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Safety, fences Consol board OKs improvements

By STEVE LEE
Battalion Reporter
The A&M Consolidated Board of Education Monday acted on three measures that will work towards campus improvements.
Landscape architect Michael Murphy presented to the board long-range improvement ideas for the five district campuses.
The board voted unanimously to ask the City of College Station to close Holik Street to traffic between the old and new middle school campuses. Murphy suggested that this measure would prevent traffic hazards and allow further improvements to the middle school area.
Accordingly, the board voted to authorize Murphy to work with the

city to resolve other traffic problems around the middle school.
Murphy presented plans to im-

prove the fencing around South Knoll Elementary School, which the board also passed.

Trustee Rodney C. Hill, chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee, reported that the high school will most likely face an overcrowding problem in the next few years if no preventative action is taken.

The findings were based on a needs assessment that showed optimum enrollment projections and figures for each school in the district. Of the five campuses, the high

school faces the "most critical pending enrollment," Hill said.
Hill had earlier indicated that building of a new elementary school would possibly take precedence.
There will be an open meeting of the Long-Range Planning Committee Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the Special Services building on Sey Street. Suggestions will be discussed for expansion of the school.

Rumors surround John Paul's death

United Press International
VATICAN CITY — Roman Catholic cardinals, upset over rumors of foul play, have ordered the Vatican to publicly clarify the circumstances surrounding the unexpected death of Pope John Paul I, an Italian newspaper said Monday.
The moderate Turin daily, Stampa Sera, said the cardinals were deeply displeased with the way the Vatican's secretive bureaucracy, the Curia, handled the pope's death.

The cardinals were particularly angry, Stampa Sera said, about the terse official announcement the Curia released after John Paul's demise. The fact that no medical certificate was obtained pinpointing the exact causes of death also upset the cardinals. Stampa Sera said the Curia had been ordered to rectify the situation and answer all "questions aroused in public opinion" before the secret conclave of cardinals begins Saturday to elect the next pontiff.

Father Romeo Panciroli, the official Vatican spokesman, said he was unable to comment on the reports at this time.
Pope John Paul died of an apparent heart attack alone in his bedroom Sept. 28 — after only 34 days on the papal throne.

The cardinals returned to the formality of Vatican Palace meetings Monday after an inconclusive round of informal, but frank weekend discussions about the choice of a successor to the late pope.

Postal strike likelihood less

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The nation's second largest postal union has overwhelmingly ratified a three-year contract imposed by a special arbitrator, sources said Monday, greatly reducing chances of an illegal nationwide mail strike.

But rank-and-file members of the 180,000-member National Association of Letter Carriers also voted to oust president J. Joseph Vacca and elect a new, more militant leader — New York branch president Vincent Sombrotto, the sources said.
Official results of the contract vote are expected to be made public Tuesday.

Union sources said the members voting in the last three weeks overwhelmingly approved the contract decision of special mediator James Healy.
Healy took on the role of arbitrator when he could not bring about

a negotiated settlement during special 15-day bargaining sessions set up to avert a strike by three unions representing 500,000 postal workers.

In his "final and binding" decision, Healy awarded the postal workers unlimited cost of living increases, slightly higher salaries, lifetime job security for those currently on the payroll.
But ballots for the union's election of new officers were mailed before Healy issued his decision, union members voted to reelect Healy and two other officers of the union.

Officials of the union predicted that the largest and most militant postal union — the 280,000-member American Postal Workers Union — also would vote to ratify the contract. Its balloting is due to be completed in about a week.

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Jobs ensure flow of illegal aliens

More than 1,000 Mexicans move into Houston every week, making it second only to Denver in illegal alien population, says a migration expert with the U.S. Catholic Conference in El Paso.

Louis Alfonso Valarde, southwest director of Migration and Refugee Services, made his observation during closing speeches at the Town and Country Church Conference held at Texas A&M University.

About 100 ministers and lay leaders attended the two-day session held last Thursday and Friday.
"I don't think there is a solution to the undocumented alien problem," Valarde said. "Congress can put patchwork legislation together to help alleviate it, but there is no permanent solution."

"We could erect a Berlin Wall along the U.S.-Mexico border tomorrow and it wouldn't stop the flow of illegal aliens," he stressed. "The reason most of them come into the U.S. is jobs."
"If our economy wasn't so much better than their own, they would have little or no reason for being here," Valarde said. "For every job created in Mexico today, there are four people born that need it to survive."

Valarde said a conservative estimate of the number of illegal aliens living in America today would be between five and six million.
Aliens are also moving farther into the interior of the United States. The farther they live from the border, the less likely the chances of being caught, Valarde said.

Valarde also cited studies that showed only a small percentage of undocumented aliens were using America's welfare system illegally. One of the reasons is that many are in hiding and don't want to be caught.

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