-2	8-10 a.m.
MWF 8-8:50	10 a.m.-noon	MWF 12:40-1:30	10:30 a.m.-12	MWF 3-3:30	10:30 a.m.-12	MWF 11:30-12:20	10:30 a.m.-12:30
TR 9:35-10:50	12:30-2:30 p.m.	TR 8-9:15	1-3 p.m.	TR 3:55-5:10	1-3 p.m.	TR 2:20-3:35	1-3 p.m.
TR 11:10-12:25	3-5 p.m.	MW 4:10-5:25	3:30-5:30 p.m.	MWF 1:50-2:40	3:30-5:30 p.m.	TR 5:30-6:45	3:30-5:30 p.m.

Wrong Role  
Rhea Perlman does not fit  
role in *Sunset Park*.  
AGGIELIFE, PAGE 4



# THE BATTALION

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## Suspect suffers mental problems

Australian massacre gunman officially charged with murder

PORT ARTHUR, Australia (AP) — He slept by day, prowled by night, threatened visitors with his beloved guns and nonchalantly cut the grass minutes after being told his father had drowned.

The blond man cruised Tasmania's towns in a mustard-yellow Volvo hatchback with a surfboard strapped on top. He shared his bed with a pet pig. He once threatened to shoot two neighbors who dropped by his farm and offered to buy raspberries.

On Sunday, muttering to himself about "WASPs" and "Japs," he rolled in to one of the area's most popular tourist sites, unpacked automatic rifles from a tennis bag and started shooting.

By the time he was done, at least 34 people were dead: Some were shot down in their seats at a tourist cafe, their forks still raised to their mouths; others sat slumped in their cars. One little girl died struggling to hide behind a tree.

Police sources and the Australian Broadcasting Corp. identified the gunman as Martin Bryant, a 28-year-old man with no criminal record but a history of mental problems. He was hospitalized, sedated and put under heavy police guard Monday in the same hospital where 18 of his victims were treated for gunshot wounds.

On Tuesday, Bryant was formally charged with murder at a hospital bedside court hearing. He was only charged with one count of murder, but police said additional charges would be filed soon.

When asked, Bryant would not enter a plea. Judge Peter Dixon ordered him to remain in custody and to appear in court on May 22.

Hospital officials said they had received anonymous death

threats from people demanding that Bryant not be treated for his burns.

"There is a lot of anger against what has happened," said Lindsay Pyne, the hospital's chief executive officer.

Four of the 18 wounded, including a Vancouver, Wash., man identified as Dennis Olson by a family friend, Debbie Burton, were discharged from the hospital with minor injuries. Five others were in serious condition.

In the aftermath of Australia's worst modern-day massacre, workers carried the dead to a morgue, citizens gathered for evening prayer vigils and police puzzled over why someone would use assault rifles to methodically pick off victims ranging from 3 to 72 years old.

Local media reported that Bryant had suffered mental problems and mood swings after a car accident three years ago killed the woman with whom he was living.

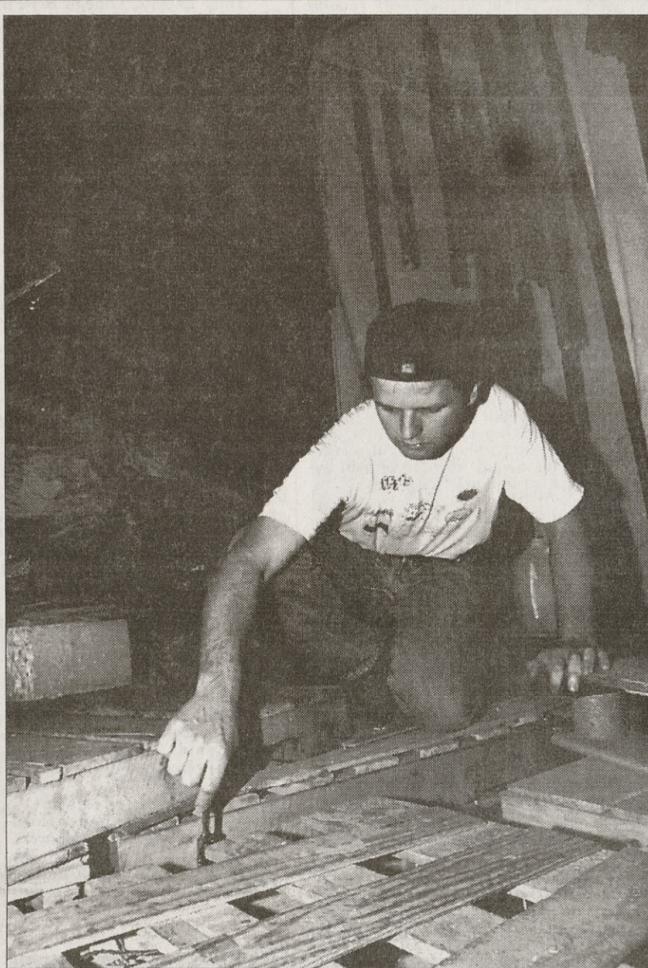
But people who identified themselves as his neighbors said his threatening behavior was apparent since his arrival four years ago in the farming community of Copping, outside the southeastern Tasmanian town of Hobart.

Veina Featherstone, 41, whose property abutted the man's farm, said when her husband first went over to introduce himself, "he had a go at my husband and told him to keep off his property or he would shoot him."

"He used to sleep all day, and walk around his property and other people's properties at night," she said. "He was pretty scary. He fired a gun off at night."

The gunman told two women who wanted to buy raspberries from him as they had from the

See Massacre, Page 6



Dave House, THE BATTALION

## PROJECT PASSION

Andy Stepp, an architecture graduate student, puts the final touches on his Architecture 606 project. Stepp and six other graduate students attempted to construct a visual representation of Peter Gabriel's "Passion." The exhibit will be on display Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Langford Building C.

## Class of '96 gives statue, endowment

By Heather Pace  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Class of '96 received more than 196 class gift ideas, including the donation of a big 'em-shaped fountain and the replacement of Rudder Auditorium's orange carpet.

The Class Gift Committee, after weighing its options, Saturday announced its decision to donate a statue titled "The Day the Wall Came Down" and to endow a portion of Fish Camp.

The statue, designed by Veryl Goodnight, will be placed in front of the George Bush Presidential Library and will memorialize the fall of the Berlin Wall.

One of several donors of the \$750,000 statue, the Class of '96 will have a plaque in its name placed by the statue.

Tricia Wolfe, a Class of '96 elementary education major, said she is pleased with the gift because it will connect her class to the Bush Library.

"It is something that will be here for the rest of the campus' life," Wolfe said. "It is really exciting that a part of our legacy is a part of a world legacy."

Former President Bush, upon hearing about the decision, was so excited he wrote a letter thanking the Class of '96.

Bethany Burnam, co-chair of the Class Gift Committee and a senior marketing major, said both components of the class gift will benefit A&M in several ways.

"We are excited to be giving a combination of a statue and a living memorial back to the school in the form of an endowment," Burnam said. "We are giving back to future Aggies and continuing Aggie traditions through Fish Camp efforts."

One of the goals for the selection process was to ensure that the gift reflected the spirit of the Class of '96.

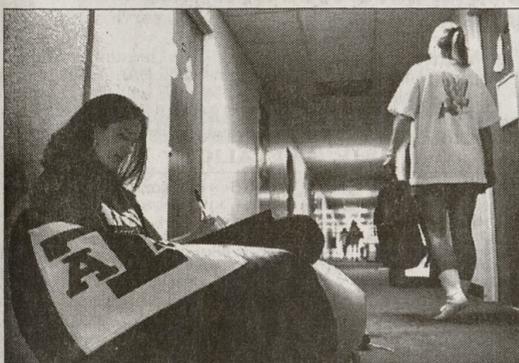
Janel Schroeder, co-chair of the Class Gift Committee and a senior marketing major, said the gift will reflect well on her class because of the large number of people who will visit the library.

"It will be great for our class to be able to come back to visit and see how our efforts made the statue possible," Schroeder said. "By having the class be one of the donors, it will ensure that it is up to Aggie standards for excellence."

Early in the year, the committee began the gift selection process by accepting suggestions from students and faculty members. After rejecting

See Gift, Page 10

## Quiet hours begin round-the-clock



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

Kathy Thompson, a freshman biomedical science major, studies outside her room in Hobby Hall to get away from the distraction in her room. She studies better in the hall especially when there are others in the hall studying the same subject.

By Tauma Wiggins  
THE BATTALION

As final exams approach, many students feel the need for quiet hours within Texas A&M residence halls is at a semester high.

Residence hall quiet hours regularly are 8:10 p.m. to 7 a.m., but they will extend to 24 hours beginning today.

Many students said that quiet hours, when noise is not allowed in hallways and is to be kept at a minimum within rooms, are only loosely enforced throughout the semester but critical during finals.

Ron Sasse, director of Resi-

dent Life and Housing, said his department has not been notified of any difficulties residents are having studying in residence halls, but he is available to students who want to discuss problems with quiet hours.

Opinion varies across campus as to whether it is possible to study in residence halls even during theoretically "quiet" hours.

Silvia Lopez, a resident of Neeley Hall and junior biomedical science major, said the regular quiet hours in her dorm are not strictly enforced

See Quiet Hours, Page 10

## A&M's first sorority celebrates 25 years

By Tauma Wiggins  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's first sorority, Omega Phi Alpha, celebrated 25 years of friendship, service and leadership last week.

Amy Russell, president of Alpha Phi Omega and senior psychology major, said the service sorority was created in 1971 as a sister organization to the all-male Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity.

But Russell said that because Alpha Phi Omega is now coed and has more than 400 members, there is less drive for the organization to function as Alpha Phi Omega's sister sorority.

In the 1970s, few women attended A&M, and the idea of a sorority on campus was met with

opposition from department heads, Russell said.

She said petitions were presented to the dean of students, and with the support of the Alpha Phi Omega members, the administration eventually agreed to allow the sorority.

The administration required that the sorority serve strictly as a service organization and have no housing requirements, secret meetings, initiation or hazing.

Julie Bradford, Omega Phi Alpha pledge educator and senior journalism major, said Omega Phi Alpha currently has a spring and fall rush, but because of increasing membership, may have only one rush in future years.

"We have about 75 members," Bradford said. "We're growing so much that if we do have a huge



fall class, we might only have one rush per year. We want everyone to feel like they can get to know each other."

Bradford said that though Omega Phi Alpha participates in social activities, including Bonfire Buddies and big sister-little sister programs, the sorority's primary goal is service.

Jennifer Simmons, Omega Phi Alpha second vice president and senior political science major, said

15 hours of service are required from members, but most members exceed the required hours.

Simmons said some of the projects members have volunteered their services for include Breast Cancer Awareness, the Big Event, Replant, American Cancer Society, Phoebe's Home and March to the Brazos.

Michelle Moffett, a member of Omega Phi Alpha and junior elementary education major, said she has enjoyed the friendships as well as the service projects provided by the organization.

She said the sorority does not have a traditional or secret initiation but will hold a ceremony this week in which new members will become active. The ceremony includes singing, lighting candles and exchanging gifts.

## Supreme Court denies parental-notice for abortion

About 12 percent of the more than one million abortions performed in the United States are for minors

WASHINGTON (AP) — As three justices fumed over a "stealthy" abortion agenda, the Supreme Court refused Monday to revive a South Dakota law that required young girls to notify a parent before ending a pregnancy.

The state law had been invalidated because it did not allow most girls to avoid telling a parent by getting a judge's permission instead. And the court voted 6-3 to leave those rulings intact.

The action was yet another signal that the court, which in 1992 reaffirmed its landmark *Roe vs. Wade* decision legalizing abortion, is not eager to plunge again into that divisive debate. The votes of four justices are needed to grant such review.

Sharp disagreement resurfaced Monday as Justices John Paul Stevens and Antonin Scalia exchanged statements accompanying the court's rejection of South Dakota's appeal.

At issue was the standard of review judges should use in deciding whether an abortion law is constitutional before it has been enforced.

Writing for himself, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas, Scalia said the issue "virtually cries out for our review" because of confusion in lower courts.

He added: "Today's denial serves only one rational purpose: It makes our abortion ad hoc nullification machine as stealthy as possible."

Stevens said any asserted confusion was based on "rigid and unwise" and "properly ignored" language contained in an opinion Rehnquist previously had written for the court.

A ruling on parental-notice laws could have had substantial practical impact. Of the more than one million legal abortions performed annually in the United States since 1973, about 12 percent are for minors.

"We are pleased that the best interests of South Dakota minors will be protected," said Colleen Connell of the American Civil Liberties Union.

South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow called the court's action "crazy."

He said state law now requires girls to get a parent's permission before getting their ears pierced but not before getting an abortion.

"That makes no sense to me at all," Janklow said.

And a state legislator who led the fight for the invalidated 1993 law promised to "go back to the drawing board" to come up with a new parental-notice law.

Two issues loomed in the South Dakota case. One was whether a state can ban abortions for unmarried girls under 18 unless a parent is notified. South Dakota was the only state in the union with a one-parent notification law that limited its judicial-bypass option to cases in which a girl showed she had been abused or neglected.

The court has not said definitively whether an abortion law requiring notification of just one parent needs a judicial bypass option to be constitutional. The 1993 South Dakota law, challenged by Planned Parenthood and a Sioux Falls abortion clinic, was struck down before it ever took effect.