

## Student guides seeing eye dog

BY LAURA OLIVEIRA  
THE BATTALION

The old proverb says dog is man's friend, and in Shelby's case, a friend whose eyes are well. Shelby is a 4-month-old golden retriever who is being trained as a dog for the blind. Shelby lives with Marci Streck, a sophomore computer science major. She accompanies Streck to classes and meals across campus. The dog lives with Streck in Wells Hall on campus. Shelby is not the first guide-puppy to live on campus. The Residence Hall Association student Jesse Czelusta first had a guide-dog puppy named Amber on campus last year. He was willing to cut through the red tape for other eager participants. Streck said Czelusta's success with the program made it easier to get Shelby to campus. The University had such a positive response with Rudder (Czelusta's dog), she said. "They had no problem deciding to have another dog." After learning about the on-campus program from Czelusta, Streck called the Southwest Dog Foundation in San Antonio. From there, she was

put on a waiting list and her application and interviewing process began.

Her desire to train a dog, though, came early on.

"I was interested in doing it before," Streck said. "And when I found out you could do it on campus, I was really excited."

Dogs are donated and must be golden retrievers, Labrador retrievers or German shepherds. A strong physical condition and a calm temperament are required.

Shelby will be with Streck for a year and a half, during which she will learn obedience and ways to act in social situations. Shelby will then attend another six-month training session.

A third session will follow, where the dogs will be tested with the blind in different situations. If all goes well, Shelby will be given to a compatible user to serve as a seeing eye dog.

At a special graduation ceremony for the dog, Streck will present Shelby to her new owner. Streck said she has mixed emotions about giving Shelby away.

"It's good because she'll be able to help someone, and to know I actually trained her will be rewarding," she said. "But it's bad because I won't see her anymore."



Rachel Redington, THE BATTALION

Shelby, the guide puppy, and Marci Streck, a sophomore computer science major, will spend the next year and a half together for training. Shelby lives in Wells Hall with Streck.

## M&M prof uses unusual teaching methods

BY MELANIE D. SMITH  
THE BATTALION

Accounting may be a mystery to non-business majors struggling through Accounting 209, but even future CPAs are sure to find Dr. Stanley Kratchman's supplemental textbook a little puzzling.

Educational accounting information is subtly laced throughout the action-packed mystery novel *Deadly Art Puzzle: Accounting for Murder*. The plot demonstrates a variety of scenarios that a professional accountant may encounter.

Kratchman co-wrote the novel with Louisiana State University's Dr. Larry Crumbley.

The book is Crumbley's sixth instructional mystery. He said his original idea was to publish a novel for the general public, but it evolved into a teaching tool by accident.

"I had heard that everybody has a book in them," Crumbley said. "I knew about taxation, so I wrote about a special agent of the Internal Revenue Service. It's very difficult to get published for the general public, so I decided to turn it into an instructional novel."

Crumbley chooses a co-author for each of his educational novels to provide detailed information for the targeted subject area.

Kratchman's love of murder mysteries and expertise in advanced accounting made him a perfect co-author, Crumbley said.

Crumbley said Kratchman's unconventional teaching style, including teaching class dressed as Elvis, makes the professors compatible as innovative educators.

Kratchman said he hopes the book will help students improve their communication skills.

"It is impossible to be successful in the business world without good communication skills," Kratchman said. "The back of the book offers both multiple choice and discussion questions. I am assigning the discussion questions and group work from the book."

The main character in the book is a part-time professor and accountant named Larry Cramer.

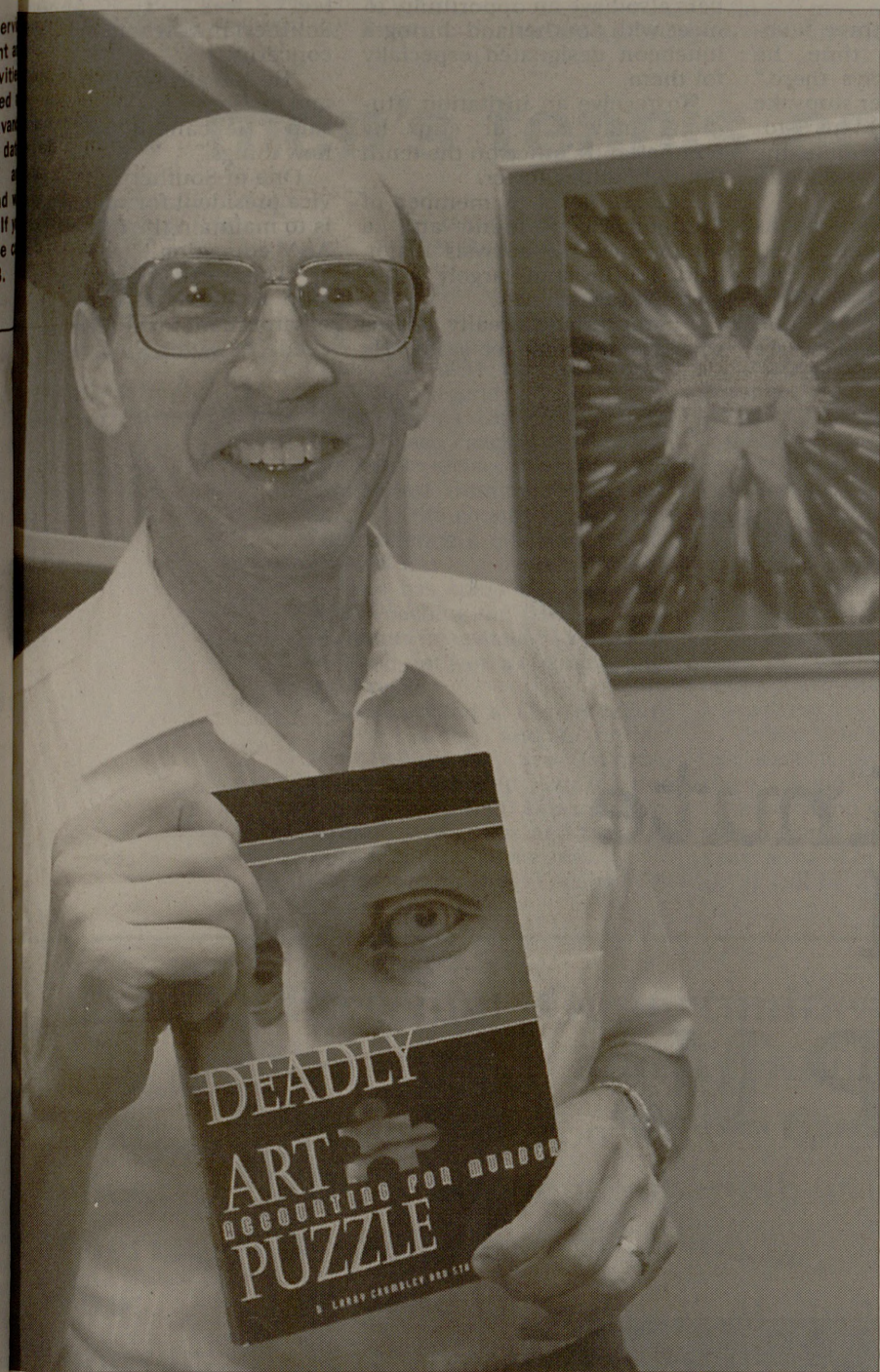
Crumbley uses forensic accounting in his novels, an uncommon type of accounting used to dig into information and expose crimes like fraud.

In the novels, Cramer lectures, works on exams, deals with records, consults, testifies as an expert witness in the courtroom, and testifies before Congress about accounting issues.

The variety is meant to demonstrate accounting's many uses. This technique also helps bring educational aspects into the novel.

Kratchman said writing the novel was exciting. "This is the most enjoyable thing I've ever done," Kratchman said. "I have been teaching for 25 years, and I hope I can make an educational contribution and have this much fun."

Crumbley's instructional novels have been adopted by more than 100 universities.



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Kratchman is showing his educational novel he co-wrote. Kratchman is standing in front of a picture of himself dressed as Elvis.

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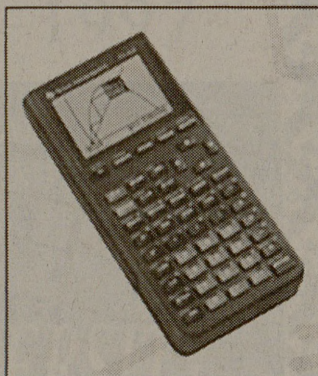
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