

THE BATTALION

FALL '03 STAFF APPLICATION

If you can write, edit, design pages, draw, use a camera... Texas A&M's award-winning newspaper is looking for you.

• gain valuable experience • earn extra cash • make friends in a professional newsroom environment

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Cellphone or pager: _____

E-mail: _____

Major: _____

Classification: _____

Credit hours you will take in the spring _____

Expected graduation (semester): _____

How many hours per week would you be available for work at *The Battalion*? _____

ALL APPLICANTS: Please type your responses on a separate piece of paper, and attach a résumé and samples of your work (stories you have written for publications or classes, pages you have designed, photos taken, drawings made or other creative samples—just show us what you can do).

Section Editor Applicants

- 1) What are your goals for managing your staff?
- 2) What do you believe is the role of the section for which you are applying?
- 3) What changes would you make to improve *The Battalion*? Pay particular attention to the position for which you're applying.

Staff Applicants

- 1) Why do you want to work at *The Battalion*, and what do you hope to accomplish?
- 2) What experience do you have that relates to the position for which you are applying? (include classes, seminars, etc.)
- 3) What changes do you feel would improve the quality of *The Battalion*? Give special attention to the section for which you're applying.

OPENINGS INCLUDE:

Please check the position(s) for which you are interested. If you are interested in more than one position, number them in order of preference with "1" being your top choice.

____ Managing Editor

Section Editors

- ____ News*
- ____ AggieLife*
- ____ Opinion
- ____ Sci/Tech
- ____ Sports*
- ____ Design/Copy Chief
- ____ Graphics
- ____ Photo
- ____ Radio Producer
- ____ Webmaster

*assistant editor positions available

Staff

- ____ News Reporter
- ____ Sci/Tech Writer
- ____ Feature/Entertainment Writer
- ____ Sports Writer
- ____ Radio Reporter
- ____ Opinion Columnist
- ____ Page Designer
- ____ Copy Editor
- ____ Photographer
- ____ Graphic Artist
- ____ Cartoonist

DEADLINE: 5 p.m. **Wednesday, April 23**, for editor positions and **Friday, April 25**, for staff positions. Turn in applications at 014 (basement) Reed McDonald Bldg. Interviews will begin immediately after application deadline.

Extra applications available in the newsroom or online at <http://www.thebatt.com>

'The Thrill Killer' set to die

By Michael Graczyk
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — He became known in Dallas as "The Thrill Killer" for random attacks believed to have left at least a dozen people dead, including five on a single bloody night in the summer of 1995.

Many victims over the five-month period were robbed or carjacked. Some were shot with a handgun, others with a shotgun. Some were mowed down by a stolen car or truck.

On Tuesday, five days shy of his 35th birthday, Juan Rodriguez Chavez, labeled an "equal opportunity assassin" by authorities, was set to die for one of those slayings — the robbery and fatal shooting of a 39-year-old man gunned down while he was talking on a pay phone in northwest Dallas.

"We called him the thrill killer," said Jason January, one of the Dallas County district attorneys who prosecuted Chavez. "It definitely fit."

"He was truly a living breathing killing machine, and the world's going to be safer once he's gone. He was one of the few people I dealt with in 15 years with the DA's office that clearly demonstrated he enjoyed killing."

Chavez was arrested a month after Jose Morales was shot at a pay phone near Dallas' Love Field on July 2, 1995. According to a witness, the gunman approached Morales, asked if he was "on the line" and shot the victim in the chest. He grabbed Morales' wallet and shot him again before fleeing. The wallet contained \$2.

By the time the sun came up that morning, seven other people had been shot, four fatally, including a female security guard at a construction site.

Considered a threat even in custody, he wore a court an electronic stun belt that inadvertently activated during the first day of testimony. Jolted by the voltage, he stood up, saying: "It's shocking me," then slumped to the defense table. He was uninjured but his attorneys asked for a mistrial, contending his constitutional presumption of innocence was violated. The request was denied, then became an issue in unsuccessful appeals.

Chavez dropped out of school in the ninth grade and at age 17 was convicted of murder for killing a neighbor and wounding a man during a burglary.

While serving a 15-year prison term, he racked up more than 40 disciplinary violations, including punching a corrections officer and attacking another inmate in a recreation area. But by March 1994, he had accrued enough "good time" in prison to be paroled. He had served less than half of his sentence.

"He should have never been let out of jail," January said. "He's a poster child for parole reform."

The killing spree began a year later with a fatal shooting during a robbery at a car wash. He was arrested in August 1995 when he reported to his parole officer.

At his trial, he was described as jovial, grinning at spectators, many of them relatives of slaying victims. State District Judge Harold Entz asked if there was any reason he shouldn't be sentenced.

"I still say I'm not guilty," he said. Earlier that day, he warned court bailiffs he would antagonize relatives of his victims, many of them Hispanic, by smirking.

"You ever seen a courtroom full of mad Mexicans?" he said. "You oughta see them when I walk in the courtroom smiling."

"I'm not going to let them see me sweat."

"He should have never been let out of jail. He's a poster child for parole reform."

— Jason January
Dallas County district attorney

NEWS IN BRIEF

Students charged with burning flags

HOUSTON (AP) — Victoria McCord was proud to share one of her most prized possessions with the world by displaying it at her Harris County business.

The nine-foot flag that draped her Army veteran brother's casket hung vertically outside Lumber Tag Specialties until March 22, when she received a call while

attending a birthday party that there had been a fire. When she arrived, the flag was only a char mark on the metal siding.

"Had the fire gotten into the rafters under the eaves, it could have caught the insulation on fire," McCord said Monday.

McCord said drivers of three cars passing her business spotted young men fleeing from the fire. One stopped to help clean up the mess, another called 911

and a third chased the suspect briefly and took down their license plate number.

On Saturday, Harris County investigators arrested Randall Heinrichs, 17, and a juvenile fellow student at Cy-Fair High School. Each is charged with arson and criminal mischief.

Both second-degree felonies that carry a prison sentence of between two and 20 years and a fine up to \$10,000.



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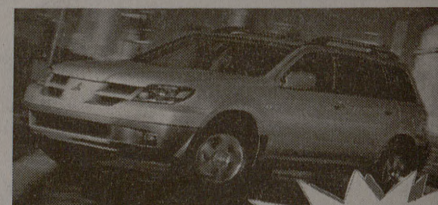
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