

THE BATTALION

Vol. 73 No. 35
10 Pages

Friday, October 19, 1979
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

Axed girls might cut on Bonfire

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M University Bonfire and Cell Leader Committee is recommending that women be allowed to work in the Bonfire cutting area.

The recommendation is being forwarded to Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services. It represents a change in traditional Bonfire policies, which have not allowed women to cut down and carry out the trees needed to build the Bonfire.

Ron Hilton, area coordinator for the Corps of Cadets and a committee member, said he requested the meeting which led to

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the proposed change after some female cadets who attended a mandatory cutting class did not receive cutting cards.

"It was a misunderstanding due to the fact that it (the issue of women) had never been brought up before," Hilton said. The Bonfire supervisors issuing cutting cards were not informed that University officials had not made a decision, Hilton explained.

That decision has now been made, he said. Hilton said the legal aspects of a ban on female participation, as well as a knowledge of what sort of work is involved in the cutting area, were considered in making the decision.

Texas A&M and the Corps currently face

a sex discrimination suit filed by a female cadet.

Hilton said he thought only female cadets had requested to work in the cutting area; no civilian women appeared at any of the safety classes. He added that there had been no pressure from any quarter for the committee to make a particular decision.

Thomas R. Parsons, committee chairman and University director of security, could not be reached for comment.

It was unclear when or if women will be working in the cutting area. Koldus must approve the recommendation today if women are to work Saturday and Sunday, the first cutting weekend.

If Koldus approves the proposal, Bonfire work supervisors — redpots — will have to allow females to cut, according to redpot James Law.

Law also said that women will be allowed to work on pulley crews in the stacking yard this year.

"That was the policy before the proposal," he said. "We'd already agreed to let them work on pulley crews."

As recently as last year, redpots denied women the opportunity to work in both the cutting area and the stacking yard.

Georgia Hughes, a member of Squadron 14, was one of the seven women who did not receive a cutting card. She, too, was unsure of the women's status for the weekend.

"If we have cutting cards, hell, yeah, we'll be out there in force," she said.



Chad Kruger, left, a Brenham first-grader, learns first-hand about pigs at Texas A&M University's Swine Center. Chad was one of 2,700 area youngsters visiting the University for the Saddle & Sirloin Club's annual



Down on the farm Children's Barnyard. Gina Burgett, right, seems to enjoy meeting a Brahman calf. For more on the Children's Barnyard, which continues through today, see page 3. Battalion photos by Lee Roy Leshper Jr.

Texas files lawsuit against SEDCO

United Press International

AUSTIN — Attorney General Mark White Thursday filed a suit contending SEDCO, the oil well drilling firm founded by Gov. Bill Clements, and Pemargo, a Mexican drilling contractor, should pay Texas more than \$10 million for damages from oil that spewed from the blown Ixtoc I well.

White filed the suit in U.S. District Court in Houston, and said he may later add Pemex, the Mexican national oil company, as a defendant unless negotiations between Mexico and the U.S. State Department result in voluntary payment of damages by Mexico.

Clements at first declined comment on White's suit, which he had contended earlier was politically motivated, then told reporters he has nothing to do with SEDCO.

"I don't have any comment. I don't think this suit is any good against anybody," Clements told reporters as he left the Capitol for lunch.

Clements placed his SEDCO holdings in trust when he ran for governor last year. His son is the firm's general manager.

"We feel we have no responsibility," said Irving Davis, a vice president of SEDCO in Dallas. "It was under charter to a Mexican drilling contractor and we have no responsibility. We certainly have plans to defend ourselves in court."

The state also is seeking \$1,000 a day in civil penalties from SEDCO and Pemargo since the date the Mexican oil first entered Texas waters Aug. 1.

The attorney general rejected Clements'

contentions that the suit is politically motivated.

"We are treating this suit the same as any other, and had it been any other drilling firm we would have handled it the same," White told a news conference.

"I am filing suit against Pemargo and SEDCO for injuries and damage to the beds and bottoms of the lagoons, bays and inlands of this state and to their products, and to its territorial waters, caused by the negligence, trespass and other fault of the defendants."

White said the state also suffered a loss of tax revenue due to the impact of the oil spill upon the state's tourism and seafood industries, possibly in excess of \$10 million.

The attorney general said specifics of negligence by SEDCO and Pemargo will be developed during the trial of the suit, but told reporters, "These events do not occur in the absence of negligence."

SEDCO had filed suit Sept. 11 to limit its liability in the case to \$300,000.

The attorney general has corresponded with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance about the suit, and said Vance had advised him against naming Pemex in the suit at the present time.

"In the interest of our international relationships with Mexico, at this time I am not bringing legal action against Pemex. Since it is not imperative that Pemex be included in the suit at this time, we are refraining from doing so until it is certain that all negotiations by the U.S. Department of State for damages from Mexico in regard to the oil spill have been exhausted," White said.

Witness saw man in area before slaying

Police seek suspect in CS stabbing

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Staff

College Station police have found no motive in the LaShan Muhlinghaus murder, but a witness claims to have seen a man in the vicinity shortly before the slaying last Friday. Detective Ronnie Miller said Thursday afternoon.

Muhlinghaus, a junior from Rowlett, was stabbed to death in her Travis House apartment Friday night.

According to police, Muhlinghaus, who worked at Montgomery Wards in Bryan, had been complaining about feeling sick all day Friday. She left work at 7:30 p.m. Friday. She arrived home, police said, at approximately 7:45 p.m. Her nude body was

discovered in her roommate's bedroom by her roommate around 9:20 p.m.

Police and medical reports say she died around 8 p.m. She had been stabbed over twenty times in the abdomen, chest and pelvic area, said Pathologist Dr. J.C. Lee.

Earlier this week, College Station police and a Texas Ranger hypnosis specialist from Waco questioned a witness who claims to have seen a man in the area a few hours before the murder.

Police now have a composite sketch of the man based on the information supplied by the witness, Miller said.

"This guy (in the drawing) was seen in the area and he is a suspect," Miller said.

Police have spoken to several other suspects in the case, he added. In addition, Miller added, a man is being sought for questioning based on his resemblance to the composite sketch.

The man being sought for questioning, Miller said, was not a friend or acquaintance of Muhlinghaus or of her roommate.

"We're questioning anyone who would've had a reason to kill her," Miller said.

According to a story in the Eagle earlier this week, Muhlinghaus told fellow workers she was afraid to go home.

Miller said he questioned several Wards employees and none of them told him she

was afraid to go home.

Miller also would not comment on whether or not there were signs of forced entry in the apartment, whether the suspect was a Texas A&M student, or the exact number of stab wounds on the body.

Miller said certain information is being held from the public because of the nature of the crime.

"Anytime you have multiple stab wounds, you're dealing with an angry person or a nut," Miller said.

If the killer is a psychotic, Miller said, any extensive release of facts about the case could cause him to flee town or commit another murder.

China: U.S.-Taiwan treaty a problem

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A federal judge's ruling that President Carter cannot end the Mutual Defense Treaty with Taiwan with-

out approval from Congress raises a "serious problem" in U.S.-Chinese relations, the Peking government said Thursday.

The administration quickly readied an appeal of U.S. District Judge Oliver Gasch's ruling late Wednesday nullifying Carter's independent action to terminate the treaty. Unless overturned, the court ruling would block Secretary of State Cyrus Vance from terminating the 1954 pact on Jan. 1, as scheduled.

Asked about Gasch's ruling, First Secretary Yu Zhizhong of the People's Republic of Washington embassy said in a brief two-sentence statement:

"It is a serious problem. We think the United States government will take necessary measures."

The Peking government had for years made the opening of full relations with the United States conditional upon a cutoff of U.S. ties with Taiwan.

During court hearings in the case — a lawsuit challenging Carter's action by Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., and 25 other conservatives — Justice Department lawyers warned relations with Peking could be irreparably harmed by a ruling blocking the Taiwan treaty termination.

On Capitol Hill, Senate Democratic

leader Robert Byrd, holding a copy of the Gasch decision, said: "I find it awfully hard to understand how any appeals court could uphold the ruling."

There was no indication Byrd would bring the issue to a confrontation on the Senate floor until the administration has exhausted the appeals process.

Senate GOP leader Howard Baker said he was not "greatly surprised" by the decision.

"I think it's so important that if the courts uphold the ruling, it will have to come up here (to the Senate) this year or next — election year notwithstanding," Baker said.

'King's English' band to play for memorial scholarship fund

By BECKY MATTHEWS
Battalion Reporter

Contrary to popular belief, the English department at Texas A&M University doesn't get all its kicks from butchering term papers. Eight English teachers take out their frustrations by playing music.

The King's English String Band, composed entirely of members of the English department, has arranged a benefit for the Greg Cowan Memorial Scholarship Fund. Cowan, a former associate professor of English at Texas A&M, died in July.

The benefit will be at 6 p.m. Saturday at Grins Beer Garden.

Members of the band, formed in April, include Marynell Young, Gene Young, Dennis Berthold, Clint Machann, Sylvia Grider, Doug Street, Malcolm Richardson and Rose Norman. The band performs music that varies from old-time mountain music to traditional Irish jigs.

Berthold said the band likes to perform because "we get to respond to students as human beings." He said it is easier to relate in an informal atmosphere, like Grins, than

it is to relate in a classroom.

Marynell Young, one of two band members who has had formal music training, said the first time they performed together, the students didn't believe they were really English teachers.

"That's the kind of reaction we probably want," said Gene Young, Marynell's husband and an English instructor.

The Buzzard will follow the King's English at 7 p.m. The Buzzard plays western swing, progressive folk and bluegrass

Thursday morning before classes began,

music. It is composed of three A&M students who can regularly be seen playing by the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross at the Academic building.

A one-act melodrama will also be performed Saturday night following the Buzzard. The play, an original Aggie production, was written by Tom Jordan of the English department.

The \$1 admission charge will go toward the scholarship fund. However, extra donations will be accepted at the door.

Boston schools seek peace

United Press International

BOSTON — School officials hoped promises of tighter security would restore calm today in Boston's racially tense high schools, where already this week four students have been arrested and one has been stabbed.

Thursday morning before classes began,

police were sent to East Boston High School to break up a riot there. At least two buses were targets of rocks hurled by students; the window of a police patrol car was smashed, and two private cars were damaged by the mob.

Four white students were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct.



Fleeting fall flowers

With autumn here and cold weather not far away, the flowers in Texas A&M University's floral test garden are putting on a final brilliant show before

disappearing for several months. The gardens are on Houston Street, just south of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leshper Jr.