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THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

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Opinion:

'He said, she said' debate over Johns Hopkins University report that women drivers are more susceptible to vehicular accidents.

Incoming comet

Houston basketball assistant coach takes a shot at heading A&M's women's team

By KATIE MISH
Staff Writer

Peggie Gillom, an assistant coach for the WNBA's Houston Comets, accepted the coaching job for the Texas A&M women's Basketball Team Friday morning.

Athletics director Wally Groff said Gillom will bring a different perspective to the women's team, with her experience at both the collegiate and professional levels.

"From the recruiting aspect, she is one of the best, and she brings an excellent coaching and playing background with her from the college and professional ranks," Groff said.

Gillom worked as an assistant coach for 16 seasons at the University of Mississippi, under coach Van Chancellor, the coach she also played for during her college career.

During her time with Ole Miss, the team had 15 appearances in the NCAA tourna-

ment. Gillom joined Chancellor again in 1997, helping the Houston Comets to the first WNBA championship.

"It was a long and difficult search, but at the same time, it was rewarding."

— Linn Hickey

Texas A&M senior associate athletics director

Texas A&M senior associate athletics director and search committee chair, Linn Hickey, said A&M now has a guide for the future.

"It was a long and difficult search, but at the same time, it was rewarding," Hickey said. "We are extremely excited to

have someone of Peggie's caliber and experience heading our women's basketball program. I feel that we've definitely found a great leader for the future of our program."

Gillom said she looks forward to coaching the Aggies, and being part of the Big 12 Conference. She said she sees this as a good change of direction for her career.

"I can't wait to get into a great conference in the Big 12 and working toward our main goal of winning the National Championship," Gillom said. "I'm just excited and eager to be working and learning about this great program. This is a great opportunity for me and I'm just glad to be an Aggie."

Gillom is the sixth head women's basketball coach in A&M history.

She replaces A&M coach Candi Harvey, who resigned in April to coach in the American Basketball League.

Associate professor in sociology recognized for contributions

By PATRICK PEABODY
Staff Writer

Edward Murguia, Texas A&M University associate professor of sociology, has been selected by the American Sociological Association (ASA) for a two-year term as director of its Minority Affairs Program.

The position Murguia will be filling is that of Staff Sociologist and Director of Minority Affairs at the Executive Office of the ASA.

"It is a good opportunity for me to work at the national level," Murguia said. "I hope to gain some knowledge of national issues, and can use my expertise of Southwestern issues."

Murguia will assume the full-time position on Aug. 1 in Washington, D.C.

He will direct ASA's Minority Fellowship Program, a graduate program, and the Minority Opportunities through School Transformation Program, an undergraduate program.

The Minority Fellowship Program was created in 1974 with funding from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Since the program began, more than 180 fellows have received their Ph.Ds in sociology. Currently, there are 35 fellows.

The Minority Opportunities through School Transformation, was founded in 1990, and is funded by the Ford Foundation.

Its purpose is to enhance undergraduate training, enabling the students to go on to graduate school.

Murguia said that one of his main focuses will be to maintain diversity in the programs.

"I also hope to maintain what we have going so far," he said. "These programs give students good understanding that they could get better with good training."

Murguia also said minorities play an important part in the profession.

"The can reflect on their own background," he

said, "They can go back with their knowledge to help local problems that would have otherwise have been overlooked."

Murguia said this program expands opportunities for all minorities.

"These programs act as a mechanism for the otherwise, disadvantaged," he said. "It allows them a chance to make decisions, and to make a difference."

"Ed will not only provide leadership to sociology," Rogelio Saenz, professor and

head of the Texas A&M Department of Sociology, said, "but also to other social and behavioral sciences in issues regarding the preparation, mentoring, and training of minorities."

Murguia, after his two years of service, will have the option of staying there or returning to A&M.

"I hope it is a win-win situation for everyone involved," he said, "myself, the University, and the ASA Executive Office."



Edward Murguia, associate professor of sociology, was named director of the ASA's Minority Affairs Program.

Death sentence commuted to life in prison

TECUMSEH, Mich. (AP) — Texas' lifting of a death sentence for a one-eyed, confessed serial killer has been applauded by the former prosecutor who won his conviction in his mother's Michigan slaying 38 years ago.

"He's really the only murderer I felt sorry for," former Lenawee County prosecutor Ken Glaser Jr. said after Henry Lee Lucas, 62, was spared from becoming the oldest inmate ever executed in Texas.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush on Friday accepted a recommendation from the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to commute the sentence to life in prison. The board reviewed the conviction at Bush's request.

Lucas had faced lethal injection Tuesday in the death of a hitchhiker. Her corpse — clad in only orange socks — was found in 1979 in a ditch north of Austin.

When arrested in that case, Lucas generated enormous publicity by confessing to nearly 600 murders in at least 22 states. He later recanted all of them, including that of his mother in 1960 in Tecumseh — the one slaying he consistently had acknowledged.

But in issuing the reprieve, Bush said jurors "did not know and could not have known that Henry Lee Lucas had a pattern of lying and confessing to crimes that evidence later proved he did not commit."

To Glaser, Bush's move was just. "For a murder they're not sure he committed, it's a pretty stiff penalty to put him to death, although he committed others," Glaser told *The Daily Telegram*'s Adrian. "I think they should just keep him in jail for life."

Lucas still faces six life sentences and 210 years in prison for three other murders.

In 1960, Glaser successfully argued for Lucas' conviction in his mother's stabbing death during a lingering dispute in their Tecumseh home.

"It was an argument about nothing as I remember," Glaser recalls of Lucas, then 23 and from a household described as dysfunctional. "He came across as a pathetic young boy ... who let his temper get the best of him."

"I recall his appearance vividly because he constantly had tears dripping down his cheek. He wasn't emotional. He just had a watery glass eye," the result of being stabbed by his brother years before.

"He was quiet, down and withdrawn. He answered questions directly. He seemed like a kid who felt bad and admitted it when he did something wrong."

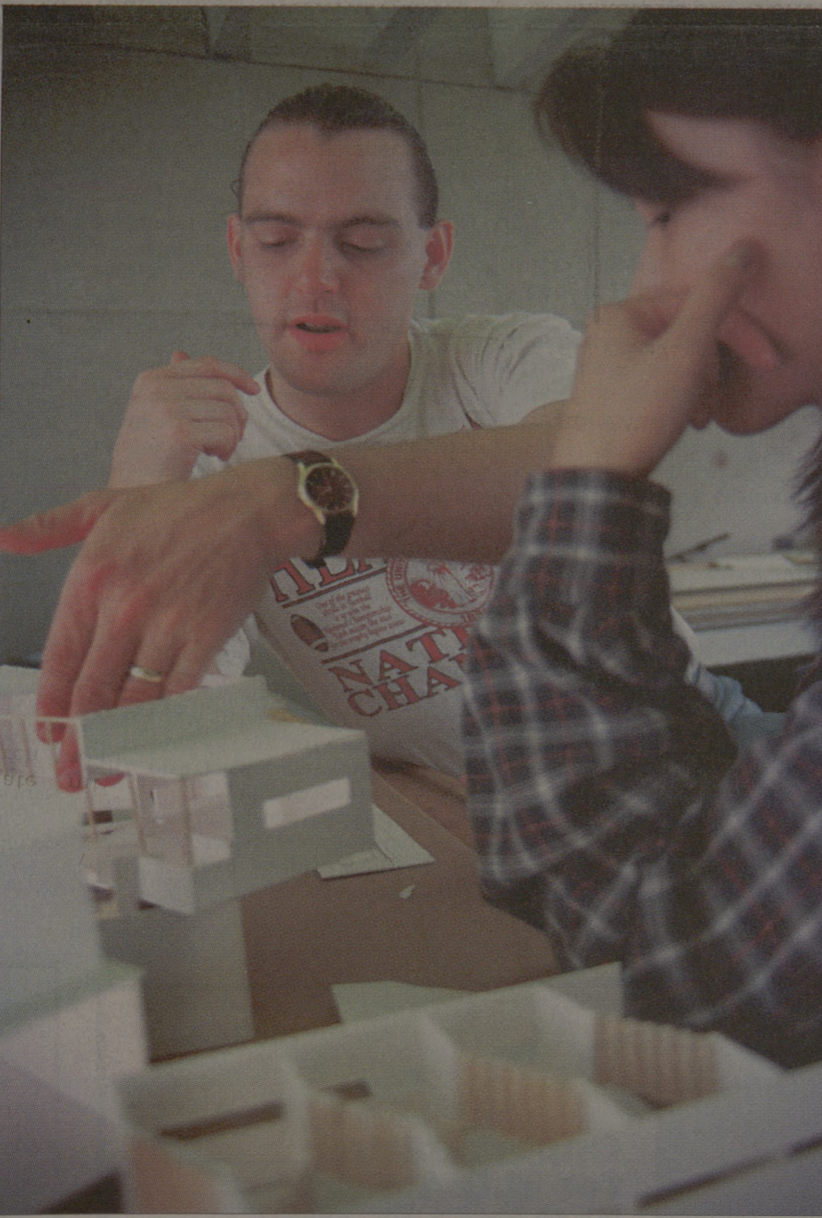
After jurors convicted Lucas of second-degree murder, he was sentenced to 20 to 30 years behind bars before being released in the early 1970s.

He later was arrested and pleaded guilty to trying to kidnap a 16-year-old girl standing alone at a bus stop — an abduction thwarted when a passer-by intervened.

For that offense, Lucas was handed a three-year sentence by Lenawee County Circuit Judge Harvey Koselka, who found Lucas less sympathetic than Glaser.

"He was a sweet-talking fellow who didn't look as dangerous as he was," Koselka said. "I don't recall him being remorseful," Koselka said last week.

Model students



Brent Swain, an architecture graduate student, and Yuko Hattori, a senior environmental design major, work out problems with their model for Architectural Design IV (ARCH 405).

Klan rally

Black Panthers, Ku Klux Klan meet in Jasper over weekend

JASPER, Texas (AP) — The weekend Ku Klux Klan rally here had the stated purpose of condemning an African-American resident's horrific death by three white men accused of chaining him to a pickup truck, then dragging him along a country road until his body shredded to pieces.

The real reason for the assembly was less noble.

"The media was real important," Michael Lowe, grand dragon of the Klan and its regional director for operations in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, said. "I'm real pleased."

He should be. The only wounds suffered by the Klan were a few dents in car fenders caused when African American activists tried to storm their vehicles as the two dozen Klansmen departed the Jasper County Courthouse.

Otherwise, the Klan received a huge dose of media coverage at an event where essentially nothing happened. Only two people were arrested and no one was injured.

Despite their weird appearance in robes and hoods, the Klan even managed to come off almost civil compared to the frenzy of the New Black Panthers and black Muslims who blew into Jasper carrying shotguns and rifles, then tried to crash the Klan's party.

Equally culpable in this performance Saturday were the Klan's unwitting accomplices in the media, a force of reporters and photographers that numbered about 200 — equalling the number of spectators — and whose antics often resembled a swarm of insects flitting from hive to hive.

As a handful of Muslims rounded the corner into view of the courthouse square, a horde of television cameras and still photographers bolted from the courthouse lawn in a stampede.

This scrambling would be repeated every time one of the African American militants made an effort to approach the Klan corral police had set up on the courthouse lawn.

Nearly 50 television cameras were focused on the courthouse door just after high noon Saturday as the Klansmen — 15 of them in white robes, three others in black robes and seven in other garb — filed into the homemade bullpen marked off by orange plastic fencing.

If you've never been to a public Klan rally, you need to know these things are not run like a well-oiled machine.

Lowe set up a speaker system and a tape machine that started out by blasting "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The tape eventually stopped, started again, stopped.

Then spectators were treated to rhetoric about the Klan not being involved in the June 7 slaying of James Byrd, about how the Klansmen are just law-abiding Americans.

Unlike other Klan rallies in recent years, there was no table set up for distribution of printed flyers or purchase of Klan T-shirts or trinkets.

Instead, several Klansmen passed out business cards, working the crowd lining the fence like seasoned politicians.

"We've got some supporters here," Lowe, who traded his traditional robe for a business suit and tie, said.

More music. More oratory. Eventually, one of the speakers, Darrell Flinn of the Klan's Vidor chapter, about 50 miles to the south, got around to blasting the liberal media.

One of the Klan members, a young woman, took photographs of the Klansmen being photographed.

The cameras whirred. Reporters scribbled furiously. And Lowe smiled throughout.

State board denies A&M law and legal studies programs

By ROD MACHEN
Assistant City Editor

On Thursday, a committee of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board denied Texas A&M University's request to add law and legal studies to its table of programs.

The request was the next step in A&M's affiliation with South Texas College of Law, a private school in Houston.

The universities committee of the Coordinating Board voted 6-2 in favor of a recommendation by its staff to reject A&M's request. The issue will be voted on by the full

board at its quarterly meeting July 16-17. The staff report included several reasons for the rejection:

- Although A&M and South Texas officials have said they would keep the partnership private, there is a possibility that in the future public funds would be requested.
- Texas already has four public law schools, and this duplication would not be beneficial.
- A&M officials said adding a law school would increase the University's prestige. The staff thought A&M has other ways of accomplishing this without

adding a law degree.

Wendy Marsh, a member of the board who supported A&M, said the affiliation is "a very visionary partnership."

"Since [South Texas] is private, the *Hopwood* decision doesn't affect them," she said. The *Hopwood* decision forbade public universities in Texas from using race as a factor in admissions.

This is not the first time A&M has entered into a partnership with a private professional school. In 1996, the Texas A&M system added the private Baylor College of Dentistry.

Marsh said the two affiliations are not that different.

"Some people see a distinction," she said. "I don't."

Ray Bowen, president of Texas A&M, said this is not a setback.

"I'm confident the Coordinating Board will approve this eventually," Bowen told the *Houston Chronicle*. "This board tends to approach major issues slowly."

While the real decision will come at the board's July meeting, Marsh said the request should be approved within the next year.