

THE BATTALION

# Murder suspect kills herself

## Woman kills another to steal unborn child, police say

RAVENNA, Ohio (AP) — A baby was in good condition Wednesday after he was removed from his slain mother's womb by another woman, who passed the child off as her own until committing suicide as police closed in.

The infant was in the temporary custody of the Portage County Department of Human Services. DNA tests were conducted to verify paternity.

The case was uncovered Tuesday when police arrived at Michelle Bica's home to question her about the week-old disappearance of Theresa Andrews, who lived four blocks away. Before police could reach her, Bica shot herself.

The 8-pound, 6-ounce baby boy was found in her home. The body of Andrews, 23, was found buried in Bica's dirt-floor garage.

Portage County Coroner Roger Marcial said Andrews was shot once in the back and likely died instantly. The .22-caliber bullet matched ammunition in the gun Bica used to kill herself.

Marcial said the straight cut of the crude Caesarean section on Andrews led him to conclude that the baby was removed after the shooting. "I just figure if the cutting was done before she died, there would have been a lot of struggling," he said.

Andrews' due date was Wednesday.

The baby was listed in good condition Wednesday at Robinson Memorial Hospital.

Andrews' husband, Jon, was awaiting DNA tests to confirm that the healthy infant is his son. The results of

those tests could come Wednesday, said Andrews' attorney, Nicholas Phillips.

"He's a long way from facing reality," Phillips said of his client. "It's such a difficult, unique situation where you're enjoying your newborn son and mourning the loss of your wife."

Prosecutor Victor Viglucci said the baby probably was delivered Sept. 27, the day Andrews disappeared in Ravenna, a city of about 12,000, some 30 miles southeast of Cleveland.

Marcial said traces of blood found in the Bica house indicate Andrews was shot in the first-floor laundry room there.

On the day she disappeared, Andrews had paged her husband at work and said a woman had called inquiring about a 1999 Jeep Wrangler they were trying to sell.

Andrews, a sheet-metal worker, told police that when he got home at 4:30 p.m., the house was open, the vehicle gone and his wife missing. Police found the vehicle about a block away and later found the Jeep keys in Bica's purse.

There was no indication whether the women had known each other. A series of cellular phone calls to the Andrews' house led police to Bica.

On Monday, officers questioned Bica about the Sept. 27 calls. When police returned that night, they heard a gunshot and found her body in an upstairs bedroom.

Her husband, Thomas Bica, 41, a county corrections officer, was questioned and released.

### — News in Brief — LAPD officers' trial to begin

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The first trial stemming from the largest police corruption scandal in city history opened Wednesday with attorneys for four accused officers calling a former co-worker — the prosecution's key witness — an evil, lying thug.

The statements were unusual because they came on the first day of jury selection. Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Connor offered lawyers the chance to give statements to inform the jury pool about what might lie ahead in a trial that is expected to last three to four weeks.

Attorneys for the accused — Sgt. Edward Ortiz and officers Brian Liddy, Paul Harper and Michael Buchanan — used the chance to attack former officer Rafael Perez, whose accusations sparked the scandal.

# Sex offenders' release causes victims alarm

DENVER (AP) — A court ruling that could free more than 100 Colorado rapists, child molesters and other sex offenders from prison has alarmed victims of sex crimes and sent law enforcement officers scrambling to undo the damage.

Nine inmates were turned loose before Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar stepped in and halted the releases Saturday. Authorities were still looking for them on Wednesday.

"I frankly was outraged that this number of offenders could be given the green light to walk without taking as much time as could be taken under the law to make sure victims were notified," Salazar said.

He has asked the state Supreme Court for another hearing to reconsider its Sept. 18 ruling.

Corrections Department officials tried to calm dozens of victims fearful that their attackers are free to strike again.

"This is ridiculous," Rebecca Nye, whose two young daughters were molested by a neighbor five years ago, told The Denver Post. "The laws need to work for kids."

Allison Morgan of the agency's victim notification unit said callers are told the agency must follow the ruling.

"They fully understand that this comes down from the Supreme Court," Morgan said. "They are shocked that the court would do this."

The ruling threw out mandatory five-year parole sentences for rapists, child molesters and other sex offenders convicted between 1993 and 1996.

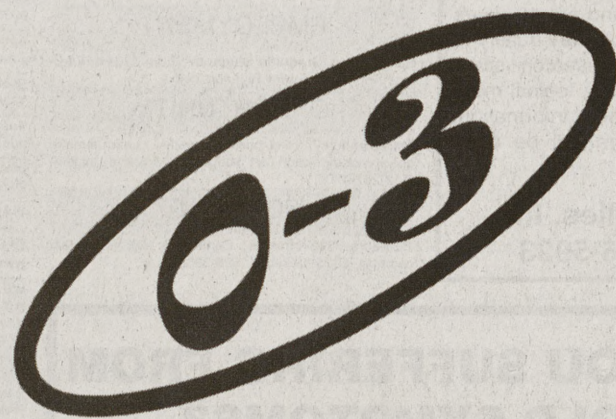
Corrections officials responded by releasing nine inmates and notifying 84 paroled sex offenders they no longer had to attend mandatory therapy sessions or make visits to parole officers.

# Aggies don't drink as much as you think.

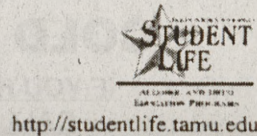
## It's a fact...

# THE MAJORITY OF AGGIES DRINK 3 OR FEWER DRINKS PER WEEK

MCAAW...Coming Soon!



Data from Spring, 1998 CORE survey on an anonymous, random sample of 861 students



Office of the Vice President

Charles A. Sippial, Sr. Vice President

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students:

I am pleased to announce the 2000 Conference for the campus for this event. education, and we are encouraging men and women to our campus.

This large number of our physical resources, transportation. I am confident employees will do their students. I am therefore from standard procedure success.

able lives and divorce cause they have the to the Olympics, there problem that needs to be ridiculous to consider the sport of women's athletics. These little girls are by no means inferior to men. When a year-old is considered to be last years of her athletic competition, something is wrong with the way Games are structured. No matter what, the pictures should be revered successful and respectable athletic events. Athletes who participate in these Games are the best of our young men and women. I am a senior from the University of Texas at Austin and I am proud to be a member of the Aggie Bonfire. I am confident that every pre-cut, gift and even a few employees will do their students. I am therefore from standard procedure success.

I am a senior from the University of Texas at Austin and I am proud to be a member of the Aggie Bonfire. I am confident that every pre-cut, gift and even a few employees will do their students. I am therefore from standard procedure success.

Letters to the editor. Letters should include the author's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. Letters may be submitted in hard copy or by e-mail. Letters must be received by the deadline. Letters may be edited for clarity and length. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor. Letters to the editor should be sent to: The Battalion, P.O. Box 21000, Austin, TX 78761-0100. Phone: (512) 231-1111. Fax: (512) 231-1112. E-mail: letters@thebattalion.com

discrimination. Motivated by this realization, I spoke with an African-American student in my dormitory, and got his opinion on racism on campus.

Under terms of anonymity, he told me, "I feel like I should not be judged just because of who I am. I do not think that I should be accepted into this University because I am black. I do not feel like any organization should accept me just because I am black. I do not feel like anyone should give me any special treatment just because I am black."

When affirmative action was brought up, his comment was, "I do not think there will ever be complete equality because... by affirmative action [life] is racist."

Another subject discussed was whether a certain hostility existed on campus toward minority students, whether by other students or by the administration.

"I do not think that [hostility] has anything to do with this University, because anywhere I go there is always going to be one ignorant person in the group that has something to say. I came here not because this is a black school, I did not come here because it is a white school, I came here because I wanted to get an education," he said.

Granted, this one person does not necessarily reflect the views of all minorities on this campus. However, his opinions do provide insight.

Certainly, today's world is not perfect, for any race. How can it be right for people to be judged on the basis of their skin color, one way or the other?

The University recently did a study of minorities who were accepted to A&M but chose not to attend. The top reasons that were cited were lack of financial aid and lack of personal attention. This raises the question, "Why should any students be singled out for special treatment?"

There is definitely no easy solution to the problems of discrimination and reverse discrimination, but a start would definitely be to remove the little boxes that are checked on any forms students and prospective employees fill out.

The fact that A&M gives prospective students little special treatment is a good thing. It shows that the University is doing its best to look at each student as an individual, not as a race.

Once everyone begins to view people simply as who they are — not what color they are or where they are from — it will bring society one step closer to unity.

Andrew Stephenson is a sophomore environmental design major.

## TAMU Career Center



# Applying to Grad School

Get input from university representatives about how to tackle the job of applying to a graduate program.

## Tuesday, Oct. 10 5:15 p.m. Rudder 308

For more information contact the Career Center at 845-5139, come by 209 Koldus, or check us out on-line at

<http://careercenter.tamu.edu>