

Diaries of atheist sold at auction for \$12,000

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — After a brief auction outside a federal bankruptcy courtroom in Austin, the diaries and personal papers of atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair have been sold for \$12,000.

"It's an investment. I'm not so much an admirer as an entrepreneur," said Jimmy Nassour, 43, an Austin lawyer who was the high bidder in the Tuesday afternoon auction.

Nassour bid \$2,000 in January for an inscribed Bible of O'Hair's at a formal auction in nearby Pflugerville.

"I think the diaries will provide a real insight into the real Madalyn Murray O'Hair," Nassour told the *San Antonio Express-News*. "You have someone who probably did incredible things for the First Amendment, yet was deemed the most hated woman in America."

Moments after the bidding, bankruptcy Judge Frank Monroe approved the sale of what was the last asset in the liquidation of the O'Hair estate.

Court-appointed trustee Ron Ingalls said more than \$240,000 in unpaid claims against the O'Hair estate remain, most of them owed to the

Internal Revenue Service.

Ingalls had Monroe's approval to put the diaries on the auction block in hopes of raising more money. Going into the auction, a pending high bid of \$8,888.88 had come from an Austin man who asked not to be identified.

"(Murray) did incredible things for the First Amendment, yet was deemed the most hated woman in America."

— Jimmy Nassour
Austin lawyer

With Ingalls acting as auctioneer, Nassour and the second man moved quickly past \$10,000 and then \$11,000. Nassour prevailed at \$12,000 after his competitor called it quits at \$11,888.

Asked the significance, if any, of

the unusual bids, the man said, "I just like number sequences. They are meaningful to me."

He acknowledged some might read more into it, particularly the repetition of the number eight, which some associate with Christ.

"Some might place religious significance on that. I'd rather not say," he said before departing.

For his money, Nassour got the personal diaries of America's most famous atheist.

The diaries cover a stretch of time from 1953 — six years before O'Hair filed her lawsuit against prayer in public schools — to August 1995, only weeks before she disappeared.

O'Hair's case and others led to a 1963 U.S. Supreme Court decision banning organized prayer in public schools. O'Hair, her son, Jon Garth Murray, and granddaughter, Robin Murray O'Hair, whom she adopted as her daughter, have been missing since late September 1995, when they vanished from San Antonio along with \$500,000 in gold.

Investigators suspect they were kidnapped and murdered, and two men who are suspects in the case are being held on unrelated charges.

Architect students contribute to project

BY AMANDA PALM
The Battalion

Fourteen Texas A&M architecture students will present designs for a new women and children's pavilion for Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo. today.

The students visited the hospital in February to meet with the medical staff before beginning their design projects. The hospital project is part of a design studio class taught by Dr. George J. Mann, holder of the Ronald L. Skaggs endowed professorship in health facilities design.

Mann said he tries to find real-life projects with actual clients for his students because it is a valuable learning experience for them to work with an architecture firm.

The students have been working in conjunction with Memorial Hospital staff architects Ann Adams and FDS International, an architecture firm in Dallas. The student designs will be reviewed by Adams and FDS International, but the architecture firm will use its own design for the women and children's pavilion.

John Castorina, who received a master's degree from the College of Architecture in 1984, is president of FDS International. Castorina has contributed financial support to the \$45 million project.

Adams said the hospital interviewed pediatric patients and their parents, physicians and staff to determine the needs of those who will use the pavilion.

"Most patients and parents were looking for a place to retreat," she said. "The kids who frequent the hospital wanted a different place to go to."

Jeff Cadell, a senior environmental design major, said patient needs were a major part of his design. He said he wanted to use his design to change the perception children have of hospitals so they will be more comfortable staying in them.

"We tried to make the design appeal to kids so it's not such a scary place," he said. "We used a lot of geometric shapes and soft colors. And as for women, we just kept things subtle and elegant to reflect women."

Kristy Walvoord, a graduate student who has conducted research in women's health, was available to students during the extent of the project to offer advice and answer questions.

"Most students knew nothing about health-care architecture," she said, "and they took on a 200,000-square-foot project. They have done an amazing job."

Adams said this project in particular gave students a chance to learn about codes and about how health care projects differ from commercial architecture projects.

Cadell said he is lucky to have had the opportunity while still in school. He said the project inspired and encouraged him to continue in the architecture field.

"Communication is vital and teamwork, not only between the students but [also with] the architects and the hospital was important in order for the project to succeed," he said. "This was a great learning experience and a taste of what the architectural profession is all about."

SCHULMAN THEATRES COLLEGE PARK 6
www.schulman-theatres.com
Eats online www.letsok.com
2080 E. 29th St., Bryan 778-2463
BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 4:15
Now Showing - Today's Times Only

STITCHES (HATE ABOUT YOU)	(PG-13)	4:40 7:20 9:55
THE OUT OF TOWNERS	(PG-13)	4:30 7:00 9:40
NEVER BEEN KISSED	(PG-13)	4:40 7:15 10:00
LIFE	(R)	4:30 7:05 9:40
THE MATRIX	(R)	4:30 7:00 9:45
DOUGS 1ST MOVIE	(G)	4:45 7:25 9:25

\$3.00 - all shows before 6 p.m.
\$3.00 - children/seniors \$5.00 - Adults

ATTENTION Liberal Arts Majors

There are a limited number of summer internships available in Austin and Washington D.C. for Liberal Arts juniors.

Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and be active in leadership organizations.

For more information, access the Political Science website:
<http://www.polisci.tamu.edu>

Or call the Center for Public Leadership Studies: 845-4114

SEARCH CONTINUED

The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

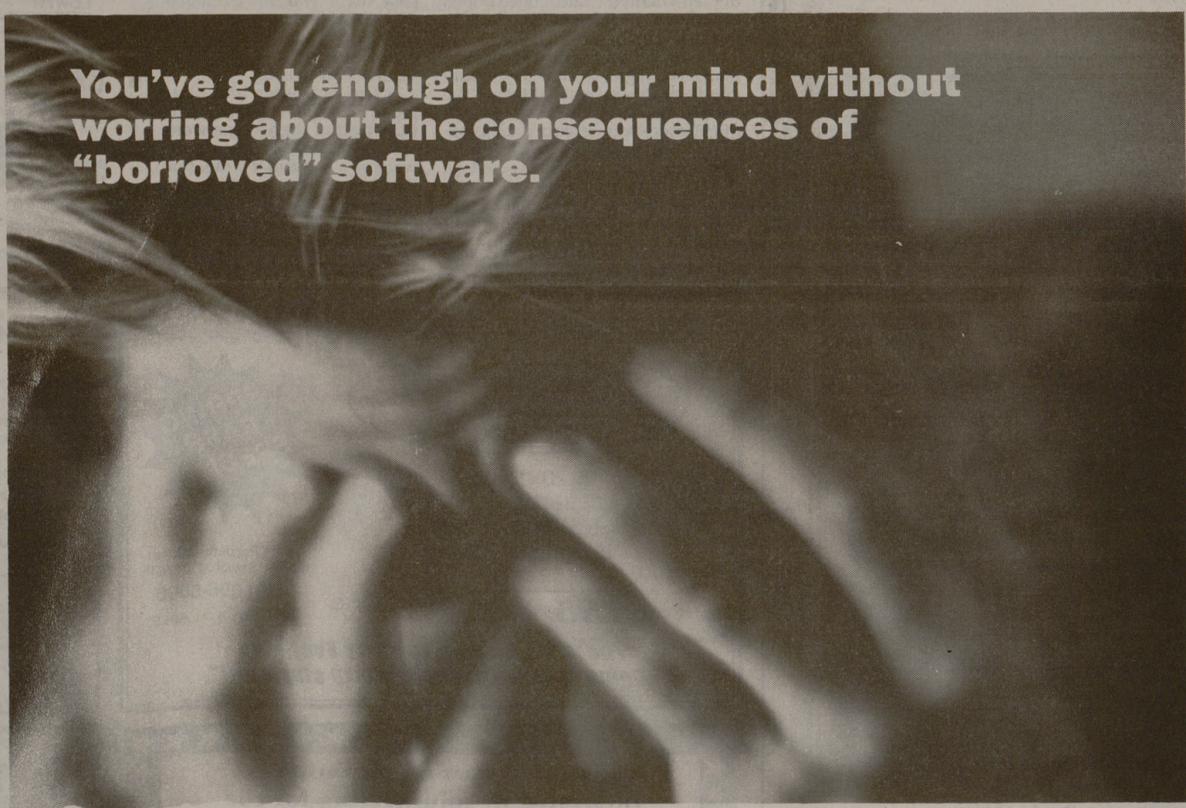
Editor
THE BATTALION
- Including radio and online editions -
Fall 1999
(The fall editor will serve from Aug. 16 through Dec. 10, 1999.)

Qualifications for editor in chief of *The Battalion* are:

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (unless fewer credits are required to graduate) during the term of office;
- Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester(s) (all summer course work is considered summer semester) during the term of office. In order for summer school grades to qualify as previous semester grades, a minimum of six hours must be taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s);
- Have completed or be registered in JOUR 301 (Mass Comm Law), or equivalent;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper, - OR -
Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, - OR -
Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to **Francia Cagle** in the Student Publications office, room 012 Reed McDonald Building. **Deadline** for submitting application: 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, 1999. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 4:15 p.m. Monday, May 3, 1999, in room 221F Reed McDonald.

An Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer. Committed to Diversity.



You've got enough on your mind without worrying about the consequences of "borrowed" software.

Illegally obtained software can come back to haunt you.

- It could have viruses, which can cost you big time, just when that paper is due
- Software piracy is against the law, and it's punishable by hefty fines
- There's no place to turn when you need technical assistance
- You aren't eligible for cool upgrades

And if you're a student, it's cheap to get legal.

Microsoft Student Software Prices

70% Discount
As a college student, you can get Office '97 Standard Academic Edition for the estimated retail price of \$159,* at your college bookstore.

Even Lower
See if your school has signed up for Microsoft's Campus Agreement, the new subscription program that includes Office and other Microsoft software titles for even less than the 70% discount.

Office 2000 Upgrade with the Academic Technology Guarantee

If you are a qualified education customer in the U.S. or Canada and acquire any academic version of Microsoft® Office '97 between 1/01/99 and 7/31/99, you may upgrade to the corresponding Office 2000 academic version product for the cost of shipping and handling (\$7.50 US; \$10 CAN) plus applicable tax**. To find out more about the Academic Technology Guarantee or to find out about Campus Agreement, visit our Web site: www.microsoft.com/education/hed/students



©1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft and Where do you want to go today are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.
*Retailer prices may vary. **Proof of purchase required.

Microsoft®
Where do you want to go today?®