

Guard attacked, training questioned

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A female prison guard attacked during an inmate cell search may not have followed proper search procedures, a former Texas warden said.

Irene Fonseca, 35, was airlifted to a San Antonio hospital Wednesday after convicted rapist Bryan Thomas, 40, attacked her. Fonseca suffered facial fractures and swelling around her brain and had most of her teeth knocked out.

The attack occurred after Fonseca found extra food and toiletries hidden in Thomas' coffeepot during a routine search at the Connally Unit in Karnes County.

"If the inmate was physically there in the cell of the dorm bunk, why wasn't he put somewhere else?"

Terry Pelz, a warden in the Texas prison system for almost a decade, said in Sunday's editions of the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*. "We always operated that

"We always operated that way. There's never any rush to do a shakedown."

— Terry Pelz
Texas prison system warden

way. There's never any rush to do a shakedown." Larry Todd, a spokesperson for the Texas De-

partment of Criminal Justice, declined to comment on Fonseca's actions because prison officials are still investigating the attack. But he said it is standard procedure to secure an inmate before searching a cell.

Pelz said inmates should be secured in another area of the prison. Pelz said Fonseca, who has been employed at the Connally Unit since August of 1999, may not have been properly trained to handle the situation.

"She may not have known," Pelz said. "She was there 10 months and may never have been told that."

Brian Olsen, deputy director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, told the *Caller-Times* extensive training problems exist throughout the prison system because of staff shortages.

News in Brief

Tug boat sinks while towing ship

BAYTOWN (AP) — An 87-foot tugboat towing a cruise ship sank in the Houston Ship Channel early Saturday.

None of the Jupiter tug's five crew members were injured. The 760-foot, Houston-based Big Red Boat III cruise ship was damaged, but none of its 1,148 passengers were hurt. The ship, which had just completed a seven-day cruise, docked safely.

Lt. Bob Schoen, a spokesperson for the U.S. Coast Guard, said about 30 gallons of diesel fuel from the Jupiter leaked into the Houston Ship Channel.

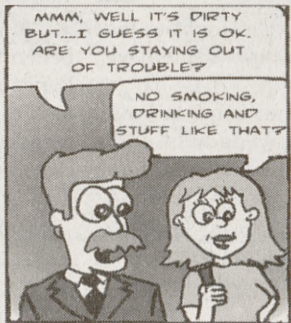
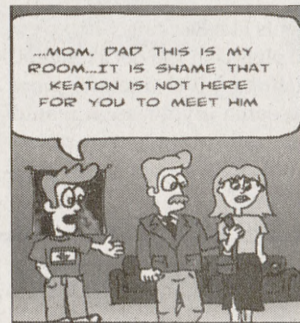
Death row inmate attacks chaplain

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A prisoner injured in a death row attack was out of surgery listed in fair condition Saturday.

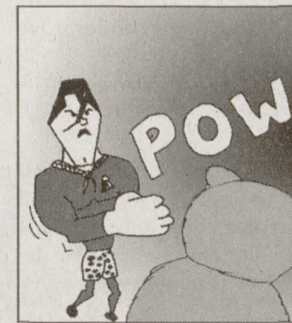
Westbrook was doing volunteer ministry on death row when he was attacked by Juan Soto, 33, who is facing execution next month for a 1985 robbery in Fort Worth. Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Gary Fitzgerald said.

On Friday, a death row inmate attacked William Paul Westbrook, a 78-year-old volunteer chaplain, severely cutting the minister's right wrist, authorities said.

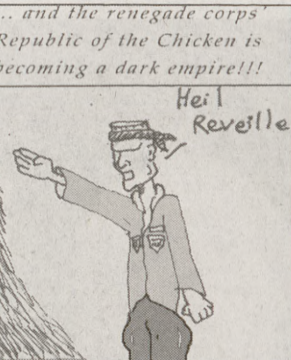
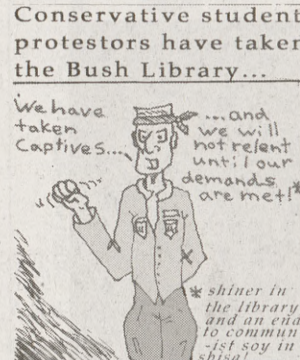
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The *Battalion* (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The *Battalion* news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Media, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 014 Reed McDonald Building, Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: Thebattalion@hotmail.com; Web site: http://battalion.tamu.edu

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Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. First copy free, additional copies 25¢. Mail subscriptions are \$60 per school year, \$30 for the fall or spring semester, \$17.50 for the summer and \$10 per month. To charge by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express, call 845-2611.

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Monday, June 12

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