

Screen burns at closed drive-in theater

by NANCY ANDERSEN
Battalion Staff

The old Circle Theater drive-in movie screen burned Tuesday afternoon, keeping firemen busy for about 20 minutes and causing the evacuation of French Quarter apartment residents.

College Station Fire Marshal Harry Davis said he is reasonably sure the fire was set, but added that the department is still looking into what happened.

He said the blaze started at the bottom of the screen and engulfed the structure. Embers flew for about 200 yards, causing small grass fires in the surrounding dry field.

"The grass fires were no problem," Davis said, "but there were some problems with the houses."

Firefighters worked to ensure that embers carried by the wind did not land on the roofs of any of the houses located directly behind the screen.

The fire started at 2:35 p.m. and burned for about 20 minutes, but firemen continued hosing the structure after the fire had been put out in an attempt to knock down debris.

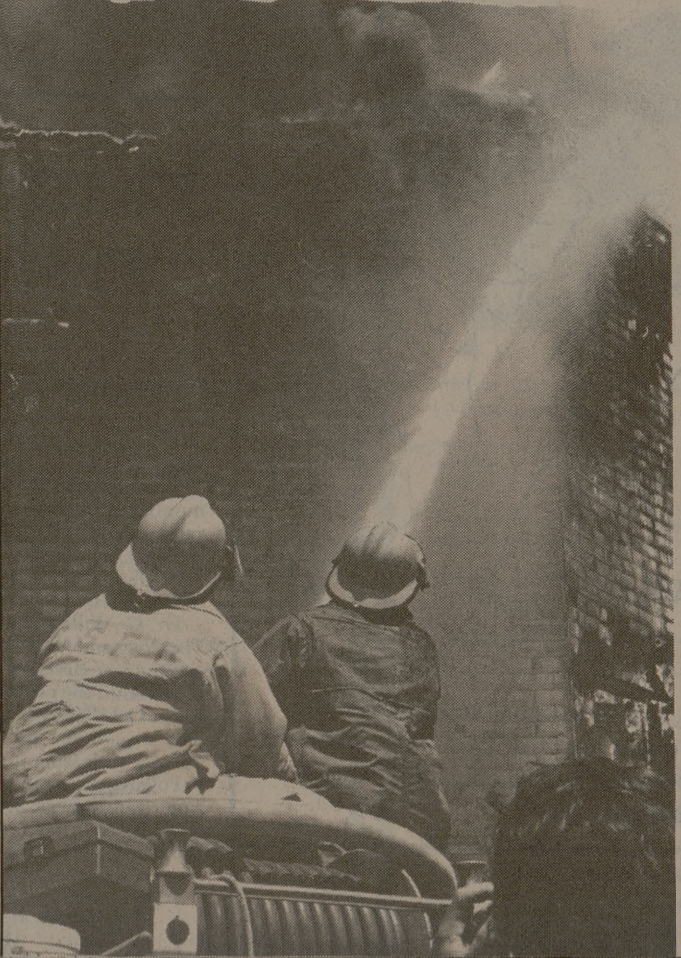
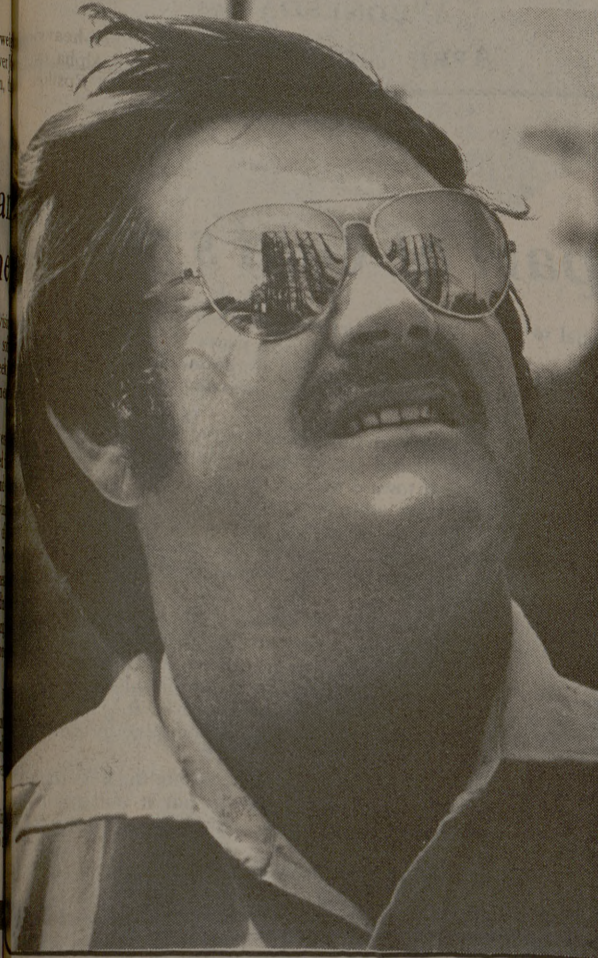
Davis said he had no idea what the cost of the damages would be.

He said the owners of the structure had planned to tear it down eventually.

Ramparts Condominiums, which owns the property, is currently applying to the city for a permit to build apartments on the land.

More than a hundred students, many armed with cameras, stood watching the blaze.

"Well," one bystander said, "something exciting finally happened in College Station."



College Station Fire Marshal Harry Davis, left, looks over the smoldering remains of the old Circle Drive-In movie screen, which was destroyed by fire Tuesday afternoon. The drive-in theater, located on Nagle Street, has been out of operation for several years. Bland Helen, center, shouts directions to fellow College Station firemen as the department brings the blaze under control. Right, firemen aim a high-pressure stream of water at the screen. Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

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Carter defends choosing Muskie for Cabinet post

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter has dismissed suggestions Edmund Muskie lacks the experience needed to be an effective secretary of state and has pledged the four-term Maine senator will not be subjected to interference from the White House staff.

Carter praised Muskie as a man of "strength and vision" in appointing the veteran politician and liberal Democrat to replace the non-political Cyrus Vance Tuesday.

At a nationally broadcast news conference, Carter rejected a question about Muskie's lack of experience and said he was "extremely well qualified to be secretary of state," particularly with his knowledge of U.S. aspirations and budget matters.

He also pledged there would be "no unwarranted interference" from the White House staff, directed by Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Vance formally quit Monday in a policy dispute over the Iran hostage rescue mission.

Muskie, only recently reappointed to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has had no direct experience with foreign policy except as a 22-year veteran of the Senate

and chairman of the Budget Committee.

As secretary of state, he will be the senior member of the Cabinet and will be manager of the Department of State, Agency for International Development and the country's more than 170 foreign missions and embassies. His charges will include most of the 53 hostages held in Iran.

Well-respected in the Senate, even by conservative opponents, Muskie is expected to breeze through the confirmation process without any problems.

He told a White House news conference Tuesday the president "left no doubt in my mind" he would be the president's principal spokesman on foreign policy.

Vance, who sometimes had to dispute national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski for the president's ear on foreign affairs, grasped Muskie's hand and said, "God bless you, Ed."

Muskie was in Nashville Sunday when Carter first contacted him and asked him to become secretary of state. Tuesday, Carter announced that Muskie had been chosen over Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who agreed to remain in his present job.

"I am very glad that the strength and vision of Sen. Ed Muskie will now be a part

of the tasks that face us all," Carter said.

The reaction to Muskie from Capitol Hill was uniformly favorable. A typical comment came from House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, D.-Mass., who described Muskie as "an able public servant capable of doing any job that comes along in the government."

Even Muskie's famous flashes of temper were seen to be an advantage by one fellow member of the Foreign Relations committee, Richard Lugar, D.-Ohio. Lugar said, "I think there is an important time for using anger. Senator Muskie is very good at using that."

At the State Department, where Muskie's appointment came as a total surprise, the first reaction was puzzlement, with officials asking each other if they had had any dealings with him.

One official who had testified frequently before Muskie said he was "the most thoughtful man on the committee, the one who did his homework."

He said Muskie's values were much the same as Vance's and there would be continuity. Muskie's standing with the members of the Senate, the official said, will make it easier for the administration to deal with Congress.

Successor to Monroe sought

by DEBBIE NELSON
Battalion Staff

A committee has begun seeking a successor for Dr. Haskell M. Monroe, dean of faculties and associate vice president for academic affairs.

Monroe, who has been at Texas A&M University for 22 years, is expected to assume a new job as president of the University of Texas-El Paso sometime this summer.

Nominations for his replacement closed April 18. Anyone in the University, including students, could nominate a candidate.

The vice president's office declined to release names of the nominees, saying all candidates except the winner will remain confidential.

Appointed by Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, the candidate search committee is chaired by Dr. Charles E. McCandless, associate vice president for academic affairs, Office of Planning. McCandless said the committee plans to narrow the field to three names by mid-May.

Criteria for acceptance, as defined by Prescott, require the candidate to be a present member of the Texas A&M faculty with: 1) acquaintance with and respect of the faculty, 2) academic-administrative experience, 3) ability to listen, cooperate and make decisions and 4) understanding of academic programs on campus.

The committee has notified all candidates of their nomination, McCandless said. Nominees who wish to remain in the race will submit personal reports on their traits and experience.

The search committee will then review the reports, narrow the field, conduct interviews with several candidates and recommend the final three nominees.

The final appointment will be made by Prescott, pending approval from President Jarvis E. Miller and the Board of Regents.

Other members of the search committee include Robert S. Stone, dean of the College of Medicine; Thomas J. Kozik, professor of mechanical engineering; and another member who has yet to be appointed.

Survival of world disappoints group expecting Armageddon

United Press International

MISSOULA, Mont. — A nuclear holocaust predicted by a religious group hidden in underground shelters failed to happen, causing embarrassment for some and disappointment for others.

"I've lost some friends over this," one young man groused. "They say they think I'm crazy."

He was one of the followers of Leland "Doc" Jensen who had predicted the holocaust for Tuesday and convinced his group to hide in fallout shelters stocked with provisions to wait out the devastating aftermath.

Despite the lack of a disaster, the young man said he was sure it would happen "sometime." He said he would be embarrassed if there isn't a nuclear war by May. Jensen himself said he was disappointed

there was no war. "I am sure my calculations are accurate," he explained.

Jensen, a former chiropractor, has about 150 followers in his group, which is called Baha'is Under the Provisions of the Covenant.

His group is not affiliated with the Baha'i international faith.

Jensen said he based his prediction on the Book of Revelation in the New Testament of the Bible and on measurements of features of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

His group were in and out of their shelters all day. They hammered up boards, stocked shelves, counted provisions and generally kept busy. They didn't keep their children in the shelters because they felt the schools were protection enough from a holocaust.

One reason they didn't spend the whole

day underground was their belief it would take three hours for the deadly radiation from a nuclear explosion to reach Missoula.

One young woman expressed embarrassment over Jensen's prediction. She said the odds were "about two in a million" the holocaust would occur on April 29.

Some of the young men in the group said their faith in Jensen had caused marital strains.

But none of Jensen's followers said the failure of the holocaust to materialize would be cause to quit the group.

Many indicated their spiritual strength had been bolstered by increasing tensions in the Middle East.

Jensen himself pointed to the Persian Gulf incident in which two American jets became involved with an Iranian patrol plane over the Strait of Hormuz.

Fired Baylor editors elected to publications board

by DEBBIE NELSON
Battalion Staff

Jeff Barton and Cyndy Slovak, Baylor Lariat editors who have been fired, relieved of their scholarships and urged by the administration to attend another school, have been elected to Baylor University's Board of Publications.

The Publications Board, which makes policy for the Lariat, is the same governing body which fired Barton, Slovak and another editor earlier this year.

The firings came after a Lariat editorial that said Baylor women should be allowed to choose for themselves whether to pose for an upcoming Playboy magazine feature, "Girls of the Southwest Conference."

Baylor President Abner V. McCall had

threatened to take disciplinary action against any woman who appeared in the magazine representing herself as a Baylor student.

Three thousand of Baylor's 9,500 students voted in last week's elections, giving Barton the most votes of the 11 candidates, with 1,600 votes. Slovak got 1,400.

Barton said he did not campaign for the board position.

"In fact, I went and campaigned for one of the other people," he said. "The day of the election I may have mentioned it to about a dozen people to remember to vote for me, but that was the extent of the campaigning."

"This is indicative of how the student body feels. The administration had said it

had all the support (in the editor firings)." He said the results showed who students really supported.

He said he felt the students were more sympathetic to his position than to him personally.

Slovak said she was surprised at the amount of student and faculty support she received.

"One of my professors in political science congratulated me in front of the class (on being elected to the board) and the students all clapped. But that was 'Soviet Politics,' so the more liberal people were in there."

Six students were elected to the Publications Board. The board also consists of five faculty members, who will not be selected

until next fall for the 1980-81 academic year.

Barton said students on the Board of Publications serve "more an advisory function" than a legislative one.

In order to pass, measures need a majority, or three, of the faculty votes. Even if all six student members vote for a proposal, it will not pass without three accompanying faculty votes.

In addition, Barton said, any action the board recommends must pass McCall's final approval.

Slovak said she thought the committee needed to change its outlook.

"The Board needs students who are willing to stand up and speak against the faculty members," she said. "They need some dis-

sent. I'm not saying I'd disagree with everything, but the Board needs some dissidence."

But the Board of Publications may never get the chance to hear dissidence from Barton and Slovak, both of whom are considering transferring to the University of Texas next fall.

Barton said they, along with a few other journalism majors and staff members who are eyeing the move, visited the UT campus two weeks ago. "Everyone was very cordial, very friendly." Although there was no mention of monetary assistance, Barton said the journalism department gave them the feeling it will help the students from Baylor in any way it can.

"If we stay here, we'd be continuing to

fight," Slovak said. "If we go to UT, we'd be continuing our education."

Barton said it is possible that he, Slovak and Sherri Sellmeyer, the other student who lost her scholarship after the issue, would get some compensation from sympathizers. Sellmeyer was president of Baylor's chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists, which supported the editors after the firings.

"There's been some talk of Dallas businessmen, some people from Chicago and two former professors — that's locally — raising some money," Barton said. "People have been talking very generously and I have great hopes for that. But I'm not gonna count on somebody's charity."