

## CREATE A SLOGAN CONTEST!

Eligible: All College Students

What: Best Slogan for anti-cruelty to animals poster "Five words or less"

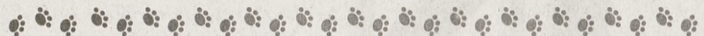
Why: Protest treatment of circus animals

When: June 28 - July 5

Where: BCS, PO Box 15400  
College Station, TX 77840

Awards: 1st Place \$50.00 cash  
2nd Place \$35.00  
3rd Place \$25.00  
Delivered 7-7

Send letters, postcard NOW, no limit on entries.  
Winners will be announced in The Battalion.



## HOPE PREGNANCY CENTERS OF BRAZOS VALLEY

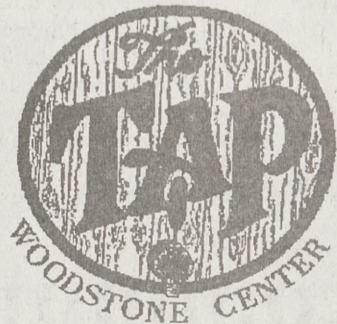
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## No charges filed in wreck

MARSHALL, Texas (AP) — No criminal charges will be filed for the February van wreck that killed four Prairie View A&M track team members because the driver found to be at fault was killed, a Harrison County grand jury decided Tuesday.

The jury's decision, however, probably will not prevent the many more lawsuits expected in connection with the Feb. 10 accident in East Texas that hospitalized six other people, said District Attorney Rick Berry.

Houston Watson of Greenville was driving the 15-passenger van en route to a Pine Bluff, Ark., meet at about 82 miles per hour in a 65 mph speed zone, Texas Department of Public Safety officials concluded. He apparently lost control when he swerved to avoid another car in front of him on a two-lane stretch of Highway 43, flipping the van over near Karnack, close to the Arkansas border.

Five of the 10 passengers — nine students and coach Hoover Wright — were thrown from the van when it flipped in the early evening. Watson, 21, was pinned inside the van after it rolled several times, coming to rest upside down in a ditch, authorities said. He died at the scene along with Samuel Sturns, 21, of Jasper and Vernon James II, 18, of Vallejo, Calif.

Jerome Jackson, 22, of Dallas died en route to a Shreveport hospital. Coach Wright, Lamar Adams, David Arterbery, Lewis Edmonson, Trenton Harris and Rashad Shelton were taken to the hospital for injuries.

Later in February, the parents of Jackson and Sturns filed a lawsuit in Marshall federal court against the van's manufacturer, Ford Motor Co. The families accused Ford of design and marketing defects in its 15-passenger van, as well as breach of warranty for selling an allegedly defective vehicle.

Attorneys for the Sturns and Jackson families claim Ford vans such as the one involved in the crash exhibit stability problems when heavily loaded. Ford representatives said their van model's rollover performance is as good or better than similar vehicles.

The state police's report concluded that the van was speeding when it came up on another vehicle that was preparing to make a left turn into a convenience store. The van veered to the right onto the shoulder, then turned over when it overcorrected to the left, according to the police report.

Even when the driver who causes an accident is dead, it is routine to investigate possible criminal charges for any fatal accident, Berry said.

"There really doesn't appear to be anyone who could be charged with criminal activity," Berry said.

### News in Brief

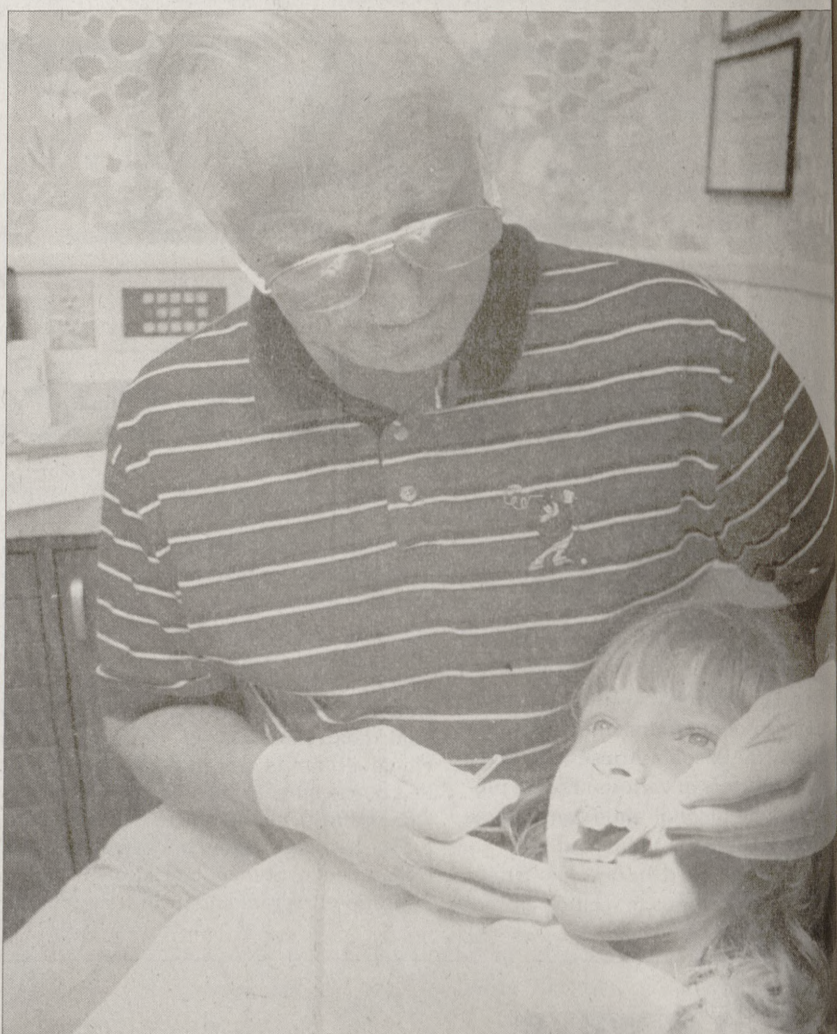
#### Austin airport rolls out wireless Internet access

AUSTIN (AP) — The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport on Wednesday began offering high-speed wireless Internet access throughout its terminal, allowing on-the-go computer users with the right equipment to connect to the Web without a telephone line.

Wayport Inc., the Austin-based Internet service provider that contracted with the airport, has plans to launch the service at Dallas-Fort Worth International, Laguardia and JFK airports in New York, and at the Newark airport within the year.

By 2001, 30 major airports will be installed with the radio transmitter-receivers needed to connect to local networks controlled by Wayport, the company said.

### Open wide



Blair Brimken gets her teeth checked by Dr. Herb Wade. Wade has been a pediatric dentist for 29 years and was named Dentist of the Year for the state of Texas.

## Sex offender freed in appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A transvestite convicted of trying to have sex with children was ordered freed from prison by an appellate panel who ruled that police used the Internet to entrap him.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Mark Poehlman, 40, was lured into crime by an undercover agent offering the possibility of a family if Poehlman would agree to teach three girls how to have sex.

The agent contacted Poehlman through an Internet service for people with "alternative" sexual identities, according to the court.

"There is surely enough real crime in our society that it is unnecessary for our law enforcement officials to spend months luring an obviously lonely and confused individual to cross the line between fantasy and criminality," Judge Alex Kozinski wrote in the majority opinion Tuesday.

Poehlman's attorney, Edward M. Robinson, said the ruling would discourage authorities from targeting homosexuals and bisexuals in their search for pedophiles.

"You can't rely on antiquated prejudice and come to the conclusion that, if you have an interest in alternative, non-heterosexual sex, you are

predisposed to have an interest in children," said. The U.S. attorney's office declined comment.

Judge David R. Thompson dissented, saying there was some evidence that Poehlman had a predilection for child sex, such as a message made before his arrest that he "always wanted little girls."

Kozinski said Poehlman was apparently lonely when he saw an ad placed by the agent posing as "Sharon" in 1995. He had been divorced by his wife and forced into early retirement by the Air Force after revealing that he could not control his cross-dressing compulsion.

They exchanged several emails in which Sharon hinted that she wanted Poehlman to have sex with her daughters. She later made clear that if he did not want to, their communication would end.

Over the next six months, she prompted Poehlman to graphically describe how he would have sex with her children.

Poehlman was arrested in 1996 after he fled to California to meet Sharon and her children. He spent 120 days in jail, then pleaded contest to state child-sex charges on the condition that he be released.

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### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

1. You must be a degree-seeking student with at least 95 cumulative undergraduate credit hours.
2. Transfer students need 60\* hours of credit at Texas A&M University, or degree must be conferred and posted.
3. You must have a cumulative 2.0 GPR at Texas A&M University.
4. You must be in good standing with the University. (No outstanding parking tickets, blocks, etc.)

### GRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS\*\*

1. Your degree must be conferred and posted on SIMS or if you have completed all degree requirements, you may present an original letter of completion from the Office of Graduate Studies.
2. You must be in good standing with the University. (No outstanding parking tickets, blocks, etc.)

### PROCEDURE TO ORDER RING

If you met all of the above requirements after May '00 final grades, and you wish to receive your ring on Sept. 15th, visit the Ring Office no later than June 29th between 8:30a.m.-3:30p.m. to complete the application for eligibility verification.

Students qualifying after SSI may fill out an audit beginning July 3rd.

Return no later than June 30th, 8:30-3:30 p.m. to check the status of your audit and if qualified, pay full in cash, check, money order, or your personal Discover, Visa, or Mastercard (with your name imprinted).

Ring loans are available to qualified and currently enrolled students at the Short Term Loan Office, Room 230, Pavilion. Please visit the Aggie Ring Office before applying for a Ring Loan.

If you will not be in the College Station to place your order in person by June 30th, you may request a mail order form.

\*You may qualify with 30 A&M hours if your first semester at A&M was 1995 or before.

\*\*See our website for complete details or call the Ring Office at 845-1050.



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THE BATTALION

## THE BATTALION

Beverly Mireles, Editor in Chief

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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