

Jane Roe' spoke about her choices in life

BY AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The woman who fought to legal-ize abortion and won in the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe vs. Wade* spoke at a crowded Rudder Theater Friday night why she decided to convert to advocate the pro-life cause. Norma McCorvey, "Jane Roe" of the landmark abortion decision, now known as Roe No More Ministries after becoming a Christian and completely changing her stance on abortion several years ago. Since the Supreme Court ruled to legalize abortions, there has been much debate between pro-life and pro-choice voices, as indicated by the voices of protest against the establishment of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Bryan and pro-choice advocates who

marched outside Rudder on Friday. McCorvey said her conversion began in 1994 when she was working at an abortion clinic in Dallas and Operation Rescue, a national pro-life organization, moved into the same building as the abortion clinic. It was there she met the national director of Operation Rescue Rev. Flip Benham and spokesperson Ronda Mackey, who spoke on Friday night. "The director (Benham) apologized for accusing me of the death of 35 million children," McCorvey said. "I had been signing books in Dallas in 1994 when the pastor and Mackey came in with other pro-lifers. It is then that it occurred to me that I might have been responsible for the deaths of 35 million children." Mackey, a spokesperson for Roe

No More Ministries, said she had considered having an abortion in 1986 but decided to have the baby. "I was 20 years old and living a carefree life," Mackey said. "I agreed with my family and my fiancé that abortion was the thing to do, but I couldn't go through with the abortion." Mackey said she had Emily, who is now 10 years old. McCorvey said it was Mackey's story of her daughter Emily which completed her conversion experience. "For the first time in over 20 years, I put a face with the name," McCorvey said. "I decided that I didn't want to work in another abortion clinic (again)." Although most of the crowd supported McCorvey's statements with enthusiasm, some Texas A&M students attended the speech in sup-

port of Planned Parenthood. Misty Hataway, a pro-choice advocate and a senior political science major, said police asked the pro-choice protesters to stop and put their signs away as McCorvey began to speak inside. "We had a right to be here," Hataway said. "This is a public school funded by public funds." Hataway said McCorvey advocates a movement that aims to undermine the progress that has been made. "She has devalued (a piece of) legislation that we have come to value for so long," Hataway said. "Before abortions became legalized, not only were children dying but women were dying (from the operations) as well." Hataway said she advocates the location of the Planned Parenthood

abortion clinic in Bryan. "Planned Parenthood serves as an educational tool," Hataway said. "Women leave this area to go to Waco, Houston and Dallas to have an abortion. Geography isn't a factor when women decide to have an abortion." Juan Rodriguez, a pro-life advocate and a junior marketing major, said the community faces a problem with the location of an abortion clinic here. "The possibility of having a clinic upsets me," Rodriguez said. "I am completely opposed to abortion." McCorvey referred to Planned Parenthood as "Planned Death." "I don't know why any parents call it Planned Parenthood when they will give you any mechanism you want to have an abortion," McCorvey said.

Hataway said Planned Parenthood provides an option for women contemplating abortion. She said abortions are much safer now than previously when women and children died from the operations. Amy Achgill, a freshman business major, said people have other alternatives than abortion. "It saddens me to think that a number of lives could be lost when there are so many alternatives to abortion," Achgill said. "There are always people wanting to adopt babies." McCorvey said Roe No More Ministries plans to begin a mobile crisis pregnancy center to counsel those contemplating abortion and to continue to advocate the pro-life cause. She said the crisis center would travel in Texas and to surrounding states.

National Engineers' Week Students aim to dissolve stereotype

BY SUSAN E. ATCHISON
Staff writer

The Student Engineers' Council at Texas A&M University is hosting National Engineers' Week, Feb. 22-27, to increase public awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession. LeAnne Gaspard, campus chair of National Engineers' Week and a sophomore chemical engineering major, said the week's activities are designed to break the stereotype that engineers are boring. "Engineers' Week is to educate, inform and excite people about engineering," Gaspard said. Activities officially began yesterday with a picnic lunch and social at the Southwood Pavilion. "We want to stress that the events are open to everybody," said Laura Santos, vice president of campus relations for the Student Engineers' Council (SEC) and a senior engineering telecommunications major. "We want to get non-engineers involved so they can understand what it is we do." Today's activities, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in MSC 226, involve several engineering games to show the fun aspects of problem solving and engineering, including a bridge-build contest. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each game. On Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Zachry Lobby, faculty members

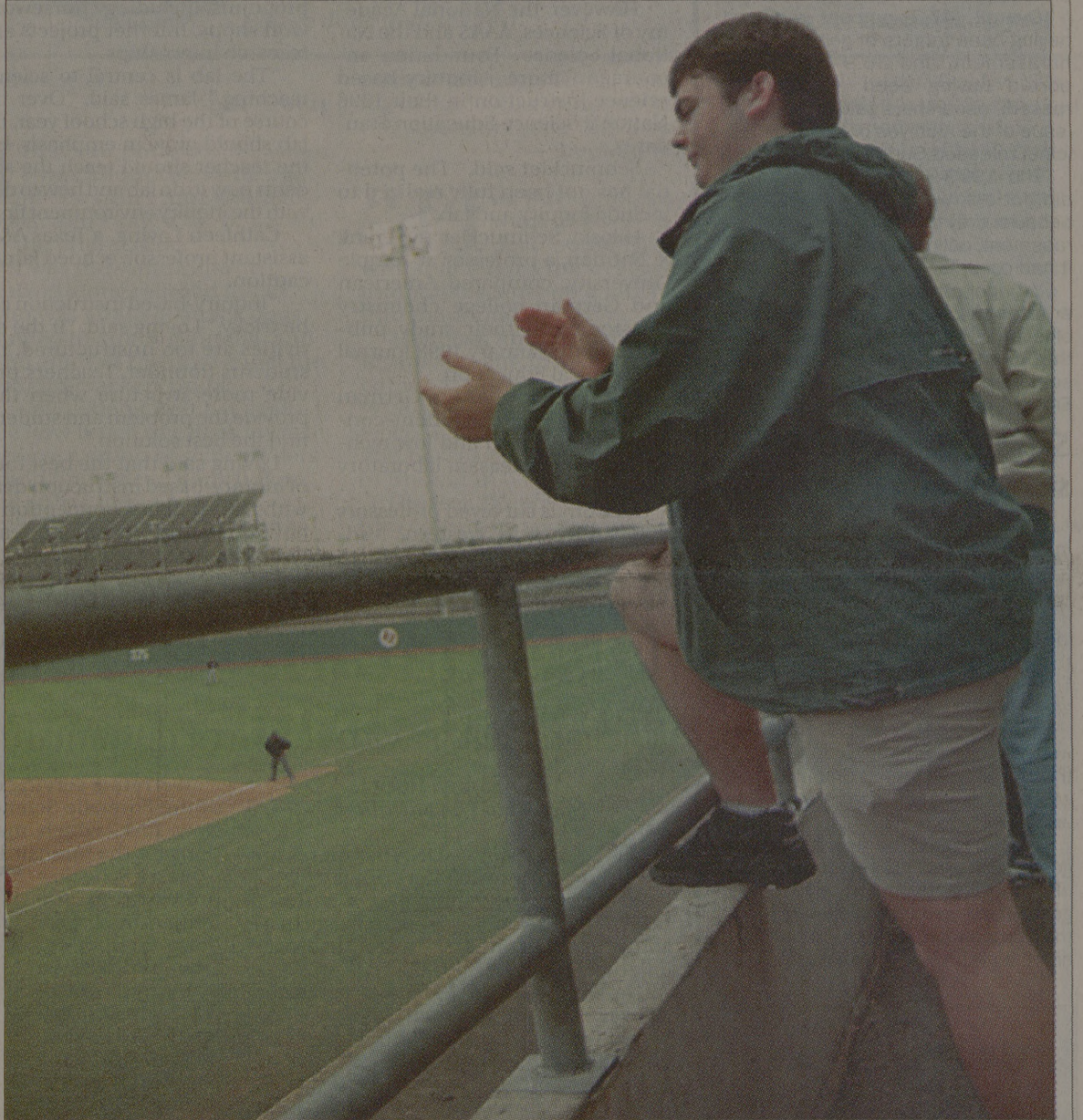
from the College of Engineering will display some of their research in an open science fair. By showing some practical applications of engineering, professors hope to excite engineering students about what can be done with their degree. Dr. Mark Holtzapple, associate professor of chemical engineering,

"Engineers' Week is to educate, inform and excite people about engineering."
LeAnne Gaspard
campus chair, National Engineers' Week

will share his research on turning waste biomass into usable materials. "I think it's a great idea to educate the public about what engineers are doing," Holtzapple said. His research uses materials such as municipal solid waste, industrial biosludge, agricultural residue and manure. When treated biologically, these materials can be made into products such as acetic acid, used

in vinegar; acetone, used in fingernail polish remover; isopropyl rubbing alcohol. Dr. Nancy Amato, assistant professor of computer science, will show videos on robotics research done at A&M and at other universities. Dr. Karen Butler, assistant professor of electrical engineering, will show her research in power systems. Her work includes practical applications in failures of transformers, power distribution systems and underground cable systems. The science fiction film *Gattaca* will be shown Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Rudder Theatre. On Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., SEC is hosting a picnic and a DJ on the Zachry lawn. On Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC Flag Room, computer games and technology will be set up to show the technological side of engineering. A pool and 42 tournament at yesterday's in College Station will take place Thursday night. The tournaments are open to all majors, and sign-up sheets are in Zachry Lobby and in the SEC office at 219 Wisenbaker. On Friday, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., two local bands, COOP and Haywood, will be in concert at the Dixie Theater. Everyone is invited and tickets are \$5.

Good play



Michael Barber, a senior mechanical engineering major, cheers on the Aggies at Olsen Field Saturday. The Aggies beat Ole Miss 6-3.

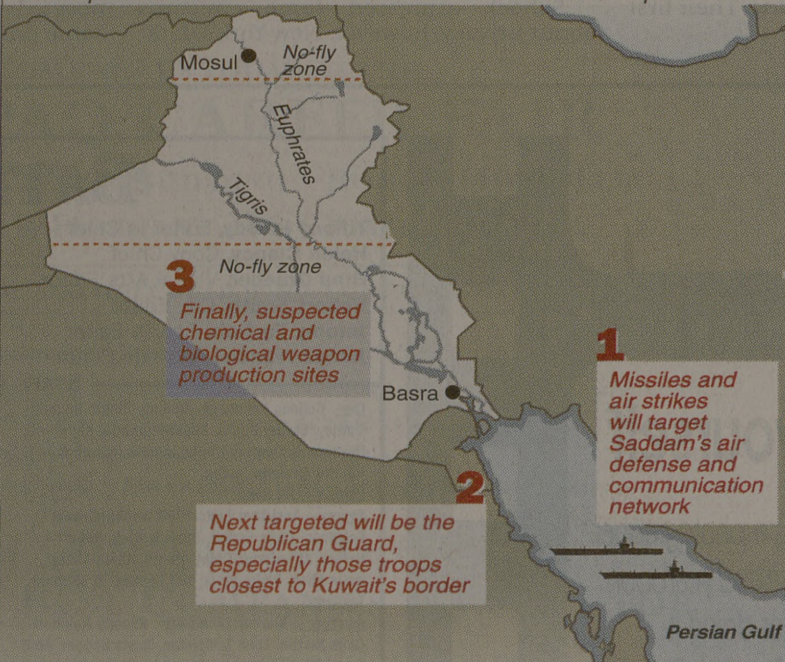
U.S. ready to strike if needed

Clinton briefed on details of agreement signed in Baghdad

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration said "we will be looking for actions, not words" from President Saddam Hussein as diplomats in Baghdad forged an agreement designed to settle a dispute over arms sites and establish a U.S. military attack. The Pentagon started a call-up of reserves in case they are needed. "We obviously have serious questions," about the Baghdad agreement, said James P. Rubin, spokesperson for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. His statement tempered the optimism voiced by aides to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Baghdad who predicted the understanding between Annan and Saddam would satisfy U.S. concerns. President Clinton spent the afternoon in the Oval Office where he was constantly being briefed on the situation, said spokesperson Joe Lockhart. He said lack of secure telephone service between Washington and Baghdad had kept details of the agreement to a minimum. Albright had "a short phone briefing" with Annan, and then began her own consultations with the French and British foreign ministers, Rubin said. "She did not receive a comprehensive assessment" from Annan, and therefore we are not in a position to make a judgment whether the principles for a peaceful solution have been achieved," said Rubin, who added, "Whatever happens, we will be looking for actions, not words," on whether Iraq meets the terms set down by the United States for settling the dispute. One

PLAN OF ATTACK

If diplomacy does not win out in the standoff with Iraq, military action will be forceful and unrelenting for days, maybe even weeks. A look at one possible scenario from discussions with defense specialists:



Shooting at Mardi Gras leaves 1 dead

GALVESTON (AP) — Police arrested a 19-year-old man early Sunday for fatally shooting a Mardi Gras reveler and injuring four others shortly after a parade that included 100,000 spectators. The Houston teen-ager, whose name was not released, was accused of firing a semi-automatic handgun into a crowd of partygoers at about 10 p.m. Saturday. It was only two hours after a final Mardi Gras parade snaked through an estimated 100,000 spectators along Galveston's historic Strand district. Oscar Manuel Nava, 19, of Houston was killed, said Galveston acting police chief Kim Schoolcraft. Two 20-year-old men, a 16-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy — all from Houston — were treated at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. They remained hospitalized Sunday in conditions ranging from fair to good. Authorities didn't speculate on a motive for the shooting, but it was believed that the victims knew the suspect. He fled the scene and was arrested early Sunday morning on suspicion of capital murder. In Texas, when a shooting of more than

two people results in a death, a suspect can be charged with a capital crime. Another shooting erupted minutes after the first Saturday night. One man was injured but not seriously, said Texas Department of Public Safety trooper Richard Vassar. Although the victim in the second shooting has declined to press charges, an investigation will proceed, Vasser said. The incidents were not believed to be related. "When you have that many people in that small of an area with alcohol and everything that goes in association with Mardi Gras, it was one of those things that was going to happen," Vasser said of the shootings. "It was just a matter of time." It was the first time a shooting resulted in a death along Galveston's Mardi Gras parade route. There have been fatal shootings in years past, but they occurred outside the main celebration area, Schoolcraft said. "In that big of a crowd, shoving and arguments are bound to break out," she said. "There's no way to prevent people from carrying guns into the entertainment district."

INSIDE frontiers

Some researchers say people should not rely on sunscreen to prevent melanoma skin cancer.

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aggielife

The Rec Center provides a variety of exercise options.

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sports

Aggies win nail-biter 3-2 in extra innings against Ole Miss.

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online

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