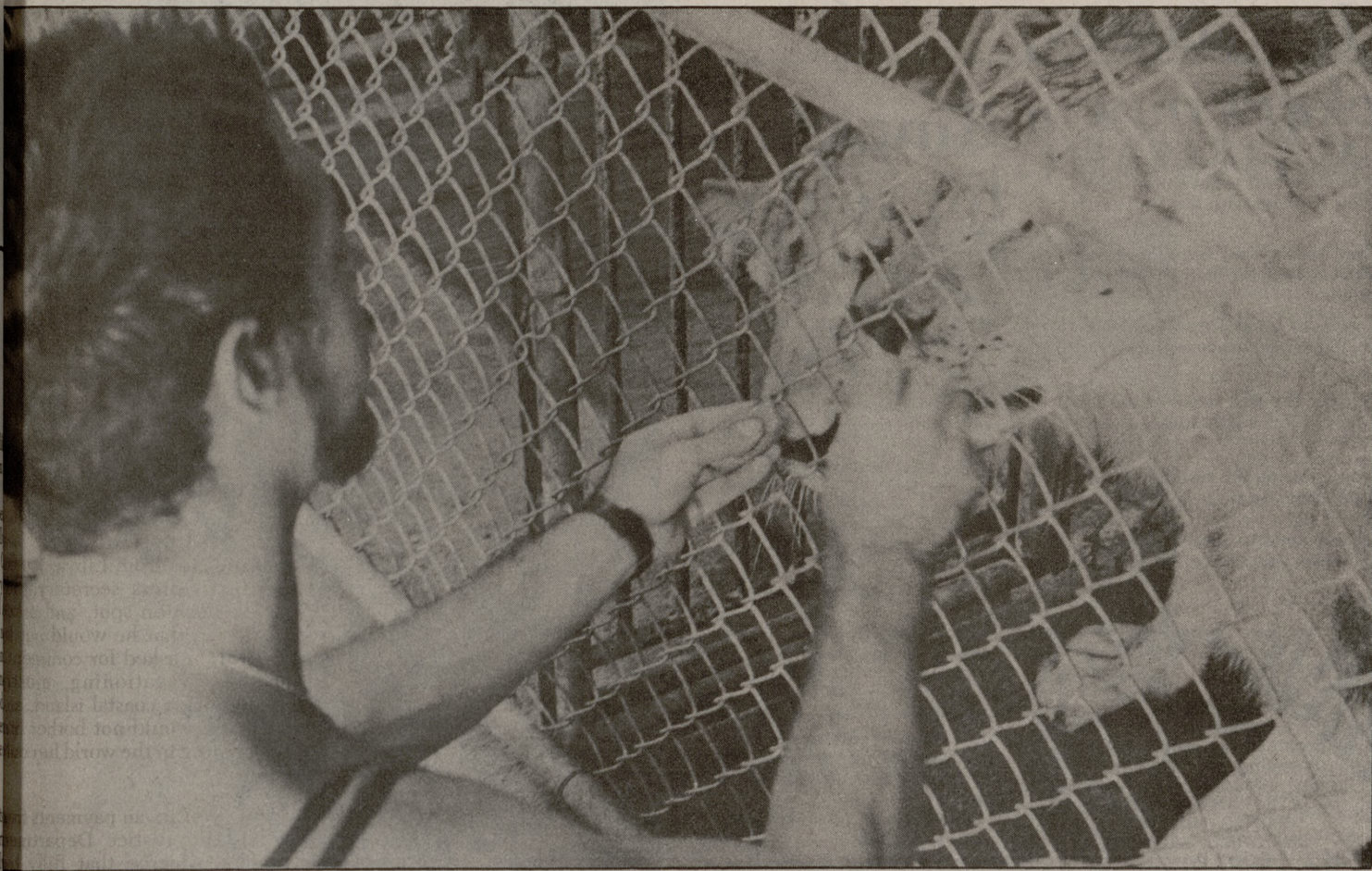


# Student death ruled suicide

A Texas A&M University student was found dead in her apartment Thursday, the apparent victim of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Sharon L. Turner, a management junior from Austin, was found dead in her Bryan apartment with a single gunshot wound to the head. A ruling of suicide was returned in the case. Turner is the 11th student fatality since late April. Silver Taps will be held for Turner and the other 10 deceased students Sept. 9.



Here kitty, kitty

John Campolongo of Galveston offers an afternoon snack to two of his lions. Campolongo owns, trains, and performs with the lions at the Sea-A-Rama in Galveston. When he and his animals were evacuated because of Hurricane Allen, they took

refuge at Texas A&M University where the animals spent their time at the large animal facility of Texas A&M's Vet School.

Photo by Janet Golub

## Helicopter crashes in hurricane

# Student missing, feared dead

by BECKY SWANSON  
Battalion Staff

A Texas A&M University student was among the 13 oil rig workers in a helicopter which crashed into the ocean Wednesday during evacuation of offshore rigs.

Robert W. Ellison, a 26-year-old petroleum engineering senior from College Station, was one of nine listed as missing and presumed dead. Four bodies were recovered Wednesday, but search operations had to be called off when high winds and seas made conditions too dangerous for search crews.

Ellison's wife, Kaye, remained in College Station and is kept posted on the progress of the search several times a day, according to a friend who is staying with Mrs. Ellison.

The search resumed Sunday using a survey boat equipped with side-scan sonar which detects metal objects, Al Spindler, Public Relations manager for Ocean Drilling and Exploration Co., Inc., said Monday.

The search will continue indefinitely, Spindler said, "until we find something."

Ellison and four of the others in the helicopter were employed by ODECO, a New Orleans-based firm. The other eight on the helicopter were employees of various service companies and the pilot, Spindler said.

Ellison was working as an assistant reservoir engineer on the offshore production platform, Spindler said.

The helicopter evacuation was part of the company's emergency plan "to evacuate all non-essential personnel from the rigs," which began last Monday.

The helicopter took off from the platform at 5:35 p.m. Wednesday, Spindler said, and no emergency calls were received from the pilot. The platform was 90 miles southwest of Houma, La., 50 miles off shore. The helicopter went down about 15 miles northwest of the platform.

"No one really knows what happened," Spindler said. "The seas had picked up, and we had reports that there were thunderstorms and heavy rains in the area."

Spindler said they theorized that the pilot was trying to skirt the thunderstorm, which accounted for it being off course.

Ellison is the tenth student fatality since late April. Silver Taps will be held Sept. 9 for Ellison and the other students who have died since Aggie Muster on April 21.

## Renovations, budgets passed for MSC

by DEBBIE NELSON  
Battalion Staff

MSC Basement Coffeehouse renovations estimated at \$40,000 have been approved by the MSC Council.

The policy-recommending body for the Memorial Student Center also approved changes in budgeting for several student organizations Saturday in a special summer meeting.

First proposed last spring, the coffeehouse renovation goals include the availability of food services, improvement of lighting and sound systems and a general renovation of the coffeehouse appearance.

A design proposed by a Texas A&M University graduate architecture student, which includes a metal, rubber-studded mezzanine on three sides of the room, will put the coffeehouse in compliance with fire and building codes.

The council approved the basic renovation proposal pending acquisition of adequate funds. Money could possibly come from the Bookstore Profits Fund, the overall University budget or the MSC Enrichment Fund.

Plans for expanded use of the coffeehouse, which will seat 185-200 people, include areas for studying, eating, or watching television during the day, as well as better facilities for concerts or events such as Monday Night Football specials.

In other action, the council approved budget revisions for the

MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee, MSC Cepheid Variable and MSC Video, which all made more money in the last year than was expected. Any money that goes in or out of a student organization's budget must be approved by the council.

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