

THE BATTALION

Vol. 73 No. 36
12 Pages

Monday, October 22, 1979
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611



Pablo Cruise-ing

David Jenkins, lead vocalist and guitarist for Pablo Cruise, reflects the emotions of a song as he performs at Texas A&M University. Most of the music the group played Saturday night in G. Rollie White

Coliseum ran the rock gamut, from soft to downright hard and loud, and the audience stomped for more. See the review, page 3.

Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

Cable car accident kills 1 at State Fair

United Press International
DALLAS — A gondola car moving on a cable 80 feet above the packed midway at the State Fair of Texas hung up on a tower Sunday and was hit from behind by another car, knocking both loose and sending them crashing down on tent-top booths below, killing one and injuring 15 others.

The accident forced officials to close the fair grounds immediately while ambulances moved onto the midway to rush away the injured and fire department rescue crews began maneuvering "cherry pickers" to lift down other persons stranded when the workers brought "Swiss Sky Ride" to a stop.

The accident occurred while 40 mph winds were buffeting the ride and officials initially thought the gusts had knocked the cars together. Those officials said later, however, that although the gondolas were rocking back and forth, the accident was caused by the one hanging up on the tower.

"I heard something that sounded like a real loud drum," said a woman operating one of the concession stands. "Then one of (the gondolas) crashed down next door."

"I got my shoes on and ran out — and then the other one landed right on top of my place."

The first gondola smashed through the

canvas tent and onto the black asphalt midway just a few feet from where thousands of fairgoers were making their rounds. The second car fell a few feet behind the first one but did not go through the canvas top.

The cars fell at about the midpoint of the tramway and near the Cotton Bowl Stadium. The fair, which annually hosts up to 3 million people and calls itself the largest state fair in the nation, was in its final day when the accident occurred.

The dead man was identified as Fred Millard, 41, of Dallas, who was riding with his wife and two daughters in the first gondola car. Millard died at Parkland Memorial Hospital about two hours after the accident. His wife Sandra, 35, and two daughters, Roxanna, 9, and Renee, 8, were in good to fair condition.

Parkland hospital's assistant administrator, Kent Norman, said 14 persons injured in the gondola accident were admitted there and a 15th person, a Dallas fireman who received a broken leg when he was hit by a rescue unit, also was admitted.

"Most of the injuries are head and back," he said. "Most of them aren't too serious. There's just the one (in serious condition). A lot of them have cuts and bruises."

Two others injured on the ground were

treated at Baylor Medical Center with cuts. A spokesman there said the injuries were "not too bad."

After the injured were moved away, fire department trucks with "cherry pickers" moved from gondola to gondola to lift down those stranded on the ride. The crowd pushing in around the trucks applauded each time a gondola door swung open and its occupants crawled out to the waiting firemen.

While persons waited to be rescued a band played at one end of the tramway. Near where the accident occurred the huge "Big Tex," a 30-foot statue of a cowboy that booms messages to fairgoers, appealed for calm.

The ride was built by the same company, Von Roll of Switzerland, that made a gondola ride at Six Flags Over Mid-America in St. Louis on which three persons were killed in 1978. A three-month investigation determined that accident was caused by the mechanical failure of a 4-inch nylon bushing. That car plunged about 75 feet to the ground, killing two young girls and their 25-year-old uncle. No one on the ground was injured.

Officials at the Texas State Fair said an investigation of the accident would begin immediately.

97 freshmen campaigning for Wednesday's election

By ELLEN EIDELBACH
Battalion Reporter

Ninety-seven students have filed to run for offices in the freshman elections, to be held Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The number of candidates represents an increase of about 49 percent from 1978.

Positions to be voted on are Class of '83 president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, social secretary and student government senators.

There will be eight polling places. In order to vote, freshmen must bring their

student I.D. cards to one of the following locations:

- main floor in the Memorial Student Center
- in front of Sbis Dining Hall
- Corp of Cadets Guard Room
- Commons main desk area
- main floor in Zachry Engineering Center
- Rudder Tower-MSU bus stop
- outside between the library and Harrington Tower
- main floor in the Kleberg Animal and

Food Science Center (across the railroad tracks).

Two of the polling places are different from last year, said Bill Jentsch, election commissioner for 1978-79.

This year's election commissioner, Bruce Russell, said the polling place at the Reed McDonald bus stop was moved to Zachry Engineering Center and the one at the Commons bus stop was moved between Harrington Tower and the Sterling C. Evans Library.

Russell, who hopes for a better voter turnout than last year, says he picked the polling places by observing where the biggest concentrations of people are.

He says the increased number of candidates may be due to class interest, extra publicity and the cooperation of department heads in reading out memos concerning election filing dates (Oct. 3-10), election date and available positions.

Unlike other classes, the freshman senatorial positions represent the class at large.

Class officers are part of a class council and are not connected with student government.

Candidates qualified to run by paying a \$1 filing fee and meeting scholastic requirements. First-semester freshmen who aren't on scholastic probation and those

with grade point ratios of 2.25 or better were eligible.

Campaigning began Oct. 15 and will continue until the run-off elections Oct. 31.

Each candidate may spend up to \$75 on campaign material and an additional \$35 if he participates in the run-off elections.

Freshmen interested in meeting the candidates should come to "Meet the

"It's for anyone who wants to meet the candidates, because in the past, people have complained that they don't know who Candidates Night" today at 7 p.m. in Room 201 of the MSC.

they're voting for," Russell said.

He said that speeches would not be given, but candidates will post their answers to the following questions:

— What qualifies you to be a leader of the Class of '83?

— Do you have any specific goals for the Class of '83?

The election commission, part of student government, is made up of one commissioner and 11 election supervisors. Russell says the group has spent three weeks preparing for the election. There will be one election supervisor and two volunteer poll workers at each poll throughout the day, he said.

Women take part in Bonfire cutting

By ANGIE JONES
Battalion Reporter

For the first time, women were allowed to work on the Bonfire cutting site Saturday.

They were there as a result of a decision by Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services. Koldus approved a recommendation by the Texas A&M University Bonfire and Yell Leader Committee that women be allowed to work on the project.

As a result of the decision, 25 women from Squadron 14 appeared at the cutting site Saturday and Sunday prepared to take on their share of the work.

Georgia Hughes, senior member of Squadron 14, said she and the other women were shown to the cutting site along with the men. "They've been really good to us," she said of the men on the cutting crews. "We haven't tried to pick a fight and neither have they."

Past Bonfire cutting policies have prohibited women from cutting or carrying out the trees used in building Bonfire. However, the Bonfire work supervisors — redpots — let the women work this weekend as long as they had a cutting card, proof that they had attended a mandatory cutting class.

Redpot Sterling Price said the first cutting weekend went well. "There were no accidents and no problems." The women worked from noon until 4:45 p.m. Saturday and from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m. Sunday. Hughes said they women will continue to work at each of the remaining mandatory cutting weekends.

Ron Hilton, area coordinator for the Corps of Cadets and a committee member, said he requested a meeting which led to the proposal after some women cadets did not receive cutting cards upon completing the cutting class.

Exhumation opposed by Oswald's mother

United Press International

FORT WORTH — The mother of Lee Harvey Oswald — the man accused of killing President John F. Kennedy — has labeled as "asinine" a British author's theory that the body of a Soviet agent lies in Oswald's grave.

Lawyer-author Michael Eddowes, who visited the Oswald grave in Fort Worth Saturday, claims there were two Oswalds — the real man who defected to Russia and a KGB imposter who returned to the United States on June 13, 1962.

"It's an asinine theory," said Marguerite Oswald Saturday in a radio interview with Columbus, Ohio, radio station WCOL from her Fort Worth home.

Fingerprints taken of the man arrested

in Dallas after the assassination matched Oswald's Marine Corps fingerprint records, but Eddowes maintains the Soviets may have infiltrated the FBI's fingerprint file system, or that the FBI may have switched records "in the interests of national security."

The Dallas County medical examiner has proposed that the remains in Oswald's grave be exhumed and re-examined to establish positive identity. However, Tarrant County officials in neighboring Fort Worth have said they will not accede to disinterment without a court order.

A spokesman for the Dallas County district attorney's office has said there were no plans to petition for disinterment.

Mrs. Oswald, 72, said that exhumation of the body would not help to determine who killed President John F. Kennedy.

"You open that grave, and let's just say it's not Lee Harvey Oswald, how . . . are you going to prove who it is?" she asked. "There are some things that don't jibe and I think it is better to answer the questions than to allow the speculation to continue forever," said county medical examiner Dr. Charles Petty.

Mrs. Oswald said she talked with her son in jail on Nov. 23, 1963, the day after Kennedy was shot. She emphasized that the man she talked with was her son.



'Good bull' water fight

As the semester progresses, some Texas A&M University students are finding it harder to concentrate on those sometimes monotonous assignments. Letting off steam becomes an absolute necessity. These Moore

and Davis-Gary hall residents partake in a little 'good bull' session by throwing trashcans of water on each other. It may be cold and wet, but it's more fun than doing physics problems. Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

Eisenhower taped Oval Office talks

United Press International

HOUSTON — Dwight D. Eisenhower installed and for more than five years of his presidency used a secret Oval Office taping system to record the conversations he had with his staff, congressional leaders, reporters and Vice President Richard Nixon, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Sunday editions.

The widow of the Army Signal Corps colonel who supervised the installation said Eisenhower used a taping system

"you wouldn't believe" to record meetings as frequently and commonplace as "every time he blew his nose," the newspaper said in a copyrighted story.

"The existence of Eisenhower's secret Oval Office tapes was doubtless one of his and his administration's best kept secrets," said Francis L. Loewenheim, the Rice University historian who authored the story and who found transcripts of the tapes at the Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kan.

Loewenheim said records showed Eisenhower began recording meetings in his office in October 1953 and continued until at least December 1958.

Among those aware of the installation and operation of the president's recording system, Loewenheim said, was John Foster Dulles, who served as Eisenhower's secretary of state from January 1953 until shortly before his death in 1959.

"Existence of the monitoring operation was almost certainly also known to a

number of other top members of Eisenhower's White House staff, including Murray Snyder, then assistant press secretary, James C. Hagerty, the president's press secretary, later vice president of ABC, and Maj. Gen. Wilton B. Persons, deputy assistant to the president," the newspaper said.

"The transcripts of the tapes were generally, if not invariably, prepared by the president's trusted personal secretary, Ann C. Whitman.

'Tough cookie' dies in Nevada gas chamber

United Press International

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Jesse W. Bishop, a smalltime criminal who bragged about his life of fancy cars, beautiful women and drugs, died in the Nevada State Prison gas chamber early today, fulfilling a wish attorneys tried to deny him.

Bishop, condemned to death for slaying a newlywed in a Las Vegas casino holdup, maintained his bravado to the end.

His last meal of filet mignon evoked a joking comment: "My compliments to the cook."

"He was a tough cookie," Prison Superintendent Rober Lippold told reporters.

The execution came after an endless flurry of legal moves to save him — all spurned by Bishop on the ground they would only prolong the inevitable and

constituted cruel and unusual punishment.

He said he was ready to take his punishment.

Bishop, who spent 20 of his 46 years behind bars, wore a white shirt, prison denim trousers and white socks into the death chamber where he became the second person to be executed in the United States this year. The first was John Spen-

kelink, who was electrocuted in Florida in May.

The last time Nevada used its gas chamber was nearly two decades ago.

In Las Vegas, District Judge James Brennan rejected a last minute appeal by the American Civil Liberties Union Saturday to stay the execution on grounds Nevada's capital punishment law was unconstitutional.

One week until Q-drop deadline

Students have until next Monday to drop classes with no penalty.

A student's record will show a "Q" for classes dropped through that day. Students who drop a course after Monday will receive an "F" unless unusual circumstances exist.