



Concert pianist

Pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy performed in Rudder Auditorium Tuesday night before a sparse audience.

Presented by OPAS, he performed selections by Beethoven and Chopin.

Staff photo by Douglas Winship

Cable car crashes, killing 42

Associated Press
TRENTO, Italy — A seven-foot high red cable car filled with skiers plunged 200 feet to the ground near this northern Italian city, killing 42 persons, including women and children. Most of the victims were West Germans.

Only one person survived the crash, a 14-year old Italian girl. Doctors said her leg and pelvis injuries were serious but that she had a chance to survive.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. A spokesman for the cableway's management said the eight-year old system had been inspected by safety officials last November.

The cable car, carrying skiers from the slopes of Alpe Cermis, was only 600 feet from the valley station when the cable loosened and sent the car swinging until the steel cable snapped.

The car crashed onto the frozen fields and the huge metal bar connecting it to the cable smashed down on the roof, crushing the cabin like a matchbox.

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First in A&M history

Women to get forestry degrees

This May 23-year-old Charlie O'Donnell and 22-year-old Joann Meyer will become the first two women to graduate from Texas A&M with a major in forestry. White O'Donnell has applied for work with the U.S. Forest Service, Meyer will begin working for the Champion International Paper Company in Huntsville, Tx., soon after graduation. Meyer will be a staff forester, working both in the field and in the office, part of her job will be keeping tabs on the company's hunting and grazing lands.

O'Donnell first enrolled at A&M in the fall of 1973 when her parents moved to Houston from California. She had attended Rio Hondo Jr. College in Whittier, Calif., where she was the only woman forestry major, and woman in her class. O'Donnell didn't let that upset her — she had set her career goals a long time ago.

"When I was in the fourth grade I finally decided on forestry. My fam-

ily has always done a lot of camping and I enjoy being outdoors," O'Donnell said.

Meyer also grew to love the forests through her family. She comes from a large family that looked outdoors for entertainment, and has been camping for the past 15 years.

Meyer attended Rutgers University until the fall of 1974 when she transferred to Texas A&M after her parents moved to Houston.

Both women value the training they received in the forestry program, and believe that a 5-week training camp they attended this summer helped them more than anything.

The women, along with the 15 men who attended the training camp at Sam Houston National Park, had to hike through acres of forest, perform endless calculations to determine forest density, tree height and circumference and amount of lumber per acre, and attend guest lectures by professors in the forestry department at A&M.

Meyer said that while they stayed at the camp that the women had to sleep in a building used as an infirmary. She said their worst enemies at the camp were the ticks and chiggers. At the end of the day the students would have tick count contests to see who had picked up the most.

"Before summer camp some of the guys were skeptical. Then at camp they saw us doing the same things they had to do, and realized we were really serious about it," O'Donnell said.

"There may be some old-timers who have been in forestry for years who may resent us, but most people are really open-minded," O'Donnell said.

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