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Blazes to ashes

staff photo by John Ryan

Rodney Beamsley, left, of Pharr, grills hot dogs over the embers of bonfire on Sunday as Felix Mata, from El Paso, watches. Both are seniors studying mechanized agriculture. The

horizon seems bent and the image is circular because the photo was shot through an extreme wide-angle lens called a "fish-eye."

Holiday auto deaths total at least 390

United Press International
Freezing rain and snow turned highway travel into a nightmare in the northern half of the nation as people returned home from the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend, pushing the nation's traffic death toll to nearly 400.

By early today, 390 people had been killed in traffic accidents, a UPI count showed. The holiday began at 6 p.m. Wednesday and ended at midnight Sunday.

California led the nation with 45 deaths. Florida reported 28 and New York 22. Michigan had 20 traffic deaths, Tennessee 17, and Texas 16. Ohio, Alabama and North Carolina reported 15 deaths each; Louisi-

ana and Massachusetts 14 apiece; Illinois, Georgia and Pennsylvania 12, and Indiana and Kansas 11.

The National Safety Council estimated between 420 and 520 people would die in traffic accidents during the four-day weekend. It estimated another 18,000 to 23,000 people would suffer disabling injuries.

The highway toll Thanksgiving weekend one year ago was 442 people killed and 19,200 seriously injured.

Icy road conditions were blamed for at least nine of the deaths. Six-year-old Heather Woods and her 9-year-old sister Erin were delivering Girl Scout Christmas candles and calendars in Pembroke, Mass., Sunday when a car driven by a 17-

year-old youth, allegedly drunk at the time, veered off the road and struck both girls.

Heather died in the crash and Erin remained in critical but stable condition Sunday night at Jordan Hospital in Plymouth. The driver was charged with operating a car under the influence of alcohol.

Otis Jackson, 10, died at New Orleans' Charity Hospital a short time after his bike was struck by a city truck, officials said. Another young bicyclist also hit by the truck was not hurt.

In Des Allemands, La., a collision involving two cars and a truck left one man dead and 10 people injured, two critically.

Harrelson to take stand again today after recess

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Government prosecutors had a four-day holiday to prepare their next attack on alleged hit man Charles Harrelson, and Harrelson had the same four days to calm himself from last week's fiery exchange.

The lanky 44-year-old gambler blew his cool as soon as Assistant U.S. Attorney Ray Jahn began cross-examination last Wednesday.

In a voice as patient as that of a kindergarten teacher, Jahn insisted

repeatedly that Harrelson had contracted with gambler Jimmy Chagra to kill federal Judge John H. Wood in 1979. Harrelson insisted he had not.

"You know standing right there I did not kill this judge," Harrelson said through clenched teeth.

Harrelson praised his own accomplishments as a card shark and said: "I don't have to kill anyone to make a living. I can do damn well with what I have on here — 10 fingers."

At one point, Harrelson responded to one of Jahn's accusations with a cold silence and then the question:

"Did your mother dress you funny as a child?"

Jahn ignored the remark.

Harrelson had spent three full days trying to explain to the jury — weary from seven weeks of testimony — that his involvement with Jimmy Chagra did not include the shooting death of Wood.

Chagra faced a drug smuggling trial in Wood's court and had said openly he hoped to see Wood dead, witnesses have said.

Ambassador, ex-secretaries of state invited

SCONA to feature U.S. ambassador

by David Tharp

Battalion Reporter

The U.S. ambassador to Argentina is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the 28th annual Student Conference on National Affairs in February.

Ambassador Harry Slaughterman will be joined by Viron P. Vaky, associate dean of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington.

The topic of the conference will be "Latin America: Challenges and Alternatives." The conference, sponsored by the MSC SCONA Committee, begins Feb. 16 and ends Feb. 19.

More than 200 delegates representing colleges, universities and high schools in the United States and other countries are expected to attend the conference. Delegates are selected by the presidents of their universities for leadership abilities and interest in world affairs.

SCONA spokesman Bob Carlson said the group is primarily a conference for U.S. colleges and universities. But students also come from American service academies — such as West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy — as well as from foreign countries, such as Canada, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Mexico and Guatemala.

The main purpose of SCONA is to create an intelligent interest in the problems and policies of the United States, Carlson said. The conference will offer possible solutions and not ready-made answers to the students, he said.

"Another purpose is to help develop responsible leaders by promoting free expression and exchange of ideas among students," Carlson said.

Discussions led by visiting professors offer an excellent opportunity for exchanging ideas, he said. In round-table discussions, delegates are encouraged to debate U.S. policies and opinions voiced by conference speakers.

SCONA is funded by Texas A&M former students, businessmen, industrial leaders and corporations. The money is used to provide transportation, meals and housing for conference speakers and guests.

Former SCONA speakers include President Lyndon B. Johnson and Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman. The topic of last year's conference was "Perspectives on Soviet Foreign Policy"; former National Security Adviser Richard Allen was a featured speaker.



staff photo by David Fisher

Wayne Keating, left, an electrical engineering major from DeSoto, greets Greg Lengyel, an engineering technology major from San Antonio, at the Student Conference on National

Affairs table in the Memorial Student Center. Both are sophomore members of the MSC SCONA Committee.

Group asks 4 diplomats to talk here

A Memorial Student Center committee may bring four former U.S. secretaries of state together on stage for the first time — if former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger agrees to participate.

The first program of the MSC Endowed Lecture Series Committee hopes to bring former secretaries of state Alexander Haig, Dean Rusk and Edmund Muskie, in addition to Kissinger.

Haig, Rusk and Muskie verbally have agreed to participate in the April 6 forum, on the condition that Kissinger agrees to participate. If Kissinger does not join the forum, it will be cancelled.

The MSC fund-raising board is responsible for raising \$80,000 for the program, which has been titled "Perspectives in U.S. Foreign Policy." No fund-raising efforts will begin until the MSC Endowed Lecture Series Committee receives formal commitments from all four former secretaries and ABC newsmen Ted Koppel, who has agreed to moderate the forum.

If the forum does take place, it may be broadcast live as ABC's "Nightline" program. Koppel is negotiating with ABC regarding the broadcast.

7 to invite '84 Demo convention

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Houston, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Miami Beach, New Orleans and San Francisco are expected to make formal bids next month for the 1984 Democratic National Convention.

The party sent a long list of requirements last week to those cities, which have shown the most interest in attracting the convention. The deadline for bids is Dec. 15.

No city was seen as having an edge now. Party spokesmen said the city that has the best facilities and makes the highest bid will get the convention.

High-school exposure credited for rise in computer literacy

by Jaime Bramer

Battalion Reporter

Because many elementary and secondary schools, including those in Bryan and College Station, now use computers in their curriculum, the computer literacy of the average college student is increasing.

Dr. John Dinkel, head of the Texas A&M Department of Business Analysis and Research, says that during the past three years, he has seen increasing familiarity with computers among incoming freshmen. And he attributes the consistent increase in computer literacy to early exposure in high school.

"During the next five years, I feel it will be difficult to find a college student without some previous computer experience," he said.

Both the Bryan and College Station school districts begin exposing students to basic computer skills in elementary school. In high school, pupils are offered courses in computer programming and data processing.

Advances in computer technology have made computers relatively inexpensive, with some home models selling for as little as \$100. Bryan and College Station schools use microcomputers manufac-

tured by the Apple Computer Corporation. One terminal costs approximately \$1,700.

Suanne Lambert, who heads the computer program for Bryan schools, said teachers are enthusiastic about using computers in classrooms.

"After 3 years, we have 105 microcomputers," she said. "Our goal at this point is to have every student computer-literate by the seventh grade."

More than 100 teachers in Bryan have been shown how to integrate the microcomputers into their lessons by using the available disks or

developing their own.

Computer exposure begins in the fourth grade in Bryan schools. At Bonham, Bowie, Crockett and Johnson elementary schools, the computer program is offered to gifted children.

"We're finding the younger the students, the higher the aptitude for picking up computer skills," Lambert said. "The keyboard is the biggest problem to the younger students."

Once a week, students from the four schools attend a special

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forecast

Today's Forecast: Clear skies today. High in the lower 60s, with tonight's low in the upper 30s.