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# RA prisoner dies; replacement added to list

United Press International entirely BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Catholic the Europe at might have saved the life of hunger-striker of the ground in the IRA chose his rea famous alacement in the macabre chain of death fasts. sbanded to orthern Ireland office vowed Wednesday it creams be ould not negotiate with a "pistol to its head" eturn once ad would never abdicate control of Maze Prison nd reality "terrorists" despite seven IRA prisoners still hunger strikes and the prospects of an eighth. McDonnell, 30, who died early Wednesday, hinking abours after the Dublin-based Justice and Peace

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mission reportedly presented a peace formula to Britain, was the fifth hunger striker to die this year in a quest by IRA detainees to gain political prisoner status.

"By the clawing back on the part of the government, a fine opportunity to get a resolution was lost," commission chairman Brian Gallagher said Wednesday. "We were let down by the

British government." In Dublin, new Irish Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald said he had been in touch with the British government to "impress on them the need for an urgent solution.

The five-man commission met the Maze pris-

oners four times in six days to draw up its peace formula to satisfy the inmates' demands - unrestricted movement inside the jail, permission to wear their own clothes, refuse prison work, get more mail and a 50 percent reduction in their sentences for good behavior.

The IRA prisoners, led by Bobby Sands, the first striker to die, began their fasts in March, charging Britain reneged on a deal granting those privileges enjoyed by inmates until the mid-1970s when they were revoked after reports the inmates were using the freedom of movement to conduct classes on how to make bombs

tain's Northern Ireland office reiterated that granting the privileges would amount to letting the prisoners run the jail.

The government cannot have a pistol to its head," said Minister of State Michael Alison, explaining the Maze "was not meant to be a training camp for terrorists.

Northern Ireland Secretary Humphrey Atkins offered concessions on two points in the formula but reaffirmed the government would not discuss reform until the hunger strike

The peace formula has not been publicized, and Gallagher, the chairman of the Dublin com-

ment by the Northern Ireland office.

The concessions were read to the seven prisoners still on hunger strike, as the IRA announced Pat McGeown, 25, who is married and has a 6-year-old son, will replace McDonnell on the hunger strike within 48 hours. McGeown is serving a 15-year term for possession of explosives and the bombing of Belfast's Europa Hotel

Of the seven surviving fasters, the weakest was Kiernan Docherty, now in the 52nd day of not eating. Sunday, IRA sources said he could



Setting the trap

Although this spider hasn't had any courses in civil engineering, the intricacy of its web rivals any man-made construction. The unusual photographic effect is achieved by holding a light strobe behind the web while shooting the picture.

## Researchers study methanol's use as fuel

By BERNIE FETTE

Battalion Staff
with M Americans may be running their automobiles on fuel that is cheap-

7BA version, cleaner and more efficient in three to five years if the work of four leby knowlexas A&M researchers continues as planned.

In two rous Joe Popp and Al Hulsey of the engineering technology department and Dr. Bill Harris and Dr. Dick Davidson of the chemical ngineering department are developing a process in which metha-ol, a kind of alcohol, will be used as a fuel in automobile engines. 'We think methanol is the fuel of the future," Hulsey said. "And "We think methanior is the fact of the second than people think.

The methanol used in the engines can be produced from coal at a ost of 40 to 50 cents per gallon, and expected mileage is approximately 75 percent of that gained from gasoline.

The researchers are presently working with two cars which were purchased for the experiments by Conoco, who will test the prototypes when they are finished. Conversions on one of the cars have been completed and the other will be finished in two to three weeks. Hulsey said the rising price of gasoline has prompted many individuals to produce their own alchohol and use it as fuel in their

cars. But the methanol has a distinct advantage over alcohol. When alcohol is burned in a car's engine it also burns away the oil

which lubricates the cylinders, causing excessive wear on the engine. But Popp and Hulsey say that by vaporizing the methanol through a heat-transfer process, that problem can be eliminated.

The methanol also has an environmental advantage over gasoline

because it burns much cleaner. Popp said.

Since burning the methanol in a car engine requires a different air-to-fuel ratio, there is the need for a minor adjustment on the car's

Popp said that at this stage of the research, the cost of converting an automobile to methanol as a primary source of fuel costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000 because all the parts must be custom-made.

The researchers say they hope to make the conversion kits available to consumers for \$500 in three to five years. Hulsey said that at that time, methanol would probably be available at most filling

"I don't care what it is," Popp said. "If there's a cheaper fuel for cars, then people are going to buy it."

### Mother Nature smiled on Texas growers

### This summer's fruit crop especially peachy

By KATHY O'CONNELL

Battalion Staff
If you enjoy a mouth-watering peach, ow is the time to get them, because exas peach growers have experienced numper crop this summer.

B.G. Hancock, a horticulturalist with Texas A&M Agricultural Extension rvice, said this year, "Ol' Mother Naure smiled on Texas growers.'

Last year, he said, growers were plaed with late frost, drought and severe hail storms. All these elements can ther make or break a good crop.

Hancock said the most damage to peach crops in Texas comes from hail itorms. If the storm hits the early developing fruit and knocks them off the rees, then the crop is ruined. But, if the gs & weeks rop is "hail kissed", that is, the fruit is nicked, then they can still be sold to the

onsumer.
These "hail kissed" peaches are sold CLASS at a discount and are good for canning,

reserving and freezing, he said. "Texans are proud of their peaches," he said. "To the Texan, the tree-ripened peach is the best." Even though Califoria is number one in peach productivty, most Texans prefer a more ripe,

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nature peach. He said California growers use an enrly different variety of peaches, which



Staff photo by Greg Gamm

are bred mainly for their color. "They (Californians) have developed peaches that will look mature before they are,'

Ripe peaches is where we can beat the livin' daylights out of them (California)," he said.

Texas is also unique in that ripe

peaches are ready at the beginning of May. Other crops grown in Midwest-ern, Eastern and Southeastern United States aren't ready until July.

Texas has an advantage to growing peaches because, "We have lots and lots of sunshine and most of the soil is high in potassium. Potassium gives peaches

good color and taste," he said. Hancock said the Texas A&M Agricultural Extension Service has test orchards and provides peach growers with information on how to prune, spray and irrigate peach orchards

As a matter fact, Texas A&M researchers have developed four varieties of peaches: Milam, Denman, Sam Hous-ton and Early Grande. All of these varieties, except Early Grande, are free

Hancock said free stone peaches are easily separated from the seed. "Housewives prefer free stones, because they

slice better than cling peaches.
"Cling peaches don't break away from the seed. You have to cut them away with a paring knife," he said.

For the consumer who is looking for Texas tree-ripened peaches, Hancock said the Red Globe and Loring varieties are ready right now. Depending on the variety and the season, a half bushel (25 pounds) of peaches averages about \$8.

This price is good, he said, considering they sold for about \$10 to \$13 last

### Galveston camp starts Sunday

Summer camp is probably the last place most kids want to think about earning. Winning a race at the pool, hitting a home run and hiding a frog in the counselor's bunk are the top priority activities for most campers.

But the summer camp for gifted children at Texas A&M University at Galveston will be different.

Galveston Island Adventure, co-sponsored by the Gifted Students Institute for Research and Development in Arlington and the Texas A&M Gifted and Talented Institute, is expected to attract about 75 children described by program director Dr. William Nash as very bright to genius.

There will be "the normal things you would find at camp," Nash said, "but more important will be the workshops and coastal lore and creative writing, architecture, space science and marine

"We try to give them a broad look at the field of study," said Nash, associate professor of educational psychology and director of the Gifted and Talented In-

Second, we provide them with some training in the basic technology of that field. Finally, we try to encourage each student to become involved in a project and produce some tangible product. It might be a story or a model of an oyster

The program, scheduled to run for two weeks beginning Sunday, is the second sponsored by the institute. It is geared toward exposing the children to material they will not encounter later in school, said Nancy Roberts, a doctoral student and graduate assistant working

Instructors try to take children out of the classroom and into the "field" set-tings as much as possible, Nash said. We try not to limit the experience just to classroom instruction.

Children in the coastal lore and creative writing section go out to the beach and find an object to weave a story

around. Marine biology workshop participants spend time on boats to gather and study specimens of marine life and children in the architecture section tour Galveston and Houston to compare early and modern architecture styles.

A tour of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Johnson Spacecraft Center and several planetariums is on the agenda for kids in the space science workshop along with a

visit to Galveston by some astronauts. Roberts said the opportunity students have to interact with other children who also have above-average intelligence is just as important as the learn-

The children who participated in the camp last year found it "rewarding to be with people they could finally relate with," Roberts said.

#### MSC Council will discuss lounge abuse

The MSC Council will meet Saturday to hear reports from three council officers and approve speakers for MSC SCONA and MSC Great Issues.

MSC Council president Doug Dedeker said the meeting will focus on a report from the vice president of operations concerning abuse of the Serpentine and Schiwetz lounges.

Dedeker said there are several groups of people who play "war games" in the Serpentine lounge, which is located on the 2nd floor above the MSC Main Desk.

Dedker said the MSC Hotel staff has been continually disturbed by horse-play and loud laughing. He said the council will discuss how to solve the

abuse of these lounges. The council will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Council Conference Room (216T MSC).