

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Tuesday • September 7, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 7 • 20 Pages

28 potential jurors still sought for trial

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Jury selection for the capital murder trial of Lawrence Russell Brewer will continue today, as 28 more potential jurors are needed to meet the 50-person quota.

JASPER TRIAL

Six Bryan residents were selected for the potential jury pool last Friday; 28 more are needed to reach the standard amount of 50 potential jurors. The potential jurors are being chosen from the original jury list of 900 summoned last week. After the 50 are selected, the number will be narrowed to 14, which includes 12 jurors and two alternates.

Among the six selected Friday was an African-American woman, the first minority juror for this case. The current potential jury pool consists of 12 men and 10 women, including 19 Anglo-Americans, two Hispanic-Americans and one African-American. Of the original jury list, 106 Brazos County residents including 12 African Americans, wait to be called to the potential jury pool.

Final jury selection is expected to conclude this Friday. According to *The Bryan-College Station Eagle* during jury selection last Friday the Brazos County Sheriff deputies ordered the defendant's brother, John Brewer, not to speak to the defendant in the courtroom.

Brewer's brother was eventually banned from the courtroom, for the day, after he ignored the request and yelled, "I love you, Russell" while the defendant was being led to his holding cell.

Lawrence Russell Brewer reportedly remained docile during the selection process and dozed off a few times.

A Texas A&M professor was among the potential jurors dismissed on Friday. The professor, juror No. 31, was dismissed because his ex-wife is from Jasper. Officials felt he was unsuitable to serve on the jury because he had followed the trial extensively.

Jasper County District Judge Monte Lawlis said he hopes to start testimony Sept. 15.

Lawrence Russell Brewer is the first of the two remaining men accused in the dragging death of 49-year-old African American, James A. Byrd, Jr. Shawn Allen Berry, the last of the three accused awaits his October trial in Jasper. John William King of Jasper now awaits the death penalty following his conviction in February 1999.

Cornyn strikes Hopwood

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Texas Attorney General John Cornyn retracted the *Hopwood* decision, which prompted state universities to stop identifying students by race for admissions, financial aid and scholarships.

The *Hopwood* case was named after one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed by four white applicants against the University of Texas law school's affirmative-action admissions policy. The appeals court ruled that the policy discriminated against white applicants, and the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the ruling to stand.

Dan Morales, former attorney general, interpreted the 1996 ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which abolished the University of Texas School of Law's affirmative action admissions policies, to also concern scholarships and financial aid.

After the ruling, most state universities in Texas, including Texas A&M, University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University,

stopped using affirmative action based scholarships and financial aid the practice of which many blamed for a significant drop in minority enrollment.

Cornyn said the U.S. Supreme Court is the governing body that can resolve these sensitive issues and Morales' legal opinion should not be considered the final decision.

"Absent [of] clear guidance from the high court, we think it [ill-advised] to reach broad conclusions on what may or may not be permitted under *Hopwood* on matters other than admissions," Cornyn said.

He said universities should not change their policies regarding the use of race for admissions, financial aid or scholarships until a final court decision has been made.

The University of Texas Board of Regents has asked the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider the decision to ban affirmative action policies at state universities.

"We deeply appreciate the attorney general's efforts on behalf of the University of Texas and of all Texas higher education," System Chancellor William Cunningham from UT-Austin said.

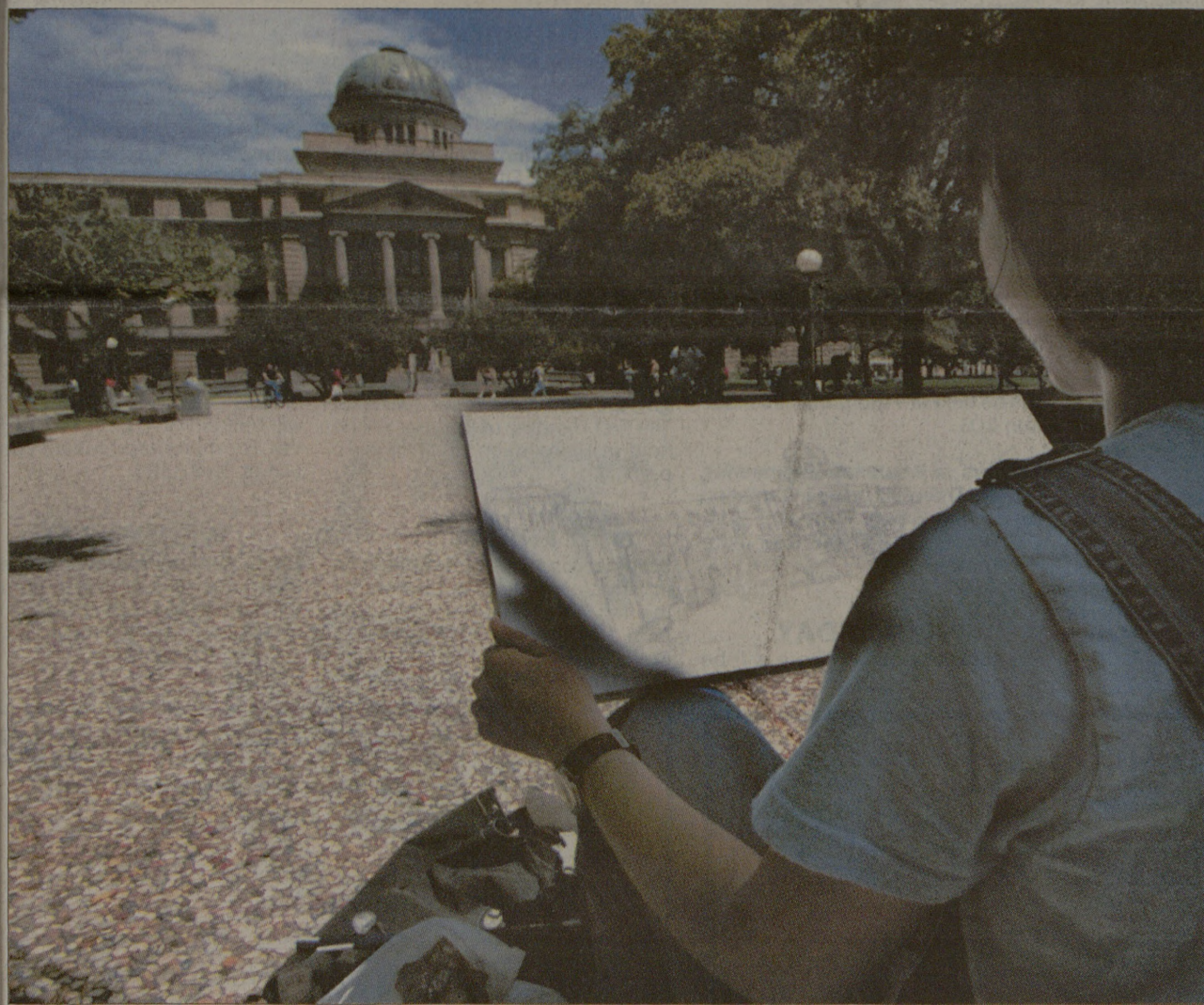
Frank Newton, dean of the Texas Tech University law school, said Cornyn's letter might leave schools unclear as to how to handle the situation.

"Since February 1997, school policies on financial matters were that you couldn't use race," Newton said. "Does he mean we can go back to time when we could? Or does he mean we should stand pat and wait for the court opinion? To be honest with you, I can't tell which it is."

"I hope the interpretation is that we may use race to enhance diversity and to award scholarships. The wording still leaves some doubt in my mind," Newton said.

He said because the fall semester has already begun, school officials have time to discuss the matter with in-house attorneys.

Academic endeavour



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Aon Phatthanakijruang, a former student of Texas A&M, spends her Labor Day holiday sketching the Academic Building. Phatthanakijruang said she would later oil paint the sketch.

A&M appoints woman to post, makes history

BY CHRIS MENCZER
The Battalion

A small piece of Texas A&M history was made this week as Ellyn Perrone was appointed to the newly created office of vice president for governmental affairs, making her the first woman in the history of A&M to serve at the vice-presidential level on a permanent basis.



PERRONE

After earning her master's degree in public administration from A&M in 1986 Perrone joined the Texas A&M University System as special assistant to the vice chancellor for state affairs in January 1987.

She moved to the president's office in February 1990 and has worked for the past nine years as A&M's director of external relations, which was A&M's top governmental representative prior to the creation of the new vice presidential office.

A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said while two other women have been named as interim vice presidents, Perrone's long

experience as the school's primary governmental liaison, prompted her promotion.

"A&M is fortunate to have a person of her experience and skills representing its interests in Austin, as well as Washington D.C.," Bowen said.

"[She is] both pro-active and responsive in explaining the University's programs and needs to lawmakers and other policy-making officials."

While her primary function as A&M's top governmental liaison will not change, Perrone said that as a vice president she will have increased policy making powers and authority over certain special projects, such as the A&M government internship program in Washington D.C.

"It is a tremendous honor to represent and serve this great University," she said. "[I will] try to represent A&M better at the state and federal level and increase our resource base."

Perrone is a Bryan native and is active in civic organizations. She is on the board of directors of Scott & White Clinic and has previously served on the board of directors for Texas Lyceum, a statewide youth leadership program.

Association of Former Students revamps advertising campaign

BY RACHEL HOLLAND
The Battalion

The Association of Former Students is developing new programs to increase involvement among recent Texas A&M graduates and current students, as part of its new branding campaign. The association's purpose is to extend financial and other aid to students of A&M and promote the interests and welfare of A&M and education in Texas.

The association sponsors Aggie Hostel, a summer retreat for former students over age 65, and contributes money to local A&M Clubs, including the Dallas and Houston A&M Clubs, and the University.

Amy Glass, brand manager for the association and Class of '92, said developing the campaign is necessary because the association's membership has not increased at the same rate as the number of A&M graduates.

She said even though more than half of all A&M graduates graduated after 1982, most of the association's support comes from students who graduated before 1970.

Glass said despite the differences in demographics, former students in all market segments want to be a

part of an Aggie network. As a result, the association chose the Aggie ring as the symbol for its new branding campaign, "We Are the Aggie Network."

"We haven't done a good job of telling them [alumni] where their money is going."

— Amy Glass
Brand manager

The target market was split into different demographic groups according to the generation in which they graduated or will attend A&M.

She said communications with former students had been geared toward a market segment comprised of graduates known as "Loyalists," who graduated before 1970. Glass said the Loyalists are driven to contribute by their desire to give back to the University.

Glass said another marketing segment is comprised of graduates known as "Boomers," who graduated

between 1970 and 1985 and are similar to the Loyalists in their desire to contribute financially.

She said the new campaign is different because it includes market segments comprised of recent graduates and current students, known as the "Individualists" and the "Futurists," respectively. In the past, most marketing and communications were geared toward the Loyalists and after realizing most graduates and current students do not understand the purpose the association serves at A&M, the marketing scheme was changed to target more people.

Individualists are graduates that may not have the family ties of previous generations to the University" and chose A&M because of the academic possibilities it offers. Futurists are current students, high school recruits, children of Aggies and other potential future former students.

"She said the graduates in these marketing segments respond to graphics and conversational writing. She said they want the benefits associated to be outlined for them."

Glass said part of the campaign involves outlining for

SEE FORMER ON PAGE 2.

INSIDE

aggielife

• No Means No
New semester means new prey for campus solicitors.



Page 3

sports

• A&M Soccer Team defeats Utah
Women continue streak with 2-1 win.

Page 15

opinion

• Natural Disasters

Columnists explore both sides of the issue of forced evacuations when citizens' lives are at risk.

Page 19

Silver Taps

For a complete list of names of students to be honored at tonight's event turn to Page 8.

University Plus drops fees

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

MSC University Plus/Craft Shop is now offering students free use of the extensive facilities including a newly renovated dark room, a framing and matting shop, and a woodworking shop near Hullabaloo in the MSC basement.

Cher McHan, manager of the University Plus/Craft Shop, said the decision to drop the membership fee came from the emphasis the University places on encouraging college students to pursue interests in areas other than academics.

"All students need to break up their academic life with creative, fun activities," McHan said.

She said the goal of the University Plus/Craft Shop is to provide a place where students can relax, and learn hobbies and skills that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Kris Ross, a student worker in the University Plus/Craft Shop and a junior geography major, said the facilities' resources are a crucial part of skills students gain from college.

"We have so many classes that are applicable to the outside world," she said. "It is not your degree that makes you, it is you that makes you."

Ross, who is in charge of photography

M S C

UNIVERSITY PLUS

FREE FACILITIES

- Renovated Dark Room
- Framing And Matting Shop
- Woodworking Shop
- Pottery Facilities

REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED

- Pottery
- Drawing/Painting
- Stained Glass
- Dining/Etiquette Skills
- Resume/Interview Skills

MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

for the shop, said she is eager to help anyone who wishes to learn more about various type of photography or how to print their own photographs.

Information is available in the form of

SEE PLUS ON PAGE 2.