

Pro-lifers watch pro-choice rally in silence

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Pro-lifers stood and watched in silent protest of pro-choice advocates gathered at the second annual rally held at Rudder Fountain Saturday.

Sarah Suniga, president of the Texas A&M National Organization of Women (NOW) and a junior psychology and English major, said pro-choice supporters need an avenue to voice their opinion on campus.

"With a conservative campus, we need to hear our opinion," Suniga said. "There are people that straddle the fence, and we need to know that there are pro-choice voices here."

Planned Parenthood is scheduled to open an abortion clinic in Bryan by late summer, after 23 years in the Brazos Valley.

Emily Lopata, a member of St. Mary's Respect for Life Commission and a junior biology major, said an abortion clinic in Bryan-College Station could devastate the community.

"I think that the abortion clinic will have a terrible impact," Lopata said. "With the opening of an abortion clinic there will be a need for all sorts of counseling services for the women who are victimized by abortion."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision to legalize abortions in the United States, *Roe vs. Wade*. Suniga said pro-choice supporters con-

tinued to fight for the right of women to choose. Recent parental notification and parental consent laws regarding abortion have lessened the freedom of choice in more than half of the 50 states, Suniga said.

"Part of what we fight for is representative freedom and having options available to women," Suniga said. "It is important because it gives us control over our bodies."

The Planned Parenthood clinic in Bryan will provide increased family planning services and testing for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Melaney Linton, the Planned Parenthood senior vice president for medical services and a Texas A&M graduate, said the clinic will increase options and services for

women in Bryan-College Station.

"Our goal at Planned Parenthood is simply to provide a full range of choices to women," Linton said. "This facility is going to allow us to serve more women, men and families, and it will make more services available in the Brazos Valley."

Planned Parenthood performs about 200,000 abortions each year nationwide, Linton said.

"Planned Parenthood is committed to preventing unplanned pregnancies and abortions," Linton said.

DeWitt Patton, an electrical engineering professor and a supporter of the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life, said Planned Parenthood representatives provide misleading informa-

tion to women contemplating abortion.

"These are members of a profit-seeking organization trying to exploit women and their decision concerning abortion," Patton said. "The location of an abortion clinic in Bryan is simply going to facilitate a snap decision. An added two-hour drive to Houston may be enough to make her think it over and change her mind about having an abortion."

Suniga said women often choose to have an abortion because they have no other options.

"It is when a woman feels that she has no other choices that she decides to have an abortion," Suniga said. "But Planned Parenthood does present women with other options (than just abortion)."

Gramm talks on Medicare

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

J.S. Senator Phil Gramm said Friday the nation needs to progress towards changing the Medicare system in a transfer payment system to a system based on benefits.

"There is nobody in the the U.S. Senate who disagrees the financial crisis of the health-care system is the largest in the history of the country," Gramm said.

"Transfer payments are the captives of demographics. Under the best circumstances, you are still looking at a pure payroll tax of at least 30 percent with the current system."

Gramm spoke on Medicare reform in the first of a series of public policy forums at the George Bush Presidential Library Center.

Gramm serves as the chair of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Health Care and was recently named a 17-member national Medicare commission aimed at saving the system from bankruptcy.

Gramm said Medicare raises problems within the U.S. government which can be addressed through the gradual replacement of the current system with a system reliant on investments.

"By the year 2000, I believe we will have a transitional-based system for Medicare," he said. "I am convinced that it is worth it to guarantee people at over time we will pay people benefits. It is cheaper over a 50-year period to get out of the system."

The Bush School of Government and Public Service and the Department of Economics at Texas A&M University sponsored the forum to invite national leaders in the health-care field to discuss new solutions to the Medicare crisis.

INSIDE

aggie life

Mercury Rising, Lost in Space open with solid spots, good acting and top box-office ratings.

See Page 3

sports

Texas A&M Softball Team Sweeps University of Missouri in doubleheader.

See Page 5

opinion

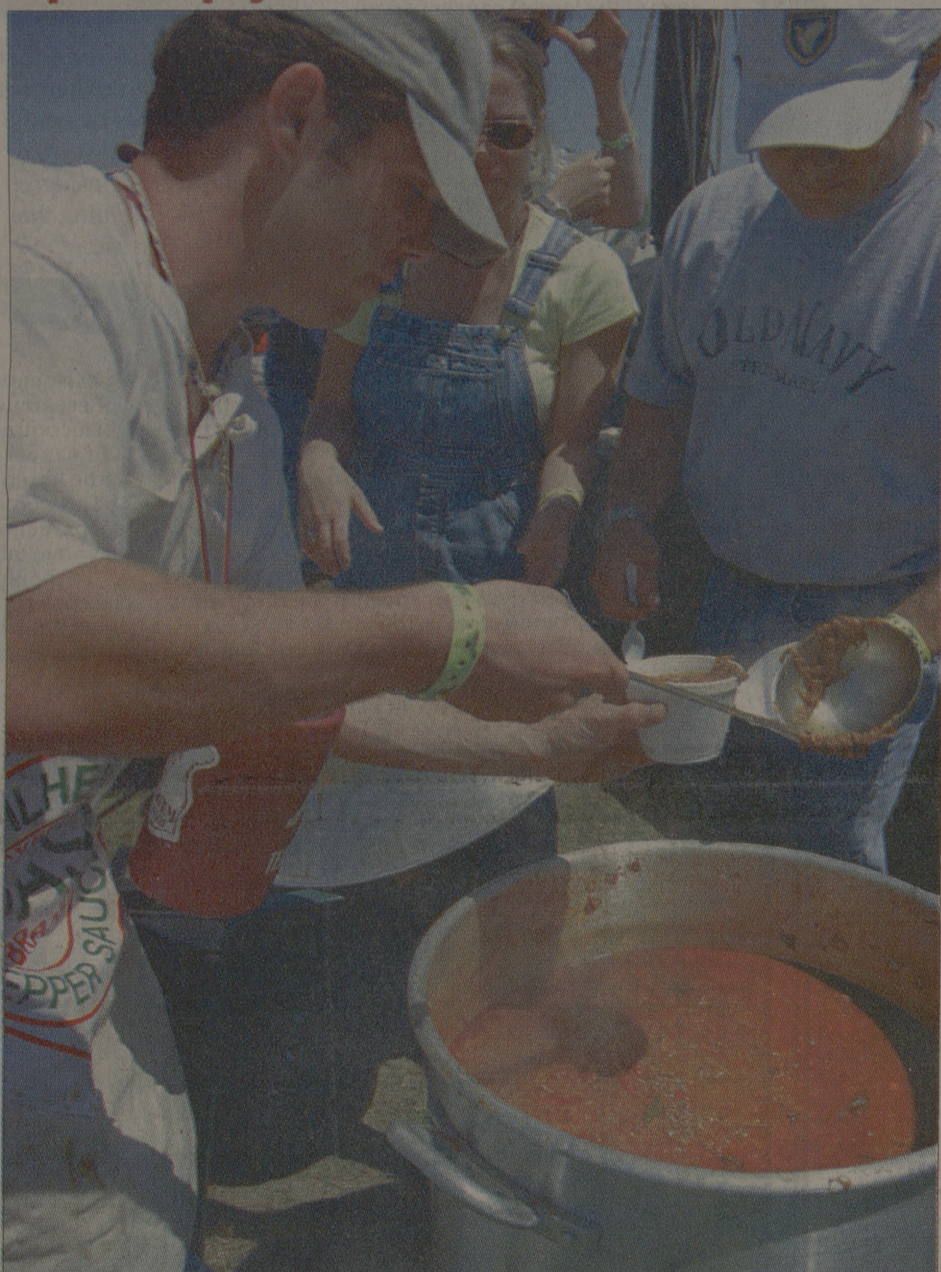
Reguson: Jonesboro shootings does not validate new gun-control laws.

See Page 7

online

http://battalion.tamu.edu
Look up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.

Spice up your life



David Claybar, a junior business major, serves a bowl of chili at Sigma Alpha Epsilon's Chillfest '98. The event raised \$25,000 for local charities.

JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

DWI bill crashes in House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Intense lobbying by the liquor and restaurant industries helped prevent a House vote on legislation lowering the threshold of drunkenness behind the wheel.

Such laws should be left to the states, not Washington, says the Republican committee chair whose panel kept the measure off the House floor.

But its Democratic sponsor says the committee action proves unmistakably that "the liquor lobby ... put profits ahead of people's lives."

The legislation was an amendment to a giant highway spending bill that would have taken highway money away from states that do not enact .08 percent blood alcohol con-

tent levels for drunken driving.

It is shaping up as one of the most hard-fought drinking issues since the drive more than a decade ago to make 21 the nationally recognized legal age for drinking.

A month ago, the Senate passed such an amendment to its highway bill by a strong 62-32 vote, and President Clinton has endorsed a national .08 percent standard that already is in force in 16 states.

Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., main sponsor of the House amendment, angrily blamed the liquor and restaurant lobbies for stopping her amendment from even getting a vote. "Today the liquor lobby bottled up our bill and demonstrated loud and clear that they put profits ahead of people's lives," Lowey said.

Clinton extends ban on military-style rifles

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is making permanent his temporary prohibition on importing military-style rifles that have been modified for sport shooting in order to skirt a 1994 assault weapons ban, a White House official said Sunday.

On Monday, Clinton will issue an executive order permanently banning import of 58 modified weapons, according to the official, who spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity. Most of the affected guns are variations of the AK-47 and Uzi semi-automatic weapons, the official said.

The president is scheduled to announce his order in a Rose Garden ceremony.

Clinton's order comes after a Treasury Department review of 59 weapons, done in consultation with state game and law enforcement agencies, hunting guides, and publicans and groups devoted to hunting and shooting. The review determined that many of the guns in question do not meet import requirements for sporting purposes, mainly because they can be fitted with large capacity magazines.

'The man on the cross'

Resurrection Week promotes Christianity with barbecue, guest speaker and mock crucifixion

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

The Resurrection Week committee kicked off 1998 Resurrection Week activities Sunday with a free barbecue at the Grove.

After committee members acted out a scene of Jesus' crucifixion, speaker John Harring, Class of '93, said many men have died for what they believe in, but Jesus is the only man who has died for his faith and been resurrected.

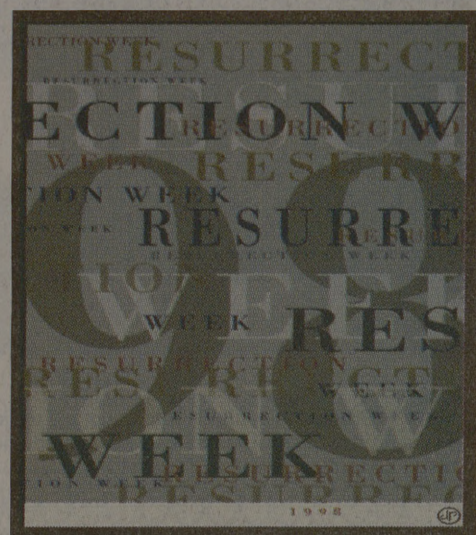
"See the man on the cross?" he said. "That's why we are here today, to celebrate his resurrection."

Harring encouraged participants to believe that Jesus is a good man, a prophet and God's son.

"There are three options," he said. "Jesus is either a liar, looney-toony or the Lord. Looking at the evidence, the only choice is Jesus is Lord. He was God in the flesh with power to change life."

Shannon Austin, 1997 Resurrection Week committee treasurer and a Texas A&M graduate, and her father helped prepare the food for the barbecue.

"This is my second year out at Resurrection Week," she said. "Res Week is a huge outreach to campus for the Lord. It is my desire to be involved in the Lord's work, because in the real world, you don't always get opportunities like this."



"I want people to hear about the Lord, that's our purpose, and be assured of where they're going to be for eternity."

Committee member Monique Marrou, a freshman general studies major, said Resurrection Week is an evangelistic opportunity that will help her spread the word of Jesus.

"I encourage people to come, hear the gospel and see what the Bible has to offer," she said.

NSF says degrees being exported to foreigners

DALLAS (AP) — For at least 10 years, most minority students earning doctoral degrees in science or engineering in the United States have been from other countries.

In 1996, about 40 percent of the science and engineering doctorates awarded in the United States went to foreign students, and three out of four went to foreign-born minorities, according to the National Science Foundation.

American blacks accounted for less than 2 percent of the degrees, and Hispanics, about 2 percent.

Some American universities aggressively pursue potential graduate students on overseas recruiting trips. In many graduate programs, foreign students are in the majority.

At the University of Texas at Austin, for example, 108 of the 187 graduate students studying computer science are noncitizens with temporary visas, according to *The Dallas Morning News'* Sunday editions.

At Texas Tech University, 67 of the 101 students pursuing doctoral degrees in engineering are described as "nonresident aliens." There are no American Hispanics or blacks.

U.S. minorities complain that they are greatly underrepresented in science doctoral programs, despite decades of affirmative action.

Some complain that foreign students are being educated, in part, at U.S. taxpayers' expense. A recent National Research Council study found that more than 70 percent of non-U.S. citizens cited university support as their primary source of financing.

"I think what it comes down to, frankly, is ... an unwillingness to finally do something about our own," said John F. Alderete, president of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

But other educators say the selection of graduate students is colorblind. They say U.S. minorities just don't perform as well on standardized tests.

"It's not that U.S. universities deliberately avoid looking at the domestic market," said Krishnan Chittur, an associate professor of chemical engineering at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. "Because it would be a lot easier for us to have students coming in from domestic programs."

High-paying jobs in a booming economy lure top minority students away from graduate programs, said Bill Perry, dean of faculty at Texas A&M University. In some cases, students choose to pursue a graduate degree in business or in other lucrative fields, such as law or medicine.

Liberation army fights for Kosovar freedom

The KLAS' war has been limited to claimed also the large Albanian minority in neighbor-

"We are ready to fight to the last drop of blood. The war has begun and will not end until Kosovo is free."

Unidentified soldier
Kosovian Liberation Army

attacks that have killed 50 people in the past 20 months, mostly Serb police and alleged Albanian collaborators. The Serbs retaliated last month by attacking what they called KLA strongholds, killing a suspected KLA leader and about 80 villagers, including children.

The increasing violence stoked fears of a new Balkan war, engulfing not only Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of the Yugoslav province's 2 million people, but

ing Macedonia and possibly Albania itself.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is on notice to open serious negotiations with Kosovo Albanians by late April, or face new economic sanctions.

He may comply, but it is unlikely his special police will withdraw as demanded. In Drenica, they have dug in to protect key positions like the slope leading to an ammunition factory from KLA militants.