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Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 75 No. 124 USPS 045360 24 Pages in 2 Sec.

College Station, Texas

Thursday, April 1, 1982

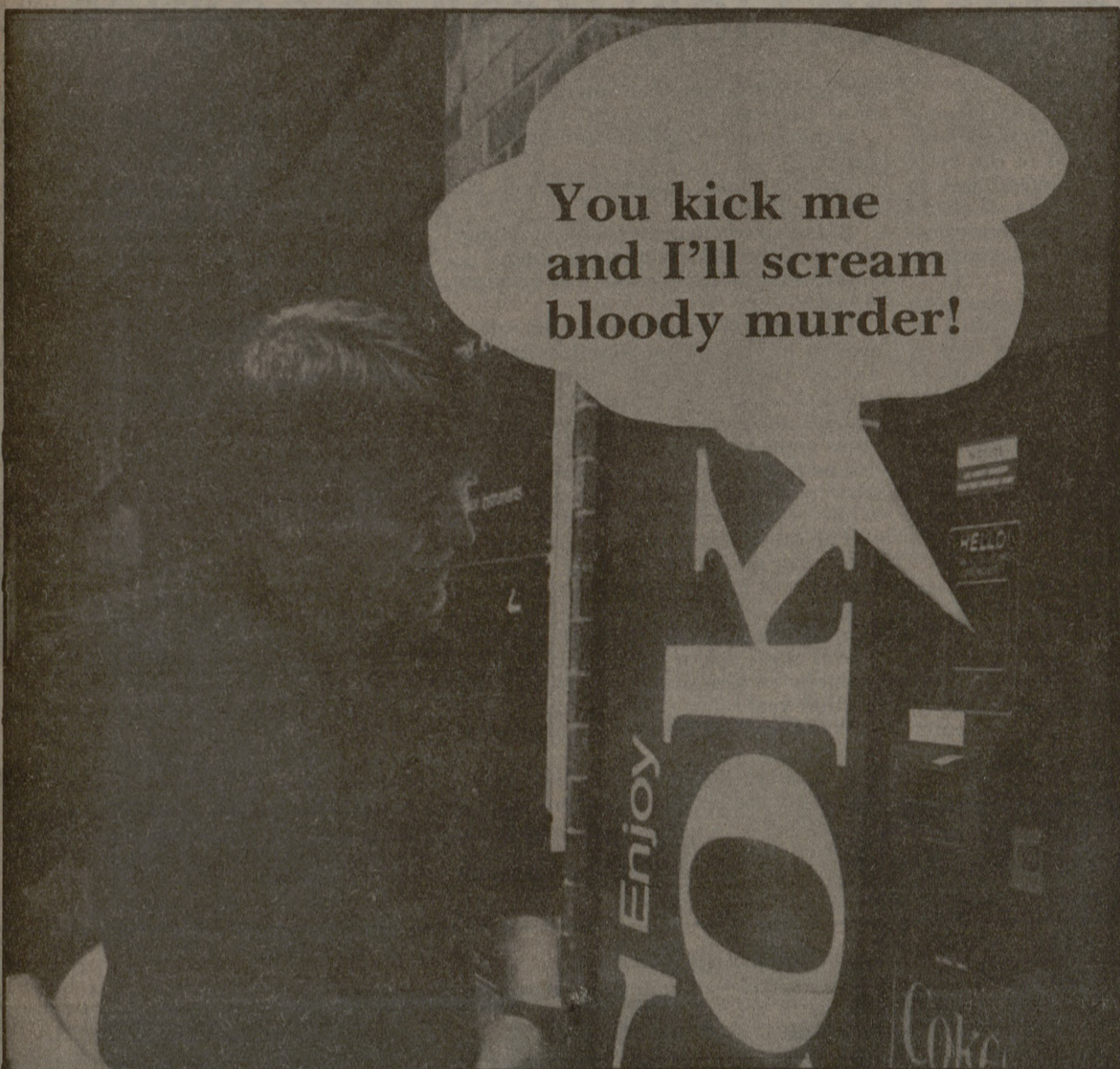


photo by Rose Delano

Todd Brooks, a junior chemical engineering major from San Rafael, Calif., enjoys a "conversation" and the tune

"Home on the Range" with a Coke vending machine in the basement of the Memorial Student Center.

Vending machines give drinks 'and a smile'

by Kelli Proctor
Battalion Reporter

Backtalk, money conversation and even a thank-you from Coca-Cola. But from a Coke machine?

Yes, the talking vender for Coca-Cola has a voice and musical background that brings smiles to consumers and attention and business to Coca-Cola, Russell Hanna, manager of vending operations for Bryan Coca-Cola Bottling Company, said.

The vender was installed in the basement of the Memorial Student Center the week before spring break.

The talking vender begins by saying, "Hello, I'm a talking Coca-Cola vending machine." If the money deposited was an insufficient amount, the voice tells the customer, "you need to put in more money," and after the proper amount is inserted, "make your selection please," the machine says. After receiving the beverage, comes, "thanks for using the

talking vender. Please come again." If change is returned, a reminder says "don't forget your change," ending the conversation.

The machine is the first of its kind in the soft drink industry, and available only to bottlers of Coca-Cola. The talking machine was developed by Coca-Cola U.S.A. and Sanyo Vending Machine Company, Ltd., of Japan, Hanna said.

The vending machine is like any other Coke machine, except the addition of a \$200 computerized module. The voice is not a recording, and no tapes or recorders produce the speech, Hanna said.

A programmed circuit store the voice pattern, and when coins are deposited, the changer sends a signal that activates the micro-processor's memory. The programmed sentences then travel in electronic form to the speaker system. Results are heard as words, Hanna said.

When the machines were first available, the Bryan Coca-Cola Co. bought four others, which also are installed in the Bryan-College Station area. Fifteen others are ordered, and Hanna said additional machines will be installed on campus in the near future.

Many students aren't aware that such a machine exists, but the ones that do, find it amusing and interesting.

"It's amusing, nice and doesn't cost anymore for a Coke, so I go to hear the voice," John Howell, freshman chemical engineering student, said.

"It's kind of out of the ordinary and clever," Rob Dillinger, a graduate student in the biology department said, after using the machine for the first time.

Dillinger said he probably would have forgotten his change at one of the other machines.

Brezhnev in clinic, nearby streets closed

United Press International
MOSCOW — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev was reported hospitalized and militiamen sealed off the street in front of the exclusive clinic reserved for ailing Kremlin officials.

In unusual Soviet fashion, there was no official confirmation or comment on his condition, and Soviet sources did not know if Brezhnev, 75, was just resting from a rigorous schedule of speeches and travel in recent weeks.

But the Soviet leader looked tired in his last public appearance March 25, when he was shown on Soviet television meeting local leaders in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

Concern about his health grew with the unusual lack of television coverage when he returned to Moscow the same day. There also were no pictures of his arrival in the Communist Party daily Pravda, which normally covers his movements religiously.

The cancellations of a visit by South Yemeni leader Ali Nasser Muhammad to Moscow and a trip to Britain by Brezhnev's doctor, Evgeny Chazov, heightened rumors.

Although Brezhnev has been out of sight for longer periods during his 18-year rule and always come back in control, watching his health has become a major occupation of diplomats and journalists in Moscow.

Despite the official silence, Soviet sources confirmed Wednesday Brezhnev was admitted to a hospital.

Rebels attack embassy in Guatemala City

United Press International
GUATEMALA CITY — Leftists in two speeding automobiles fired sub-machine guns and Chinese-made rockets at the heavily fortified U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City, police said.

Guards at the embassy — where security measures have been increased in the last year because of spiraling political violence — did not

have time to fire back at the attackers in the center of the capital Wednesday, police said.

The attack caused no deaths or injuries but damaged the walls of the American mission and part of a state-owned bank adjacent to it, witnesses said.

The leftist Guerrilla Army of the Poor, one of four rebel groups fighting under a unified military com-

mand to oust Guatemala's military rulers, claimed responsibility for the attack in a phone call to a local television station.

The rebels, who blame U.S. "imperialism" for political strife in the Central American nation of 7.2 million, fired two Chinese-made RPG rockets and several bursts of automatic weapons' fire at the embassy before fleeing, police said.

Housing increase

Pay raise cause for new rates

by Rebeca Zimmermann
Battalion Staff

Sally has lived in Keathley Hall for three years, but she thinks next year she'll finally move off campus; increasing dorm rates have made it easier for her to justify living off campus to her parents.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents has approved an 8 percent increase in residence hall costs.

Semester costs to live in the non-air-conditioned residence halls, Hart, Law, Puryear and Walton Halls, increased from \$263 to \$284 per semester. Crocker, Davis-Gary, Hotard, Moore, Moses and Dorms 1 through 12 increased from \$424 to \$458.

Rates for air-conditioned, suite-type dormitories — Fowler, Hughes, Keathley, McInnis and Schumacher Halls — were raised from \$467 to \$504. Leggett Hall went from \$490 to \$529.

The new modular dorms — Clements, Haas, Hobby, McFadden, Neeley and Underwood — will cost \$678 per semester, instead of \$628. Commons area dorms — Aston, Dunn, Krueger and Mosher — rose

from \$655 to \$707 per semester.

The state-mandated salary increase of 8.7 percent for state employees is the primary reason for the increase, Jimmy D. Ferguson, administrative services manager, said.

The Texas Legislature the past two years has ordered an 8.7 percent salary increase for state employees. Texas A&M University must give this increase to Physical Plant workers and maintenance and custodial people.

"Eight percent (for dorm rate increases) is a moderate increase based on solid, sound information," Ferguson said.

Estimated costs are determined from past dormitory expenses and projected increases in the cost of utilities and labor, Ferguson said.

Ron Blatchley, director of student affairs, said his office requested a 4.9 percent increase in dorm rates for 1982-83. However, his budget request only includes the operational part of residence halls — salaries for resident advisers, head residents and employees of the various area offices. His budget does not include utilities and maintenance and custodial workers' salaries.

Blatchley's budget request is sent to Dr. Koldus, vice president for student services. The request then goes to the business services department. The business services department uses projected utility costs and other dorm expenses with Blatchley's request to figure an annual budget. This budget request is submitted to the Board of Regents.

Blatchley said increases in utility costs can be a factor in the rate increase, but the crucial factor is the pay raise for state employees, he said.

Ferguson agreed that rising utility costs effect the estimated budget. He said 40 percent of the annual residence hall budget goes to pay utility bills, which include electrical power, heat, water, chilled water for air conditioning, hot water and sewer facilities.

Projected utility costs for 1982-83 in the north dormitory area are \$807,246. Estimated costs for the non-air conditioned dorms and Leggett are \$278,575. The Corps area

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Drill team competing Saturday on campus to get championship

by Debbie Schard
Battalion Reporter

The forty-member Fish Drill Team will participate in a state meet at 7 a.m. Saturday in Zachry parking lot.

The team must win this meet by six points to earn the Texas State Championship.

The team won a drill meet at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. last Saturday.

The team came in first in exhibition drill and inspection, while placing second in basic drill. Freshmen team members Sean Keighery and Jesus Mariel both won individual honors at Washington University. Keighery placed fourth in the individual exhibition and Mariel placed fourth in the individual basic drill-off.

"The team has had some tough breaks, and whether they win the state championship or not, they'll be

winner in our eyes," junior adviser Don Brackett said. "They've done real well."

The FDT has won four state championships in the past six years.

This semester, the team also has competed at Mardi Gras and at the University of Texas, where they placed second in both competitions.

The team usually competes in four or five meets a semester.

Freshmen Corps members are given the opportunity to join the Fish Drill Team during the fall semester, and any freshmen is eligible to be a member. However, in the spring semester, only freshmen with a grade point ratio of a 2.0 or above are allowed on the team. The drill team is led by junior advisers Don Brackett and Jay Fisher, and six sophomore advisers.

Think tank predicts mechanized jobs, world of the late 1980s

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — If you're a bank teller, stenographer or a sales clerk, better figure on being in another job in 10 years — like bioengineering, communications or show business.

A recent report by SRI International, a think-tank formerly known as the Stanford Research Institute, concluded:

—People won't be going to the bank much by 1990, and when they do, the teller will be a machine.

—Stenographers will be replaced by voice operated typewriters.

—Retail sales clerks will be replaced by an "electronic super store," with price comparison, merchandise display, ordering and payment all handled electronically.

The SRI study, prepared for the

state government, said California is on the cutting edge of the technological revolution and will feel the impact ahead of the rest of the country.

In the next 10 years, the emerging biotechnology industry could rival the electronics development of the past 10 years, the study says. Bioengineering has many implications for medicine, agriculture, and industrial materials and "could easily create hundreds of occupations that do not yet exist and could employ tens of thousands."

Electronics and semiconductor manufacturing employment will peak in the early 1980s, then level off, the SRI researchers said. Application of the products from these industries, however, will be the single biggest source of new jobs.

Industries such as communica-

tions, computer business services and information services, which use technology, will need 40,000 to 100,000 new workers in California alone before 1990.

Another area with a promising future is the movie business and other entertainment schemes using new technology. The study cited the "enormous requirement for entertainment to fill the new video channels."

New entertainment products may include a device which enables each viewer to direct the plot of a televised story. It called this the ultimate dream machine. Small, independent operations, will dominate the entertainment developments. "In fact, this is the key growth sector for small business," the study said.

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forecast

Today's Forecast: Early morning fog becoming partly cloudy and warm with a high in the mid-80s and a low near 70. Friday's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies and a 30 percent chance of rain.