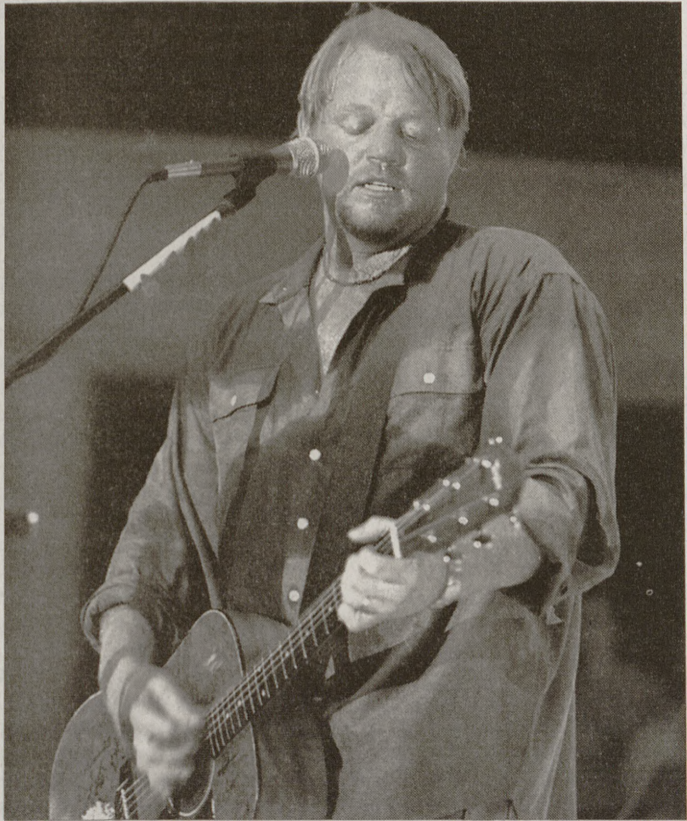


RIP

A&M voters

major, said the conserving helps his organization. re a Republican group, but some anyone who support, regardless of affiliations, aid. "Voting for presidential party affiliation do not together. of students wouldn't even themselves one thing over as when they are drawn out a booth, I'm pretty sure they will vote for Bush." er the Republican or Democratic organizations at A&M with the Republican-affiliated organizations have had a longer hand when it comes to ent. the Republican organizations more participation than the other organizations," said ing, president of the Texas College Republicans and a political science major. "Because more students here sign themselves with Republican, although I'm not really percentage. uldn't say that Republicans a perceived dominance. "They certainly don't from ad in the newspaper. There more conservative than liberals here."

Kicking it off



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Pat Green headlined the annual Ag Kickoff Friday at Wolfpen Creek Amphitheater. A crowd of approximately 5,000 attended the event. Other acts included Dub Miller, Pushmonkey and Cary Pierce.

Church members grieve anniversary

FORT WORTH (AP) — With tears, prayers and songs, more than 1,200 people packed into Wedgwood Baptist Church on Saturday to remember seven young people gunned down during a church service a year ago.

Relatives of those who died Sept. 15, 1999 — four teens, two seminary students and children's choir director — said their faith has helped ease their grief.

"I had two choices ... to look out and say, 'How could there be a loving God that would allow this to happen? And if so ... then it makes no sense,'" said Tralissa Griffin, whose 14-year-old daughter, Cassie, was killed. ... But if I had abandoned God at that moment, what would I have had to cling to?"

The emotional two-hour service was the final of several events marking the one-year anniversary of the shooting rampage during a community youth rally.

A man who seemed angry had walked into the church, asked about the service and started shooting at a group in the lobby. He walked down the hallway and into the sanctuary, firing 200 rounds of ammunition. Af-

ter throwing a pipe bomb down the aisle, he shot himself in the head.

Police never found a motive but say the man, Larry Ashbrook, was mentally ill. He apparently had no connection with the church.

He had killed Griffin, Kristi Beckel and Joseph Ennis, all 14; Justin Ray, 17; Susan Kimberly Jones, 23; Shawn C. Brown, 23; and Sydney Browning, 36. Seven more were wounded and hundreds traumatized.

Now, one year later, parishioners still do not have answers. Pastor Al Meredith said the issue was not gun control or problems with the mental health system.

"The main problem is we are in the conflict of the ages, the forces of evil against the forces of good, the forces of darkness against the forces of light," he said. "What the enemy thought he could do, he couldn't do. What he thought was going to destroy us, in fact ushered the ones that died into the presence of God."

Kathy Jo Brown, whose husband of less than two years was one of the victims, said her writings since the shooting have filled six journals. Although she misses Shawn, she finds comfort in believing she will see him again.

Man pleads guilty to shooting two clerks

Jury finds defendant a continuing threat, judge rules on death penalty

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who pleaded guilty to killing two convenience store clerks in a dispute over 10 cents was sentenced to the death penalty Saturday.

Exzavier Lamont Stevenson, 31, pleaded guilty to capital murder in a Feb. 16 shooting of Khalid Masroor and Syed Mehdi at a Phillips 66 station in Houston.

A jury found that Stevenson was a continuing threat to society and, despite emotional testimony from family members regarding his childhood and low mental capacity, he should be sentenced to die for the crime.

Stevenson told police he had forgotten to collect 75 cents in change after buying gum at the gas station earlier. He said he returned to the store later the same day to make another purchase, but the clerk refused to credit him 10 cents from the earlier purchase.

Stevenson returned later, shot the clerks and tried to open the cash register, according to court testimony.

Both victims were Pakistani, and the punishment trial was watched closely by the widow and friends of Mehdi and the Pakistani community.

"He was a ticking time bomb. If it had not been these two guys, it would have been someone else."

— Masrur Javed Khan
President of the Pakistan Association of Greater Houston

Community leaders believe race was not a factor.

"He was a ticking time bomb. If it had not been these two guys, it would have been someone else," Masrur Javed Khan, president of the Pakistan Association of Greater Houston, told the Houston Chronicle.

Aubrey Taylor, Stevenson's half brother, said his brother's mental condition should have been enough to spare him the death penalty. A court-appointed psychologist testified Stevenson suffers severe depression and has an IQ of 58.

FACULTY, STAFF, & STUDENT LEADERS!

Volunteers Needed!

F.A.C.T. (First-time Aggie Contact Team) is a program where faculty, staff, & student leaders contact new Aggies to welcome them to the University and ask about their experiences at A&M. F.A.C.T. will be conducted Mondays through Thursdays, September 25 - October 12 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM.

Please volunteer your time and energy to help our new Aggies feel at home. If you cannot find a sign-up brochure in your dept., feel free to call Nicole Walker at 845-5826. The sign-up deadline is September 20. Thank you in advance for your time and commitment.

Aggie Orientation Leader Program STUDENT LIFE Department of Student Life Student Life Orientation

What's the Word?
Oratorical Contest

Is the Civil Rights Movement, still moving?

Informational Meetings

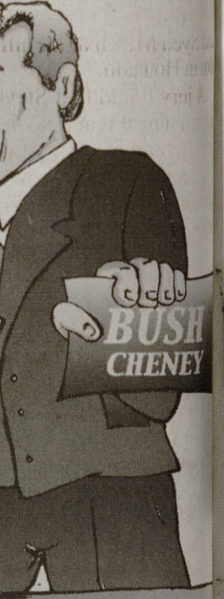
September 18, 2000
MSC 228 8:30 PM

September 20, 2000
MSC Visual Art Gallery
7:00 PM

Oratorical Contest
Thursday, October 19, 2000

1st Place \$1000
2nd Place \$750
3rd Place \$500

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.



ADRIAN CALCANELO/THE BATTALION

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got smiles?

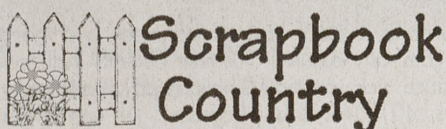
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WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES 2000 - 2001 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



Who's Who applications are now available for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Office of Graduate Studies (125 Teague)
- Office of the Dean of each College
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th floor Rudder)

Completed applications may be submitted to either of the following locations no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2000:

- Department of Student Activities, 125 Koldus Building
- The Office of Graduate Studies, 128 Teague

Questions may be addressed to Sandy Briers (862-1973) in the Department of Student Activities or via the web site (<http://stuaact.tamu.edu/whoswho>).

Got Traditions?



Applications are being accepted for these areas:

- Elephant Walk Team
- Junior E-Walk Team
- Ring Dance Team
- Boot Dance Team
- Real World Conference Team
- Leadership Invitational Team
- Class of 2001 Council Team
- Class of 2003 Council Team (apps due Sept. 19)



Visit the Class Councils web site to download an application and read more about how you can get involved with traditions:

<http://classcouncils.tamu.edu>

Applications are due Friday, September 22, by 5pm, in the Team Traditions cube (2nd floor MSC, above the Sweet Shop).