

It could happen to you

Students share how breast cancer has affected their lives

By Kelcey Rieger
THE BATTALION

"Two weeks ago my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer," said Bradley Gerling, a freshman mechanical engineering major. "I didn't find out until the weekend following her diagnosis because my mom and dad wanted to be with me in person when they told me."

Since learning of his mother's illness, Gerling said he has found it hard to be away from his mother and the rest of his family.

"The initial shock of the news wore off a few days later, but that is when the realization began to set in," Gerling said. "It can be overwhelming at times. Like when I'm 'on the wall' with the rest of my freshman buddies (in the Corps), it hurts to stand there while somebody is yelling at me and in the back of my mind all I can think about is my mom and how she is suffering more than I am."

Gerling said he feels there is a bigger burden placed on his family now that he is at Texas A&M and unable to be there to help them.

"She has gone through surgery and chemotherapy yet to go," Gerling said. "She moves slowly around the house and somebody is needed to help her do so many things like sitting and standing, taking a shower and changing clothes. It is painful to see someone change so drastically within a couple of weeks just because of something so unexpected and unwanted, like cancer."

According to Dr. Peter Gray, director of the St. Joseph Cancer Center, breast cancer can be unexpected, but only if precautions such as breast cancer screenings, mammograms or self-examinations are not used to predict the onset of breast cancer.

"Everybody can be at risk for breast cancer, but risk increases with age," Gray said. "Women who have had an aunt or mother, or what is known as a 'first-degree relative,' with breast cancer are also at a higher risk of discovering breast cancer than other women who have a non-hereditary connection."

Gray said women in the 70 to 79-year-

old age group make up the highest percentage of women diagnosed with breast cancer in Brazos County. But this doesn't mean younger women are not at risk.

"We also have a very high percentage

risk for breast cancer in the future."

Predicting the risk for breast cancer can be an important tool in preventing it from escalating into the more serious stages of the cancer, but before prediction and prevention must come awareness.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month and Zeta Tau Alpha, an A&M sorority, is involved in many activities on and off campus to raise awareness about breast cancer throughout the year. According to Lisa Parrish, president of the A&M chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha, breast cancer awareness is the sorority's national philanthropy.

"(Breast cancer) is more than just something we raise money for; it is something that each member of Zeta is really passionate about," Parrish said. "Our members realize that breast cancer will affect one in eight women in the United States, and this is a startling eye-opening statistic. Unfortunately, we have members who have had to go through the pain of breast cancer with their mothers, grandmothers and even themselves."

Last year, A&M's chapter raised more than \$10,000 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation by sponsoring the Strike-A-Thon Bowling Tournament. Now in its fourth year of sponsoring the Strike-A-Thon, Zeta Tau Alpha is promoting many other breast cancer awareness projects for the month of October.

"We sponsor the 'Think Pink' campaign during the month of October," Parrish said. "We have girls at tables all over campus passing out pink ribbons and information cards. These are always well-received, and it is great to see pink ribbons on backpacks and shirts around campus."

Zeta Tau Alpha's efforts to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research has been nationally recognized throughout the United States, but members say it doesn't take a large organization to help fund breast cancer awareness and research. Web sites, such as abc.org or the-breastcancersite.com, offer many ways to donate to the cause.

A National Cancer Institute report estimates that about 13.3 percent of women in the United States will develop breast cancer during their lifetime. The percentage may appear small to some, but according to Brad Gerling, the statistic is not small enough.

"Nobody should ever go through this ordeal, but it does happen to some people and unfortunately it happened to us," he said. "There is just so much stress, physically and emotionally living with a family member who has breast cancer. It can change a person forever."

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Paltrow presents Film fellowship to Weinstein

LONDON (AP) — Gwyneth Paltrow presented an honorary British Film Institute fellowship to Miramax Films co-chairman Harvey Weinstein.



PALTROW

Weinstein received the award Sunday at the National Film Theater. His brother, Miramax co-chairman Bob Weinstein, was also honored, but didn't attend the ceremony.

Previous honorees include Orson Welles, Martin Scorsese, Michael Caine, Clint Eastwood, Akira Kurosawa, Elizabeth Taylor and Robert Altman.

Paltrow won a best-actress Oscar for 1998's *Shakespeare in Love*, which was produced by Miramax. While she looked on, Weinstein paid tribute to her father, TV producer-director Bruce Paltrow, who died earlier this month in Rome.

Weinstein said Paltrow, who was 58, had played a crucial role in the "renaissance in TV going on in America," calling his death "a loss that we all share in."

Blake's lawyers petition Court to grant bail

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lawyers for actor Robert Blake petitioned the California Supreme Court on Monday to grant Blake bail without a further hearing.

The filing was the latest in a series of legal maneuvers aimed at freeing the former "Baretta" star, who has been jailed for six months on murder and other charges in the killing of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley.

At an Oct. 9 bail hearing, a judge said he still needed to hear from witnesses at a preliminary hearing before he could make a decision on whether to set bail. That hearing has been scheduled for Dec. 11.

In Monday's filing, attorney Paul Hoffman said his client should be released on bail immediately. He said the government lacks "clear and convincing evidence" that Blake killed his wife while lying in wait. "That's the bar that has to be met. We are saying that the D.A. did not meet that bar," Hoffman said.

Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, declined to comment on the petition, saying her office hadn't seen it yet.

Riddes named hockey team's honorary captain

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hey, hockey pucks!

Insult-spewing comic Don Rickles is the honorary captain of the University of Arizona's hockey team for the 2002-2003 season.

"He became a friend of ours and we are honored to have him as part of our team," Arizona head coach Leo Golembiewski said Monday.

Besides serving as honorary captain, Rickles will be featured in the hockey team's card sets, which feature trading cards of team players, coaches and now, the man known as "Mr. Warmth" — who often uses the phrase "hockey puck" in his insults.

"I'm pleased to have been chosen by Coach G. and the team. I know they'll do me proud," the 76-year-old Rickles said.

"If not, I'm going to invite them to leave Tucson and come to one of my Las Vegas shows, and then make them sit outside in the desert and let them watch their skates melt."

Dion's show to take place at Ceasars Palace

LA LOUVIERE, Belgium (AP) — "A New Day" will be the theme and title of Celine Dion's new show, set to debut March 25 at the new 4,000-seat Colosseum theater at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.



DION

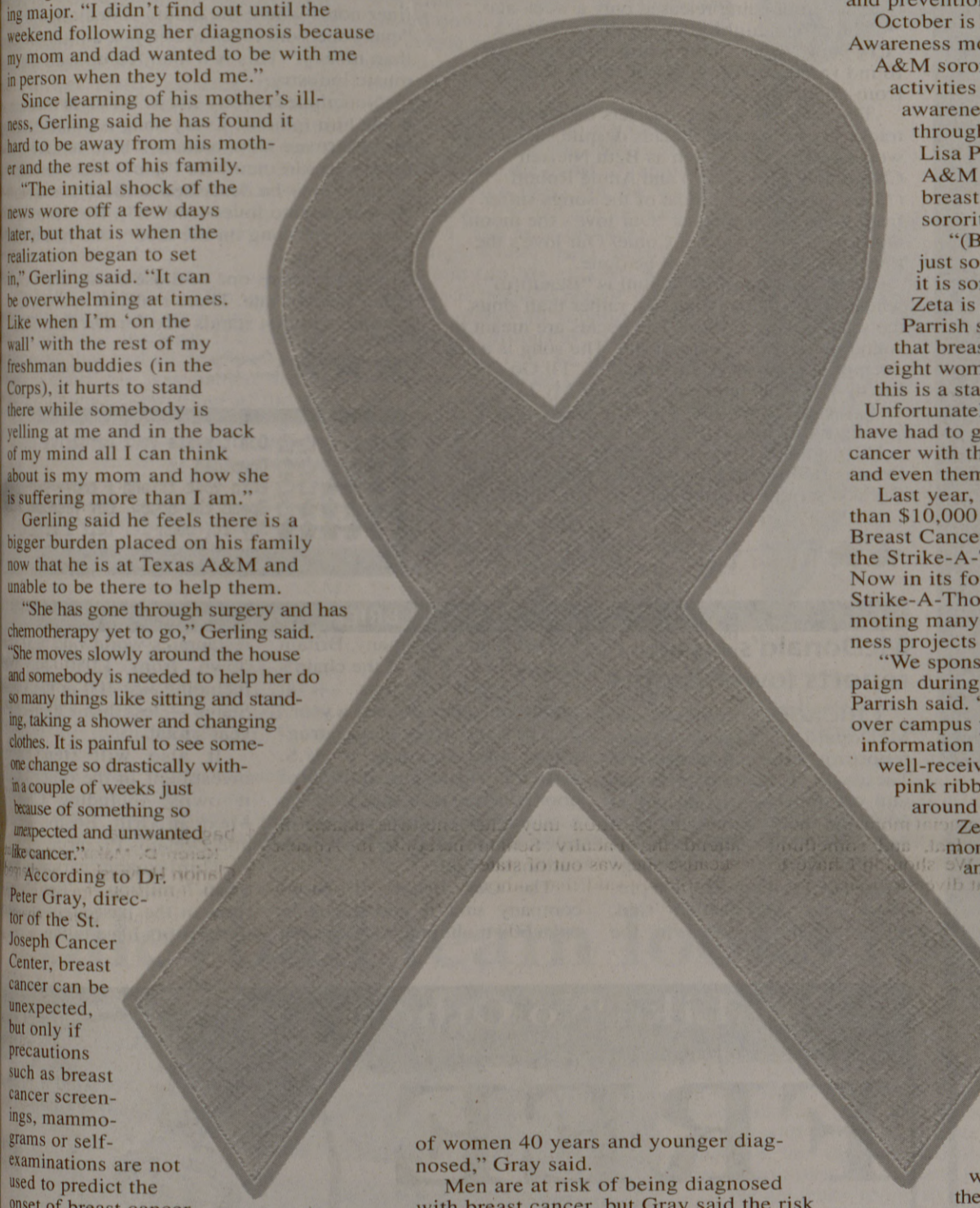
"It will be the beginning of a new adventure, of something incredible," Dion said at rehearsals Monday. "I can't wait until the curtains rise... I'm so excited."

Producer-creator Franco Dragone said the show would include song, dance, theater and special effects — even clowns.

"The story will be Celine," he said. "Our tableau will be built around her."

The show's cast of 60 dancers and performers have been secretly rehearsing since June at a makeshift studio in the mining town of La Louviere, Dragone's hometown, located 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Brussels.

Dragone directed both of Cirque du Soleil's Las Vegas productions, "O" and "Mystere."



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Graduate Students and Seniors

WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
2002 - 2003
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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

- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Office of Graduate Studies (302 Administration)
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th floor Rudder)
- Office of the Dean of each College

Completed applications should contain an application form and one (8.5x11") activities page in 10 pt. font or above with one-inch margins.

The deadline has been extended. Applications are due to the Office of Graduate Studies or the Department of Student Activities no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2002. Applications may be personally delivered or sent through US Mail or Campus Mail to either:

Dept. of Student Activities ATTN: Who's Who 1236 TAMU 125 John J. Koldus Building College Station, TX 77843-1236	Office of Graduate Studies ATTN: Who's Who 1113 TAMU 302 Administration Building College Station, TX 77843-1113
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