

Task force to crack down on party guidelines

By Robert Smith
City editor

party guidelines. "The task force will be developed to see how other schools handle open parties," Stewart said. The fighting in Sbsia started around 11 p.m. at a dance sponsored by the Pan-Hellenic Council, the board that governs black sororities and fraternities. Stewart closed down the dance after the fighting began just before the University Police Department (UPD) arrived at about 12 a.m. Stewart estimated that 1,100 to 1,500

people were at Sbsia at the time of the fight. Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said no one knows why the fighting started. "There was a large crowd in Sbsia, and most of them were dancing," he said. "I think people just got jostled around, and then the fights started." The Pan-Hellenic Council requested 10 UPD officers be at the party, but only two officers were at the party. Curtis Childers, student body president and a senior agricultural development major, said police security at the

party was insufficient. "We've got to get UPD to provide more security," he said. "They requested 10 last April, but there were only two there." Stewart agreed that more police security was needed, but said the fight was "blown out of proportion." "I've seen a lot worse things happen on this campus," he said. "There are fights that happen at almost every football game; every bar probably has a fight once a month."

Stewart said he will recommend to Student Activities contacting the College Station and Bryan Police Department for police security to avoid similar problems in the future. Lanita Hanson, assistant director of Student Activities, said the task force will recommend changes in the current open-party policy or will make "reinforcements" to the policy. "We need to be prepared and have the kinds of plans that identify the areas that need help," she said.

Marked for life



Michael C. Bridges, Class of '85, tattoos Brian Knipling, a freshman finance major, at a tattoo shop in Bryan.

Parole board set to announce clemency verdict in Tucker case

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Condemned killer Karla Faye Tucker learns Monday if Texas parole officials believe she is a woman of God who should be spared a trip to the death chamber this week. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles said it would announce its decision Monday morning in Austin, about 32 hours before Tucker was to be belted to a gurney inside the Huntsville Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and have inserted into her arms two needles carrying poison to kill her. She would be the first woman executed in Texas since 1863 and only the second in the United States since the Supreme Court in 1976 allowed capital punishment to resume. The 38-year-old former teen-age prostitute, drug user and rock band groupie is awaiting the lethal injection for her part in a pickax attack that left two people dead at a Houston apartment in 1983. Tucker asked the 18-member parole board to recommend clemency to Gov. George W. Bush, contending she is a changed woman who has found God and can serve

as a resource for others if she is allowed a life sentence. "To recognize now that she has changed would totally undo the jury's belief that she was indeed a danger to society at that time," James Marquart, a criminal justice professor at Sam Houston State University and now a visiting professor at Queen Mary and Westfield College in London, said. Marquart, who has written a book about the Texas death penalty, noted that male inmates also have claimed religious conversions like Tucker's. "To commute Karla would open the doors for a multitude of like claims from the boys," he said. Ten board members must agree with her before the governor has the option of sparing her life. Texas law gives governors little independent authority in such cases, with the power to issue only a one-time, 30-day reprieve. Even a single vote from a board member favorable to Tucker would be unusual. Sixteen of the record 37 men executed in Texas in 1997 sought clemency from the board. Each lost on unanimous votes.

Oprah beef trial remains hot topic among Amarillo residents

AMARILLO (AP) — Roadhouse waitress Gretchen Cotter's smile rivaled the glitter of neon lights and her drawl competed with a juke box, a pinball machine and three television sets. "Hamburger, cheeseburger or ribeye steak?" she asked, reciting the entire menu of the Lone Star Bar & Grill. "And," she purred, "we serve only mad cows — REALLY mad cows." While lawyers haggle over whether Oprah Winfrey can libel a hamburger, the folks outside the courthouse are abuzz about the talk show host's legal plight and her Texas-flavored pings of the "Oprah Winfrey Show." Two weeks into her trial, she is the hottest ticket and often the hottest topic in town as she defends herself against claims that she stole the beef business millions in a 1996 show

on mad cow disease. "The only mad cow in Texas is Oprah," read inscriptions on flashy caps and T-shirts Gretchen and her pals are peddling at the Lone Star. Not quite as clever but decidedly more popular are bumper stickers, buttons, banners, caps and T-shirts proclaiming that "Amarillo Loves Oprah." Believe it. Chamber of Commerce President Gary Molberg misspoke early on about Oprah and since has spent two embarrassing weeks backtracking. "Amarillo's been very receptive to her," said lawyer Dee Miller. "Generally speaking, even people in the cattle industry have been very positive toward her." If nothing else, the trial has for once muzzled the Panhandle Mouth that Roared.

Millionaire Stanley Marsh 3, the prince of pranks, is a limited partner in one of the cattle companies suing Oprah and therefore silenced by U.S. Judge Mary Lou Robinson's gag order. "I don't know a hereford from a heifer," said Marsh, 59, who put Amarillo on the map years ago by burying a fleet of antique Cadillacs nose down and fins up along old Route 66, now Interstate 40. "This is awful. Just terrible," he said of the gag order. He appeared almost as upset as when his old wine-drinking buddy, a pet pig named Minnesota Fats, overdosed on chocolate Easter eggs one year and wound up in that great pigsty in the sky. "I've never experienced a muzzle like this before," he said. "No conversation is complete without my 51 percent."

Defamation suit enters third week

AMARILLO (AP) — A vegetarian activist being sued along with Oprah Winfrey for slandering U.S. beef in an April 1996 talk show about mad cow disease was still to be on the witness stand when the defamation trial resumed Monday. Howard Lyman endured difficult questioning on Friday by attorneys for Texas cattlemen who are suing him, Winfrey and her production company for \$10.3 million, contending that an "Oprah" show on mad cow disease on April 16, 1996, pushed already slumping beef prices to 10-year lows. Lyman, who has yet to face questioning by his own attorneys, appeared

to hurt Winfrey's case when he said reassuring pro-beef comments that were edited out of the show would have been relevant to viewers as long as the statements were true. The former cattle rancher turned vegetarian seemed to hurt his own case when he was asked what facts he had to back up a claim he had made that mad cow disease could make AIDS seem like the common cold. Lyman said he was relying on his own experience in an 18-year cattle ranching career that ended in 1983 and added, "I believe there are a lot of ways of educating other than facts."

Lewinsky lawyer sees crisis waning, Clinton enduring

WASHINGTON (AP) — Monica Lewinsky's attorney predicted Sunday that the controversy over whether the former White House intern had an affair with President Clinton will "go away," and the president will survive unscathed. "It'll pass," William Ginsburg said in a round of TV talk-show appearances. "The president will remain in office, he'll do a good job ... and I think everything's going to be fine." The White House, apparently greening, maintained a confident silence about the matter. That stood in marked contrast to a week earlier, when Clinton allies were out in force on the Sunday shows in defense of an embattled president. Independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who is investigating the Lewinsky matter, was back at his office Sunday. But with immunity talks between Ginsburg and Starr at an impasse, Lewinsky was making plans to return to California in the next three days, her lawyer said.



Clinton

That underscored the importance to investigators of finding other evidence if they are to prove allegations of a presidential affair and coverup. The White House already has turned over some documents in response to subpoenas from Starr, and several administration officials have appeared before the grand jury. A source said presidential adviser Bruce Lindsey is one of the latest to be subpoenaed. But there were signs that administration officials may resist complying with portions of Starr's subpoenas that one White House source said they consider "overly broad, burdensome and ambiguous."

GOP criticizes spending in proposed budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans attacked the \$1.73 trillion budget President Clinton will send Congress on Monday as a "magnificent contradiction" that violates the spirit of last year's balanced budget agreement by proposing billions of dollars in tax increases and new government programs. The White House rejected that charge Sunday as both sides prepared for a fight over budget surpluses certain to be as contentious as the deficit brawls of past decades. The battle will be joined when Clinton sends Congress his spending blueprint for the budget year that begins next Oct. 1. His plan envisions achieving a \$9.5 billion surplus, the first time revenues would exceed spending in 30 years. While the surplus would be achieved three years earlier than the 2002 deadline set in last year's balanced budget agreement, Republicans were not impressed. They said Clinton's budget contains massive amounts of new government spending paid for by \$90 billion in new taxes on businesses and smokers. "It is a magnificent contradiction. The president has been promising ... the American people certain things and this budget does exactly the opposite," Senate Budget Committee Chair Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said Sunday. "It creates dozens of new government programs run in Washington and it chooses bigger government instead of smaller government." Clinton's budget Monday will put dollar figures on the new initiatives the president discussed in his State of the Union address last week.

"It is a magnificent contradiction."
Pete Domenici
Senate Budget Committee

These include a sizable expansion in federal support for child care, setting a goal of hiring 100,000 new teachers as a way of reducing class sizes in the early grades and allowing people below the age of 65 to buy into Medicare, the government's health care program for the elderly. The president began unveiling these proposals early last month to counter accusations his second term was adrift without a firm agenda. That effort has intensified in the past two weeks as the White House

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