

Aggie Parents of the Year chosen

By MARK E. LISH
Reporter

"You know, I've been hearing a lot of talk about Texas A&M becoming a world class university," Bill Osborn said as he and his wife, Gardner, fulfilled their final duties as the 1983-84 Aggie Parents of the Year.

"Well..." he said, "I guess somebody didn't get the word. It's been a world class university for over 100 years."

When the whooping finally ceased at Sunday morning's Parents' Day Awards Ceremony, the anxious crowd listened as the introductions began for the 1984-85 Aggie Parents of the Year.

James Uptmore, winner of the award and a 1953 graduate of Texas A&M, later said he and his wife, Janice, had a feeling they were the recipients of the award when the speaker

started reading their accomplishments.

The Uptmores weren't told in advance they had been chosen.

A moment later, when their names were announced, the two stood and embraced. After a brief pause for some handshaking with those around them, they headed to the stage.

"I guess I've never been so shook," Uptmore said. "I know all you parents must share our excitement because it could have been any of you standing up here now instead of us."

"We accept this award because of all of you and I hope you'll accept it with us," he said.

Linda Thomas, chairman of the Parents' Weekend Committee, said the award is based on involvement in Texas A&M, community and church. Parents are nominated by students who submit applications and letters

of recommendation.

The Uptmores stood nervously as the speaker read the inscription on the plaque they were given in honor of their selection as parents of the year, and then were seated onstage next to University President Frank E. Vandiver for the remainder of the ceremony.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of the Corps of Cadets' awards. More than 100 awards, from sabers and knives to plaques and checks, were presented for accomplishments such as outstanding leadership and academic excellence.

Next on the program was the presentation of the Gathright Awards, named in honor of the first president of Texas A&M College, Thomas S. Gathright — or "Gaithright," as it was spelled in the program.

The Gathright winners received framed certificates for having the

highest grade-point ratios in their college classifications.

The announcement of the Buck Weirus Spirit Award winners was accompanied by a lot of whooping and screaming from people eager to show their own spirit and enthusiasm for the winners.

Winners of this award are chosen on the basis of involvement in "the other education," said Association of Former Students President Charlie Seely. The "other education" includes activities, accomplishments and leadership positions.

The association is responsible for the conception and organization of the award which was first given in 1982 in honor of Richard "Buck" Weirus. Seely said Weirus had given more to the University than he could ever receive.



Photo by OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

James, Class of '53, and Janice Uptmore accept their Aggie Parents of the Year award Saturday.

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Two Americans killed in South African blast

United Press International

WINDHOEK, Namibia — A U.S. diplomat and an American military officer were killed in a bomb blast Saturday when they stopped at a gas station on their way to meet officials monitoring peace between Angola and South Africa, authorities said.

Government officials blamed the South-West African Peoples Organization for the bombing in Oshakati, 60 miles north of Windhoek, although the guerrilla movement fighting for independence of Namibia did not immediately claim responsibility.

A diplomatic official in South Africa said there was no indication the Americans were specifically targeted. In Washington, D.C., the State Department said the Americans were dispatched to the U.S. liaison office monitoring the disengagement of Angola and South African troops in Namibia. Their names were

withheld pending notification of relatives.

Namibian Administrator-General Willy van Niekerk said the bomb tore through a gas station in Oshakati when the Americans stopped for gas at 4:10 p.m.

Officials said one of the Americans died instantly while the other succumbed to serious burns en route to a hospital.

A spokesman for van Niekerk's office said the explosion could have been caused by "anything from a timed device to a remote control bomb." He said forensic experts still were investigating the cause.

Officials said the explosion also engulfed a vehicle behind the one driven by the Americans. Thomas Najembonde, a Namibian citizen driving the car, was killed and four members of his family were injured, including a child.

He said there are two gas stations in the vicinity and the guerrillas would not have been able to know the Americans would stop at either. He also said that SWAPO, while being critical of the cease-fire, has not specifically criticized the U.S. presence in Namibia.

SWAPO has staged sporadic bombings of gas stations in its campaign to force South Africa to surrender its rule over the mineral-rich territory.

"At a time when virtually everybody in South Africa is working towards peace, SWAPO still clings to a barbaric preference for senseless violence," van Niekerk said.

"The true nature of the SWAPO's concern for the welfare of the people of Namibia appears clearly from this incident which has yet again resulted in the death and injury..." van Niekerk said.



Photo by PETER ROCHA

A&M students seem to like new registration procedure

By BETTY SCHULTZ
Reporter

The new pre-registration procedure is running as smooth as silk, according to Donald Carter, associate registrar for records and admissions. "We have had no complaints so far," he said. "This new procedure is making things easier. We are sending over backwards to help the students."

"The system has not been changed, just the method for collecting data," Carter said.

Card packets have been eliminated in favor of a standard eight and a half by eleven inch form. Since the priority system has been implemented, there is no longer any need to rush to the Pavilion to avoid the long lines.

Upperclassmen seem to like the new system.

"It was a lot quicker," said Amy Hammock, junior industrial engineering major.

"The whole process of registration at the Pavilion took about five minutes, because there were no lines," she said.

The freshmen and sophomores have different attitudes.

"I don't like this new system because I probably won't get the classes I want," said Rhonda Newman, freshman computer science major.

"I think it gives the juniors and seniors who have to have a class more of an opportunity to get it when they need it," said Renee Ohmsieder, sophomore journalism major. "I still

thinks its fair because I'll be in the same place and need certain classes in the future."

If the student misses his day for registering, he is supposed to have to wait until April 20, after everyone else has already registered. But some students have been allowed to register a day late because there haven't been lines or crowds at the Pavilion.

The remainder of the schedule for preregistration is as follows:

- Today — Sophomores with last names beginning A-K.
- April 17 — Sophomores with last names beginning L-Z.
- April 18 — Freshmen with last names beginning A-K.
- April 19 — Freshmen with last names beginning L-Z.
- April 20 — All students.

No. 1 quarterback injured

Former Aggie football player Mike Marshall tries to help injured Aggie quarterback Kevin Murray after a wall of Alumni defenders sent him crashing to the turf Saturday during the

annual Varsity-Alumni game. Murray, the Aggies' starting quarterback, twisted his knee on the play and will be in a knee brace for six weeks. See story page 16.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- Faculty Senate completed elections Friday. See story page 3.
- Squadron 10, Squadron 12 and A Battery Band received the major Corps awards at the Parents' Day Review Sunday! See story page 8.

State

- Dallas police and FBI agents begin terrorist training this week in preparation for the Republican National Convention in August. See story page 3.

National

- Ten people were found shot to death in a Brooklyn apartment. See story page 6.

B-CS schools becoming a home for churches moving into town

By WANDA WINKLER
Reporter

Bryan-College Station schools open their doors on Sundays — not for the 3 R's but for worship service and Sunday school. Churches are booming in the area, and these schools are helping churches to relieve their growing pains by serving as temporary meeting places for churchgoers.

College Station schools are all booked up on Sundays, with churches meeting in the four available schools — A&M Junior High, Oakwood Middle School, South Knoll Elementary and College Hills Elementary.

This is not a breakdown of separation of church and state, it's simply churches renting schools that aren't in use on Sundays, says Toni Broadway, assistant director of College Station Independent School District Community Education. If anything, it's a community service, she said.

Three churches — Holy Christ Lutheran, Brazos Valley Christian, and Christ Holy Missionary Baptist — are on the waiting list to get a place to stay.

Churches that meet in College Station schools are spending over \$2 million on church expansion.

This is one aspect of local churches outgrowing their pews. Churches in the area are coping with membership growth by expanding their present facilities and forming outgrowths of themselves.

The Rev. Randy Weimpee, pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, said his church has outgrown three sets of building plans in the last three years. The church began in May 1979 with only eight members, but grew to 60 members in four months.

To make room for this rapid church growth, Aldersgate moved into A&M Junior High in September 1979 to stay while its new \$1.5 million church was being built.

Although this year's building boom is in College Station, Bryan churches had a busy past year, with a \$350,000 church built by First Free Will Baptist and a \$180,000 church built by Briarcrest Baptist.

But, Bryan schools are practically empty now. Only two schools — Carver and Crockett Elementary — are being used by churches.

There's more room in Bryan schools for churches, but several pastors said they prefer College Station schools because of location.

In each city, worship service can be quite an experience — especially when you've been meeting in a school auditorium for over four years. This is the story of Aldersgate, which meets in the A&M Junior High auditorium because it's the only building in the area large enough for its current 1,100 members and close enough for Texas A&M students to attend easily, Weimpee said.

In August, Aldersgate plans to move to its new home, on the East bypass access road in College Station. Until then, Aldersgate will hang in there, Weimpee said.

Members of St. Francis Episcopal Church experience something even

more different — churchin' in a cafeteria.

If you check out the Oakwood Middle School cafeteria on a weekday, you'll be greeted by colorful murals of the four basic food groups. But, come Sunday you'll find a more appropriate home-made curtain that churches up the place and hides the meat, veggies and friends.

St. Francis is another offspring that has sprung up in the area to respond to recent church growth. This church formed in December as an outgrowth of St. Thomas and St. Andrews Episcopal churches.

He and the Rev. Jeff Schiffmayer of St. Francis agree that the district rental fees are reasonable.

For the first year, a church pays average hourly rates — \$10 for a classroom, \$15 for a cafeteria, \$17 for a gym, and \$35 for an auditorium — for utilities. After that year, the church must pay a rate that's double the first-year level.

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