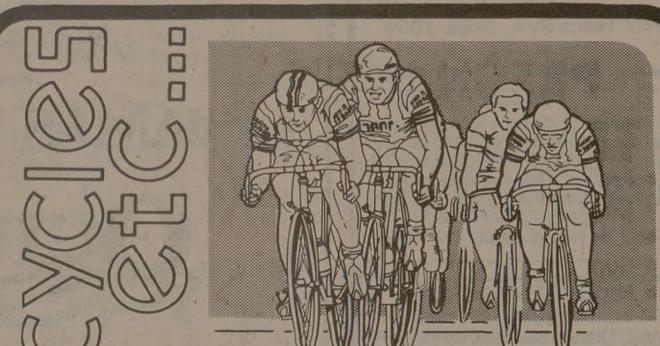


Supporting Aggie Bonfire

Susan Tulinski, a sophomore from Conroe, and Jana Hellier, a junior from Arlington, help Tony George, a sophomore, decide what size

T-shirt to buy. Texas Aggie Bonfire '83 t-shirts will be on sale in front of Sbisa and the Memorial Student Center until Nov. 23.

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Heirs to Padre Island demand state royalties

United Press International

EL PASO — Members of the Balli family, heirs of the original owners of South Padre Island, announced Wednesday their plans to conduct a sit-in on the steps of the Texas land commissioner's office in Austin Nov. 26 to demand royalties on the land.

José Balli of El Paso said Balli family members from throughout the United States will gather to claim royalties on the island, a tourist mecca at the southern tip of Texas with condominiums priced at \$190,000 and up.

"The land is ours, but no royalties have been paid to us because they tell us the state of Texas is broke," said Balli. "I don't believe that."

Johnny Balli, of Corpus Christi, said relatives from

Texas have been fighting the state since 1941, to no avail.

"The state of Texas is sitting on more than \$485 million in royalty fees from oil and natural gas developers," said Johnny Balli. "That money belongs to the Balli family because we are the original heirs to Padre Nicolas Balli, the man who first owned that property."

The Ballis are now challenging the state of Texas as well as the federal government to prove that part of the island does not belong to the family.

Garry Mauro, Texas land commissioner, said he knows of no money sitting in escrow.

"In 1941, the heirs of South Padre Island sued the state and got title to significant portions of Padre Island," Mauro said. "The

Ballis originally owned 50,000 acres, but the Texas Supreme Court granted them an additional 30,000 acres."

Mauro said South Padre Island is owned by private developers who bought the property from other members of the Balli family.

South Padre Island is about 110 miles long and more than three miles wide. Its beaches draw tourists from all over the southern United States.

"I don't think there's any question that the land belongs to us," said Johnny Balli. "But the question is, why haven't we received any money from the developers who have made millions off our island?"

In 1800, Padre Balli applied

for and was granted part of what is now Padre Island by King Carlos of Spain. The priest then started the first settlement on the island, Rancho Santa Cruz, where he set out to convert the Karankawa Indians to Christianity.

In 1941, the state of Texas tried to claim the island as its own, but the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the island belonged to the Balli heirs because of a deed issued in 1836.

Johnny Balli said developers on Padre Island are still not issued "clear title" to purchased property because the state does not own the land.

"The state sells the land with an insurance policy attached," he said.

Wrecked plane loaded with pot

United Press International
CHILDRESS — The pilot of a single-engine plane loaded with marijuana told airport control he was having problems shortly before the plane crashed through a power line Monday, officials said Wednesday.

Bill Hoffman of Independence, Mo., was pronounced dead at the scene, Childress County sheriff's deputy Jack Hill said.

A second passenger, who has not been identified, is in critical condition at Childress Hospital. He has been placed under arrest on a drug charge.

Before the Cessna 210 crashed, the pilot informed the Childress Airport control tower that he was out of fuel, his en-

gine was running badly and he planned an emergency landing, Hill said.

He said the only reason the plane didn't explode was that it was out of fuel.

When the plane struck the power line four miles southwest of Childress, power to the 5,800 residents of the city was temporarily disrupted.

Officials estimated the plane, which is registered in Missouri, had between 175 and 300 pounds of marijuana aboard. Hill said he believed the cargo came from Mexico.

The crash site has been restricted by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Women Student Organization

Reception for all interested students.

Thursday, November 17

7:00 - 7:45 pm

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Your Choice of
One Vegetable
Roll or, Corn Bread and Butter
Coffee or Tea

TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Mexican Fiesta
Dinner
Two Cheese and
Onion Enchiladas
w chili
Mexican Rice
Patio Style Pinto Beans
Tostadas
Coffee or Tea
One Corn Bread and Butter

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken Fried Steak
w cream Gravy
Whipped Potatoes and
Choice of one other
Vegetable
Roll or Corn Bread and Butter
Coffee or Tea

THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner
SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE
Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad
Choice of Salad Dressing — Hot Garlic Bread
Tea or Coffee

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FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL

FRIED CATFISH
FILET w TARTAR
SAUCE
Cole Slaw
Hush Puppies
Choice of one
vegetable
Roll or Corn Bread & Butter
Tea or Coffee

SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL

Yankee Pot Roast
Texas Style
(Tossed Salad)
Mashed
Potato w
gravy
Roll or Corn Bread & Butter
Tea or Coffee

SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING

ROAST TURKEY DINNER
Served with
Cranberry Sauce
Cornbread Dressing
Roll or Corn Bread - Butter -
Coffee or Tea
Giblet Gravy
And your choice of any
One vegetable

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