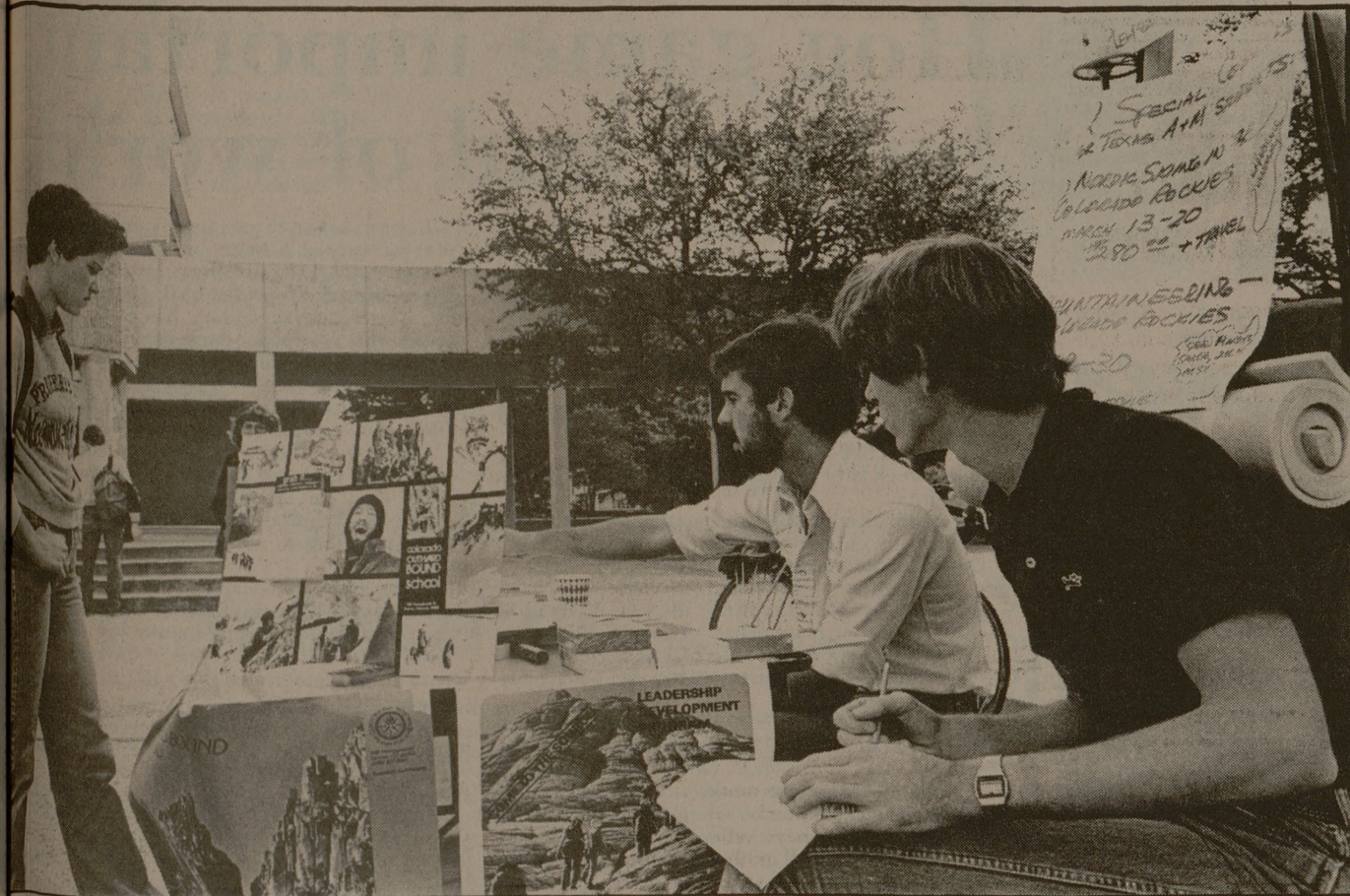


National



Staff photo by Bob Sebrer

Is outdoor recreation for you?

James Collins, sophomore pre-med major, stops to talk with Morris Salvage (left) and Jess Person, members of the MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee. They were in front of Rudder Thursday to promote their club's activities.

Big jackpot for Laredo mom, sons

United Press International LAS VEGAS — The lights started flashing and fellow gamblers started gathering around, but it took some time for her sons to realize one of her sons could now go to law school and another could buy a house.

The Laredo native, having fed \$100 worth of dollar tokens into a slot machine, had won \$385,000.

"At first we were just stunned, but now I'm beginning to relax," she said Wednesday, accepting a check from the Flamingo Hilton hotel for her winnings. "I think it was just luck, plain luck. I don't know anything about gambling."

Mrs. Pena, vacationing with her lawyer husband, Oscar Pena, said she did not understand what was happening in the casino Tuesday night when the five 7s lined up and bells started ringing.

"I didn't know I won until a man next to me told me," she said, "and then I thought I won \$5,000."

She said when she finally phoned her husband upstairs, he thought she had won only \$385. When he realized his mistake, he hurried downstairs.

Mrs. Pena said she planned to use the money to put her son, David, through law school. She also said part of the money would go to another son, Oscar Jr., to help him buy a house.

Unventilated heater blamed

Family of seven suffocates

United Press International BATON ROUGE, La. — Rescuers barged into the stifling heat of an unventilated house to find a young couple suffocated along with five of their children. A gas heater had burned up all the oxygen.

Neighbors in the predominantly black neighborhood wept as workers carried out the bodies of Melvin Bland, 29, his wife Linda, 28, and five of their children — ranging in age from one to 10 years.

The bodies of the parents were found in the living room, one child was in a hallway and the other five were in the front bedroom, officials said.

"The little girl was under a chair on the floor," Page said. "It looked like one of the little boys was trying to come out of the bedroom."

Officials identified the children as Regina, 10; Melvin Jr., 8; Carry, 4; Calvin, 3; and Lekeitha, 1. Latoya was found alive.

Fire investigators discounted initial reports that leaking gas killed the family.

"The fire captain said they detected no gas in the house," Page said. "He seemed to think it was case of asphyxiation and they had probably been in there since sometime this morning."

Love said the neighbor who found the family "just knew something wasn't right because he couldn't rouse them and he knew they were in there. So he pushed through a window air conditioner and went into the house and found several bodies."

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