

DELUN SMU suspends students for violating rules

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Friday, March

ty basketball players are indefinitely suspended for vilating team rules following a Western Athletic Confernce tournament game in California. University officials, describing what they called "inppropriate and disruptive behavior involving a few stu-

DALLAS (AP) - Two Southern Methodist Univer-

Friday, March 24, 2000

nts" after the WAC tourney earlier this month, said Vednesday that two members of the SMU Spirit Squad ere also suspended from their team. The university said it took the action after receiving

ormation from Fresno, Calif., police. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram identified the sus-

ended Mustang players as Jeryl Sasser and Renaldo atton

Sasser and Bratton, both juniors, were questioned pout incidents that took place in their hotel room at a arty that included members of the SMU basketball am and Spirit Squad, according to a Fresno Police Dertment report.

SMU Athletic Director Jim Copeland and Coach Mike ement suspended the basketball players indefinitely m participating on the team for violating team rules, school said in a written statement.

But university officials did not return a telephone call day from The Associated Press.

According to the Fresno police report, officers were alled early on March 10 to a Fresno hotel, where a oman told officers two members of the SMU men's bastetball team "touched her through her clothes with their nds." The woman told police she did not want to file

formal charges, the report said. In interviews with police, several basketball players

and members of the spirit squad said they had been drinking, but denied the woman had been assaulted, the report said

"We're handling it the same way we would handle any other potential violation of student conduct."

— Jim Caswell SMU vice president of student affairs

The incident allegedly occurred hours after the Mus-

tangs ended their season with elimination from the WAC tournament in the first round by Hawaii in a 87-82 loss March 9. Several members of the team and the squad spent the

hours after the loss drinking at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Fresno, according to the police report. Sasser, a 6-foot-6 guard, was named first-team all-

WAC and led SMU in scoring. Bratton, a 6-foot guard, played a reserve role. The police report includes the names of four SMU

players. The Dallas Morning News reported that the university cited privacy laws in not naming the two players who were suspended.

Page 5

Both Bratton and Sasser remained on the team as SMU competed in the National Invitation Tournament against Southwest Missouri State last Thursday.

Bob. Wright, a SMU spokesperson, told the Star-Telegram the school received the police report Tuesday and did not take action against any players before the NIT game because "the police report contained information not given to us previously."

Darren McCoy, SMU spirit coordinator, voluntarily resigned from SMU in the early stages of the investigation last week in which three squad members were questioned, the Star-Telegram said. Police noted that McCoy had "bloodshot watery eyes, a strong odor of alcohol" and said he "attempted to obstruct police questioning of one of the spirit members."

University officials began their own investigation of possible violations of SMU's code of conduct during a school-sponsored trip, including documentation of underage drinking. The report includes instances of a 21-year-old player giving vodka to a 20-year-old squad member.

"We're handling it the same way we would handle any other potential violation of student conduct," Jim Caswell, SMU vice president of student affairs, said. "There needs to be some determination of university violations and what sort of response we need to pursue from there.



rules on parental abortion notices

AUSTIN (AP) - A pregnant girl who can how that her parents would cut off support and kick her out of the house would qualify for a 'judicial bypass" to avoid notifying them before getting an abortion, the Texas Supreme Court says.

However, the court said that a judge can, within certain legal limits, weigh the girl's testimony, which is made in a confidential hearing with no witnesses to contradict her.

The decision is the latest in a series since the state's new law requiring parental notification of minors' abortions took effect.

Under that new law, physicians cannot perform an abortion on a pregnant girl younger than 18 without first telling a parent, unless a judge authorizes it. To bypass the parental consent, a girl must convince a judge that she meets certain conditions laid out in the law. The law also provides her with a lawyer.

The latest case involved a 17-year-old girl. On a 6-3 ruling on Wednesday, the court said a 'minor's emotional well-being, the family structure and the parent-child relationship would be adversely affected if her parents withdrew support and severed all contact with her."

The ruling added, "If the minor's uncontroverted testimony to this effect were clear, postive and direct, and not impeached or discredited by other circumstances, the trial court would have to accept it as fact" and grant the m Austin will be held judicial bypass.

Man opens fire in church, 4 shot

PASADENA, Texas (AP) - A man apparently spurned by a love interest opened fire during a meeting in a church office Wednesday night, wounding four people before killing himself.

Two of the wounded were hospitalized in critical condition Thursday. About 25 people were in the Pentecostal church at the time of the shooting, which came after Wednesday services. Police were called to the scene

about 9 p.m. Injured were 18-year-old Leslie Contreras, her 38-year-old mother,

32-year-old man, and Carlos Matamores, the 49-year-old pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Esposa Del Cordero, officials said.

The pastor and the woman's mother were in critical condition at Hermann Hospital in Houston. Matamores was shot in the chest, and Angela Contreras was shot in the abdomen.

– José Montana church member en to the hospital, said police

spokesperson Sgt. J.M. Baird. During a meeting after church ser-

News in Brief

tember

Prison Board Chair: Guards could get raise by September

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Prison guards who have been complaining about low salaries could be on their way to a \$10,000 raise soon, the chairperson of the Texas prison board said Thursday.

"I think it's all now just a matter of working out

vices, Baird said, the man professed Meanwhile, Leslie Contreras was listed in fair condition at Ben Taub his love for 18-year-old woman, but she indicated it was unrequited. Memorial Hospital in Houston with a 'What we know is that the suspect

> year-old and found she liked him like a brother," Baird said. He said the man then told her

"something bad was going to happen." Following the confrontation, the suspect left and then returned with a gun. He then opened fire, injuring the four. He walked outside and shot and killed himself, police said.

Church member José Montana, 34, said he saw the man in the early hours of Wednesday morning at a nearby Wal-Mart. He said he was making small talk with the man whom he knew only as "Oscar" when "he said he was going to kill someone.

"I thought he was kidding," Montana said. "I told myself that if I saw him at the church tonight I would call police.

some of the details," Mac Stringfellow said outside a

meeting of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

der review, and he was optimistic some kind of in-

terim pay boost could be in effect as soon as Sep-

Stringfellow said several plans were under un-

Eventually, he said, prison guards would be ele-

vated to the national average of \$35,000 to

\$36,000. Top pay now in Texas is \$26,700.





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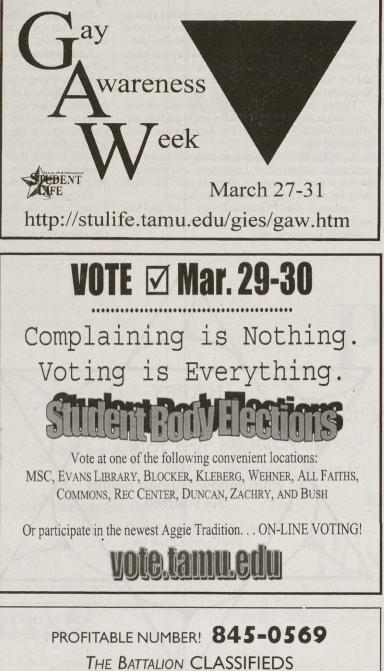
applicants must have at least one year of college. Applications can be picked-up at the front desk of University Tower in the lobby

Texas A&M University Floriculture-Horticulture Society

"I told myself that if I saw him at church tonight I would call the Angela Contreras, an unidentified police."

bullet wound in her neck. The 32-year-old man suffered a was apparently in love with the 18bullet graze and did not have to be tak-





and are due Monday, April 3rd by 5:00 p.m.





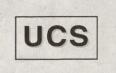
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