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For more information and to find out if you qualify, please call: our Bryan clinic at 846-1744.

Research participants will be compensated for their time.

Want to go to Israel for free?

Texas A & M has received 20 spots for the spring round of Hillel's Birthright Israel Trip. All bed, boarding and transportation costs are taken care of from the departure hub city (LA, NYC, Chicago) until your return two weeks later.

We are tentatively scheduled to leave on June 7-14. Dates will be confirmed as soon as they are available. Register for the trip on line at: www.israel2000.org/application.htm Registration closes March 6th!

Additional information on the itinerary and FAQ is at: www.israel2000.org

The tentative timetable for recruitment and registration is as follows:

- Completion of interviews: Friday, March 16
- Notification of participants: Monday, March 19
- Last day for roster: Monday, March 26
- All Forms/deposits at the DC Hillel: Tuesday, March 27

All dates are subject to change.

- Requirements:
- 1) Identify with the Jewish people
 - 2) Never traveled to Israel in another Jewish affiliated college program
 - 3) Get your own round-trip ticket to an assigned departure hub city
 - 4) Age 18-26 years old

For more information contact TAMU Hillel Foundation at: Hillel@startel.net Phone: 696-7313; Web: www.startel.net/Hillel



Assistant DA says gag order violated

NEW YORK (AP) — A prosecutor complained Wednesday that Sean "Puffy" Combs violated a gag order by issuing a statement saying he would testify in his own defense on weapons charges and that ex-girlfriend Jennifer Lopez would not testify.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Bogdanos asked state Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon to hold Combs in contempt of court for violating a gag order barring both sides from talking to the press. He asked that Combs be sentenced to 30 days in jail.

The gag order does allow Combs to assert his innocence and defense lawyer Benjamin Brafman argued that Combs' statement fell within that guideline.

The judge said he would consider Bogdanos' request, and in the meantime he barred all statements and interviews from both sides, promising that any violation would be "swiftly and severely" punished.

The morning arguments were made outside the hearing of the jury. Combs, 31, and his bodyguard, Anthony "Wolf" Jones, 34, are charged with two counts of gun possession. A third suspect, Jamal "Shyne" Barrow, 21, is charged with three counts of attempted murder for allegedly shooting three people at a nightclub near Times Square on Dec. 27, 1999.

Prosecutors allege Combs was illegally carrying a gun at the time the shots were fired, and that he later tried to bribe his chauffeur into accepting responsibility for a handgun that police believe was thrown out of their vehicle. Lopez, who had accompanied Combs to the club, is not charged.

The statement that Combs issued Tuesday read, in part: "Since I intend to testify on my own behalf I feel it is no longer necessary for Jennifer to be involved in these proceedings."

Bogdanos claimed that the only reason Combs doesn't want Lopez to testify is because it would harm his case. Bogdanos revealed that, in her grand jury testimony, when Lopez was asked if Combs had a gun she repeatedly replied: "I can't say one way or the other."

Students to the highest degree

Grads, undergrads have different lives, d

By JASON BENNYHOFF
The Battalion

For most Texas A&M students, approximately 37,000 of them, the lives of graduate students are a complete mystery. To undergraduate students, graduate students are usually known as "the weird teaching assistant." However, there are far more differences between undergraduate and graduate student life.

Not the least of the differences between the two lifestyles is that most undergraduates enter college undecided as to what they want to do and learn in college whereas graduate students have clear goals, said Diane Linn, director of undergraduate student services for the College of Liberal Arts.

"A lot of what we do at student services is trying to help (undergraduate) students decide what they want to do with their lives," Linn said. "You have got to consider the small percentage of students who go on to graduate school. With graduate school, you are dealing with a very focused group."

Linn said that much of her department's responsibilities are keeping students in school and helping them graduate, as well as helping them find their niches. These are services almost non-existent in the world of the graduate student.

Linn said helping undergraduate students adjust to college life and succeed in college is an important part of the work Student Services does. This work is so important, in fact, that it can determine whether a student stays in the University. Linn said University officials want students to stay and succeed, if not for altruistic motives, then because universities can be rewarded by the state legislature for recruiting students and graduating them. Linn said these concerns are simply not present in graduate school.

While undergraduate students' lives often focus on taking tests, fitting in and having fun, the life of the graduate student is far more dedicated to the University.

Rick Giardino, dean of graduate studies at A&M, said graduate students are more than students — they are integral parts of the University and they devote enormous amounts of time to the school.

"Graduate students are a vital component to any university. They help enhance the teaching aspect of the University and assist in research."

Giardino said the graduate student's course load is lighter than the undergraduate's, but course only thing graduate students are required to

Giardino said graduate students must take a course load of nine to 12 hours, teach or work in the for at least 20 hours a week, and do research. Of this, the graduate student also gets the paying about double the tuition of the undergraduate.

John Degenhardt, a geology graduate student who also did his undergraduate studies here, said the other responsibilities of being a graduate

"By design, the course load is lighter than the undergraduate's, but course only thing graduate students are required to



ADRIAN CALCANELO/THE BATTALION

ing. However, he is not far removed from a time was working full time and taking night classes master's degree.

Though Degenhardt has spent many years diligently toward his doctorate, he has been lucky to accrue only about \$5,000 in debt. However, this is unusually low for graduate students.

"I have talked to a lot of people who have \$20,000 in debt; that is not uncommon," Degenhardt said. "I have pretty much lived off of savings, grants and fellowships, but that is at the low end."

Despite the more difficult and independent graduate school, in Fall 2000, A&M had 7,322 graduate students. This was an increase of 467 students from the previous fall, according to statistics from the Institutional Studies and Planning at A&M.

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DECISION 2001 ON THE RESIDENCE LIFE WEBPAGE

For Fall 2001 - Spring 2002

ALL current on-campus residents are required to renew or cancel their housing for the Fall 2001 - Spring 2002 academic year.

March 1 (8:00 a.m.) - March 2 (5:00 p.m.) at the Residence Life Homepage <http://reslife.tamu.edu>