

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## Students threatening others with gun sought

### Victims say suspects pointed, fired unloaded shotgun

BY ROLANDO GARCIA  
The Battalion

Criminal charges are pending against two Texas A&M students whom University Police Department (UPD) officers said threatened two other students with an unloaded shotgun.

UPD Director Bob Wiatt said the incident occurred Thursday morning when a passenger in a parked vehicle in Parking Area 20 on the north side of campus pulled out a shotgun and pointed it at two students walking east on Jones Street. He then pulled the trigger.

Wiatt said the gun did not discharge, but the suspect continued to cock the weapon and pulled the trigger several times while laughing at the victims' reactions.

**"If you're encouraging and abetting someone committing a crime, then you become a party to that crime."**

— Bob Wiatt  
Director, University Police

The suspects left the area on foot by the time UPD officers arrived, but their vehicle was towed, and police confiscated a Harrington & Richardson Arms .410 gauge shotgun and an unspent shotgun shell.

The incident is still under investigation, Wiatt said, but the

two suspects may face a felony charge of carrying a weapon on campus and a Class A misdemeanor charge of reckless conduct. The matter will be sent to the Brazos County District Attorney's Office later this week.

Still to be decided is whether to file charges against both students or just against the owner of the shotgun.

"If you're encouraging and abetting someone committing a crime, then you become a party to that crime," Wiatt said.

The suspects have given statements to the police. Wiatt said the owner of the shotgun explained his possession of the weapon by saying it was an antique, but that would make no difference in whether the suspects are charged with a felony.

## Sparks will fly



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Bennie Kilough, a welder, prefabricates water pipes that will be used in the construction of a new Northside cooling tower on Monday.

## Substance abuse focus of program

BY BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Department of Student Life Alcohol & Drug Education Programs will host a nationally known alcohol and drug abuse speaker tonight at 7 in Rudder Auditorium.

Dr. Dennis Reardon, director of Student Life said Corneliusson will use her knowledge, personal experiences and personality to take a realistic look at college drinking.

"Alcohol and drug abuse awareness are important not only because of their educational impact but because colleges across the nation have serious concerns about use and abuse of alcohol and drugs by their students," Reardon said.

A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said in a press release that his vision for A&M includes "a campus environment that is free of alcohol abuse and its effects in classrooms, student resident communities and our time honored traditions that are the social fabric of our campus."

Mark Macicek, deputy commander of the Corps of Cadets and a senior business management major, said all freshmen and sophomore cadets are required to attend the event to increase their awareness of the issues surrounding the use of

SEE ALCOHOL ON PAGE 2.

## Coming in out of the Cold War

• Exhibits at George Bush Presidential Library and Museum features relics from Berlin and the Cold War.

BY ROLANDO GARCIA AND MATT LOFTIS  
The Battalion

Patrons of the new exhibits at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex can see a tube of lipstick that is actually a single shot 4.5 mm pistol, an enigma machine used to encrypt messages, a hollow shaving brush used to conceal film and various transmitters and wire-tapping devices.

The Bush Library has officially opened two new exhibits — "The Longest Winter: Berlin and the Cold War," highlighting Berlin's central role in several conflicts and also includes those events of global scope; and "I Spy, Tools of the Trade," an espionage exhibit.

Patricia Burchfield, curator of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, said the Berlin exhibit will include such notable historical objects as the original signed NATO treaty from 1948, the original Helsinki Accords and the reading copy of Winston Churchill's Iron Curtain speech. The relics have been gathered from throughout the world and borrowed for presentation in College Station.

The espionage exhibit is a collection of Cold War spy equipment from military historian and spy equipment expert H. Keith Melton.



SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

(L to R): A single shot 4.5-mm pistol disguised as a tube of lipstick and a shaving brush with a hollow handle used for smuggling film are part of the H. Keith Melton collection on display at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

"This exhibit will fire everyone's imagination," Burchfield said. "It's a fascinating look at some of the tools of the trade."

Other items in the Berlin exhibit include Elvis Presley's military service records, the original copy of the treaty uniting the separated halves of Germany, items from the Berlin Airlift and the space suit of astronaut Deke Slayton from the Apollo-Soyuz joint space project.

"I think the Texas A&M students would have a grand time looking at these things," Burchfield said. "The photographs, treaties and all these things are all just great encapsulations of the time period."

Burchfield said the exhibit is intended to correspond with the 10th anniversary of the destruction of the Berlin Wall and parallel the CIA conference hosted by the Bush School at the end of the week.

"There are some great photographs and amazing documents throughout the exhibit," Burchfield said. "There are images known world-wide and there are other images that are not so well-known that bring up other memories from the Cold War."

The exhibit will run through March 12, 2000 and is accessible with regular museum admission of \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and \$3.50 for visitors older than 62.

## Slam poet brings new art to A&M

BY BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

In American society of cellular telephones, fax machines and e-mail, it is rare when someone has a problem in finding a method of communication. But a new form of literary expression called slam poetry, which is similar to rap but without the music, offers a new way to illustrate emotions.

The MSC Literary Arts Committee offers Texas A&M students an opportunity to hear Steve Colman, a member of the 1998 first-place team in national slam poetry competition, present a live performance of slam poetry tonight at 8:30 in MSC 206.

Suzanne Spencer, chair of the MSC Literary Arts Committee and a senior English major, said Colman was asked to perform because the committee wants to inform students about this new form of literary art.

"Slam poetry gives students

the chance to express thought in new ways," she said.

Slam poetry is based partially on poetic rhetoric and partially on presentation. Slam poetry is presented in both prepared and improvisational form.

Spencer said slam poetry is unique in its nature and format and is creative because the words rhyme and have a rhythmic beat.

Kristin Gregory, an executive committee member for MSC Literary Arts Committee and a senior business management major, said slam poetry delves into political, social and economic venues, as well as romantic and other topics.

"[Colman] basically covers the whole spectrum," she said.

Gregory said Colman's performance includes prewritten stories, as well as stories spontaneously written during his interaction with the audience. She said this informal event will be

SEE SLAM ON PAGE 2.

**slam poetry**  
with Steve Colman  
8:30 p.m. MSC 206  
\$3 @ MSC Box Office  
BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

## Berlin Wall fall result of people, events, prof says

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON  
The Battalion

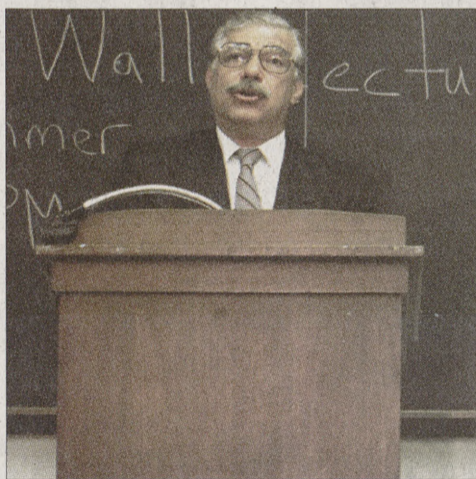
The Berlin Wall was much more than a wall; it was a 100-mile long, 12-foot high obstacle that divided Berlin, keeping the people of the east and west and communism and democracy separated, Dr. Arnold Krammer said in a lecture last night.

The professor of German history said the Berlin Wall was not an ordinary wall. "Let me put the wall into perspective for you, lest we lose sight of the massiveness of this barrier," he said. "The wall was surrounded by 256 guard dogs, mine fields and self-firing automatic weapons."

Krammer said the falling of the wall was not a dramatic event, unlike what was portrayed on the news. He pointed out that there were many people and events that led up to the fall of the wall.

"The events seen in November of 1989 were not as sudden as they seemed on CNN," he said. "The destruction of the wall began with [Mikhail] Gorbachev's call for a restructuring of East Berlin; then Hungary opened its borders. Even [former President Ronald] Reagan demanded that the wall be brought down early in 1987."

He said long before discussions began about tearing down the wall, 3,200 people were arrested when they attempted to cross the wall, more than 800 were killed and 1,000 were shot at.



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Dr. Arnold Krammer, a history professor, speaks on the fall of the Berlin Wall last night.

People trying to get over the wall were emotionally driven, Krammer said. Some borrowed tunnels under the wall, some clung underneath cars, some jumped from the roofs of buildings near the wall, and others attempted to float over the wall in homemade hot air balloons.

He said when the border was opened, and the news was announced on television. The troops guarding the wall were not informed. The people of Berlin marched on the wall and the troops were faced with thousands of people clamoring to get over the wall.

"The major in charge gave orders not to shoot," he said. "That one order changed the moment. Someone should find that major and give him the Nobel Peace Prize."

The crowds climbed the wall, and attacked it, and brought it down with the hatred it had created since its creation. In the end the credit belongs to the East Berliners."

## Student senators pass bill on constituency relations

BY DIANE XAVIER  
The Battalion

The Student Senate will require its senators to prepare constituency reports for the students and organizations they represent in order to form a closer relationship between the Senate and the student body.

The Constituency Relations Bill requires each senator to attend four meetings of different student organizations and update the members of the Student Senate's activities, inform them on campus issues and get more feedback from the student body.

Justin Toal, speaker pro-tempore of the Student Senate and a senior agronomy and business major, said the goal is for the senators to continue the Senate's on-going effort to provide for students' needs.

"We are the legislative branch of the Student Government Association, and we represent large groups of people," he said. "We have to get out there and find out what the students want."

Senators will be responsible for completing a constituency report form for each meeting. The report will contain students' concerns on campus issues and opinions on the Senate's performance.

Toal said constituency reports currently are not required but are highly recommended. He said some senators file reports because they see it as beneficial to their jobs. Justin Strickland, student services chair and a junior political science major, said constituency reports increase the accessibility and visibility of the Senate to the student body.

"We wanted to reach out to the constituents and student body and better represent them," Strickland said. "It's just one more thing we can do to voice the concerns of them."

Toal said the rule change within the Senate will provide a way to exchange ideas.

"It's important for a senator to remember how he or she got to where they are," Toal said.

"We are there for students, and we need to get in contact with them more often."

### The Student Senate Constituency Relations Bill

- requires senators to submit constituency reports for the organizations they represent
- increases the accessibility and visibility of student senate to the student body
- will go into effect next spring

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

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## Batt Radio

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on a plant closing in College Station.