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> Wednesday 8 p.m.

February 21 MSC 201

Vessel boarded by island pirates

United Press International
JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Spear-wielding pirates
boarded and looted a research vessel in the Indian Ocean, seized

three American crew members and led one away with a noose around his neck, an amateur radio operator says.

The ham operator said he picked up distress calls from the 350-ton Alysse Maru saying hundreds of Moslem Maldive Islanders swinging machetes and spears clambered aboard the converted minesweeper. They looted cabins, terrorized the crew and seized the captain and two other crew members.

The natives of the Maldive Islands, which lie in the Indian Ocean 400 miles southwest of Sri Lanka, have been famous as sailors for

centuries but in recent years have resorted to piracy.
Radio Operator Gary Blumenthal barricaded himself in the transmission room and sent out distress signals. They were heard in Johannesburg by amateur radio operator Eli Salant, who passed them

on to the U.S. Navy base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

He said the pirates boarded the oceanographic research vessel, after it developed engine trouble Sunday and dropped anchor in an

The pirates swarmed over the Panamanian-registered ship, ran-sacked cabins and ripped navigational equipment and other fixtures from the walls until one of 10-man crew fired a burst from a carbine

When the marauders left the ship, the crew weighed anchor and headed for Diego Garcia, several hundred miles to the south.

In Washington, the Pentagon confirmed its Indian Ocean base was keeping in touch with the Alisse Maru. There were unconfirmed reports that American officials had opened negotiations with authorities on the Maldive Islands — a British protectorate until 1968 - to secure the release of the hostages.

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Sunday's ice storm makes a last stand on this The sheet of sliding ice creates a double in sign two miles outside Bryan on Tabor Road. effect as it moves downward.

Texas counties gerrymander voting districts, speaker says

By ESTHER CORTEZ

Battalion Reporter
Mexican-Americans in Texas have a very difficult time obtaining political office, despite high voter registration and turnout of the

Mexican-American population.
Gerrymandering of the voting districts is the problem, according to William Velasquez, director of the Southwest Voter Registration

Education Project.
Velasquez spoke Tuesday night at the Memorial Student Center to about 60 people on gerrymandering in Texas counties. He was sponsored by the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture (CAMAC).

Eliminating gerrymandering is important in keeping our country true to its ideals, meaning equal, just application of its laws, Velas-

All of the first 66 counties which his organization investigated were gerrymandering against Mexican-Americans. And that just doesn't happen by chance, Velasquez said.

According to Velasquez, the

Mexican-American is very interested in local elections, but he becomes discouraged when his hard work and efforts show no results. "He gets to be like Charlie Brown who's lost all 894 games," Velasquez said. "He keeps asking himself, 'How can we keep losing when the Aggie Players

Doctor 'inoculates' youths against pressure to smoke

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A behavioral

'A great deal of information about

scientist reports some success in psychologically "inoculating"

lifetime habit.

we're so sincere? "They conduct good voter regis-

tration drives, educate the voter,

and have excellent voter turnout,

Heart Association meeting at Hilton
Head, S.C., that over half of all
young people who smoke today
adopted the habit before or during
smoking peers."
So McAlister and two of
at Stanford University dee
the psychological approximation of the psychological approximation.

quez said. He adds that voter regis-

tration among Mexican-Americans

has increased by more than 2l per-

cent over the past two years.

This type of losing has a detriworth the trouble."

youngsters against the peer prestheir ninth grade in school. sures that often influence that first "The major factor that students likened it to the concept of smoke which might lead to a themselves report as influencing their decisions to experiment with Dr. Alfred L. McAlister of Hartobacco is peer pressure, and direct influence from a 'favorite' peer appears to be the most potent of those pressures," McAlister said.

He said youngsters often consider vard University's School of Public Health says the unique approach works on the idea that it should be a lot easier to help people avoid smoking in the first place than to try to change habits already established.

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- SATURDAY NIGHT 8-1 A.M. -

smoking a sign of independence from adult authority, and a sign of maturity. He said a child who refuses an offer of a cigarette may be

the risks of heavy smoking has been disseminated in the past 15 years called a "chicken. but the fact that one in five young people continues to adopt the habit clearly indicates that a more sophisgreater acceptance of smoking peers but also the appearance of being pressures of that sort and ticated approach to the problem is needed," he said. but also the appearance of being more 'tough,' 'cool,' mature and ad-McAlister told a recent American venturous than his or her non-

counter those peer press tion in preventive medicin the "germs" of smoking b social pressures.

He said the 'infection' of s

the political leader, he said.

can be prevented if the sur exposed to a weak dose of 'germs' to facilitate the devel of 'antibodies' which McAli fined in this case as skills i

ing the pressures of smoking "The applicability of the of inoculation is obvious," "If youngsters are likely tob 'chicken' for refusing offers." assertiveness training which able them to counter thos

They can be trained to re smoke to prove that I'm chicken, all I'm really be sho that I'm afraid not to do with 0 44 hours a

want me to do.' The effectiveness of the prowas assessed at two schools Jose during the 1977-78 sch One school received the exp tal program and the other Surveys supplemented by samplings of exhaled breaths that only 5.6 percent of graders in the school given by gram smoked compared to cent of youngsters of the same the other school.

Not only had fewer chi started smoking in the scho the intervention progra McAlister said the entire mosphere regarding smol

changed.
"The students report that anybody smokes now and not cool to smoke anymore

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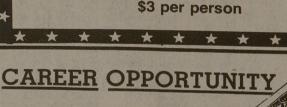
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