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Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol 79 No. 170 USPS 045360 8 pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, July 13, 1984

Reagan polishes image

United Press International

BOLLING GREEN, Ky. — President Reagan capped a three-day push to polish his tarnished environmental image Thursday, telling 20,000 outdoor enthusiasts that he is upgrading the nation's parks — "the crown jewels of American land."

Reagan told a cheering crowd at the National Campers and Hikers Association convention that he "reversed the four-year decline in funding for their upkeep" when he took office.

"Like everyone who has ever seen them, we view our national parks as the crown jewels of the American land," he said.

"God bless America," Reagan said at the end of his speech, drawing a standing ovation from the crowd gathered in a grassy field surrounded by campers, recreational vehicles and a scattering of tents.

Before speaking to the campers, Reagan toured the Mammoth Cave National Park, walking 1,000 feet into the damp cavern. Ducking and weaving through dripping stalactites and stalagmites, Reagan viewed a huge formation dubbed "Frozen Niagara."

Since 1981 about \$1.8 million has been spent on improvements at Mammoth Cave, the world's longest known cave system, meandering more than 300 miles beneath 52,369 acres of forest.

"Be careful if they suggest you take the long way out," he told reporters.

Speaking at the nearby Beech Bend campground later, Reagan said he "inaugurated a five-year, billion-dollar effort to give our parks the improvement they so badly needed."

Camper Dick Dittbrandt, of Portage, Ohio, said he was glad Reagan supported cleaning up the parks.

"I've been to a lot of parks and I'm afraid to say a lot need repair. We are all grateful for what the president is doing," Dittbrandt said from under an umbrella blocking the hot midday sun.

The president, as he did earlier this week in visits to the Chesapeake Bay and Roosevelt Island in the Potomac River near Washington, also said he has helped — and even accelerated — efforts to clean up the nation's water and air.



Hurry, Hurry

Photo by Peter Rocha

Despite the lines at Thursday's registration, things moved rather quickly. A slow shutter speed was used to show the movement of students picking up their card packets in G. Rollie White Coliseum. About 14,000 students registered for the first summer session

Mondale picks Ferraro as V.P.

United Press International

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Walter Mondale, breaking 200 years of American political tradition Thursday by picking a woman for vice president, chose New York Rep. Geraldine Ferraro Thursday as his running mate in the uphill battle against President Reagan this fall.

The bold political move by Mondale, a candidate with a reputation for never taking the controversial road, was hailed by all factions of the Democratic Party as they headed for what appeared to be a unified convention in San Francisco next week.

"Today I am proud to announce I have selected Geraldine Ferraro of New York for the vice presidency of the United States," Mondale said as he received a standing ovation in the Minnesota House chamber where he declared his own candidacy on Feb. 21, 1983.

"This is an exciting choice," he declared to prolonged applause. "She's earned her way here today. Gerry has excelled in everything she's tried."

Ferraro followed Mondale on the podium.

"Thank you Vice President Mondale — vice president has such a nice ring to it," she said. "There is an electricity in the air, an excitement, a sense of new possibilities, a pride."

"I'm honored to join him in this campaign," she said.

Mondale called her the embodiment of the "classic American dream." She agreed.

"Fritz called my road here the classic American dream," she said. "He's right. My father came to America from a little town in Italy. Like millions of other immigrants he loved our country passionately, but what he loved most about it was that in America anything is possible if you work for it."

"I grew up among working people, straightforward, solid Americans trying to make ends meet, trying to bring up their families and leave their country a little better off than when they moved here and found it."

Ferraro wasted no time in lashing out at the administration, without mentioning President Reagan.

She said the people "love America, and support a strong, sensible defense. But they want nothing to do with reckless adventures in Latin America. And they want to get some talks going and stop this nuclear arms race before it destroys us all."

After the announcement the two families went back to Mondale's home in suburban North Oaks for a lunch with Minnesota friends. Mondale will be in College Station, Texas, on Friday.

See FERRARO, page 3

Texas politicians hail decision

By BILL ROBINSON

Senior Staff Writer

Texas political leaders were expressing reservations over the selection of Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, D-NY, as Walter Mondale's vice presidential candidate Thursday, although most hailed the nomination as a breakthrough for women.

Democrats and Republicans congratulated Ferraro, but several expressed doubts over her ability to help the Mondale presidential campaign.

"It was a good choice under the circumstances," said Texas A&M political science professor Bruce Robeck. "(Gary) Hart would have been a better choice, but Mondale had painted himself into a circle."

Gloria Wilkins, the chairman of

the Brazos County Republican Party, says Mondale trapped himself in that circle by committing himself to minority groups.

"It just goes to prove Mondale is obligated to another special-interest group," Wilkins said.

But the biggest questions raised about Ferraro's selection involved her ability to draw voters to the Democratic ticket.

"We're sorry we don't have a good Texan like Lloyd Bentsen on the ticket," said Patty Everett, executive director of the Texas Democratic Party. "Without a Texan, we're going to have to work a whole lot harder."

The state chairman of the Republican Party also questioned Ferraro's ability to draw voters to the ticket.

See TEXANS, page 3

Libyan minister travels to Lebanon despite death threat

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Militiamen killed 12 people in northern Lebanon but maintained their uneasy peace Thursday in Beirut, where Libya's foreign minister arrived for a visit in defiance of death threats and a bomb that gutted his nation's embassy.

Police said two pro-Syrian factions exchanged rocket and heavy artillery fire in clashes that swept through a string of mainly Christian villages in the mountains southeast of Tripoli, a seaport 42 miles north of the capital.

At least 12 people were killed and another 40 wounded in two days of fighting, security sources said. Syrian leader Hafez Assad sent an envoy to the region in hope of negotiating a truce.

Defying a death threat from radical Moslems who bombed Libya's embassy in Beirut, Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel Salam Tureiki visited the capital and pledged Col. Moammar Khadafy's "total support" for reunifying Lebanon after nine years of civil war.

He carried a written message from Khadafy calling for a reunited Lebanon and urging Arab nations to "close ranks" in their aim to "liberate" Jerusalem from Israel, Lebanese news agencies said.

Government officials said President Amin Gemayel, a Christian, hosted Tureiki for 90 minutes at his palace in suburban east Beirut, a few miles from the ruins of the seaside Libyan Embassy in Moslem west Beirut.

Tureiki postponed his visit for one day when gunmen roused all occupants from the embassy, known as the Libyan People's Bureau, and set off a bomb. Most Libyan diplomats had already fled Beirut because of earlier kidnap threats.

The "Sadr Brigades," an underground Shiite Moslem group, have claimed responsibility for the bombing and the recent kidnappings of two Libyan diplomats in west Beirut.

Ags develop antibody detection test

By SARAH OATES

Staff Writer

A testing method developed by Texas A&M University chemists could mean the end of complicated and expensive lab analysis of some medical tests.

The technique, known as microgravimetric immunoassay (MGIA), may result in speedier, simpler immunoassays, the tests used to detect antibodies. These immunoassays also are radiation free.

MGIA directly measures the molecular changes that occur on the surface of a quartz crystal.

Dr. Glenn Bastiaans, an assistant professor of chemistry, said researchers recently produced the first successful tests using monoclonal antibodies, which increased MGIA sensitivity by about 2,000 times. This improvement puts the technique in competition with the two most common methods for measuring fluorescence and radioactive decay.

MGIA detects antibodies as well as antigens, the "invaders" which stimulate antibody production.

Antibody identification is used to target the causes of infectious disease. In the lab, antibodies also can be used to show that recombinant DNA procedures are working correctly.

"We can detect evidence of disease even before the antibodies respond," Bastiaans said.

MGIA can be used to detect such infectious diseases as herpes, hepatitis and influenza, as well as drugs, hormones and toxins.

He said that immunoassay testing is not new. For example, he said, it was used to detect evidence of drug

use by Vietnam veterans. It also has been used in diabetes testing.

Bastiaans said the new method is simple enough to be performed in a doctor's office, which would save the time and expense involved in sending tests for lab analysis.

He said that conceptually, the test could even be sold over-the-counter for home use. However, additional research must be performed to learn if the test is commercially feasible.

"If it can be done, it wouldn't be on the market for at least another 18 months to two years," Bastiaans said.

He said the University might apply for a patent on the parts of the MGIA method, which he and a graduate chemistry student have been researching for two years.

Bastiaans said MGIA testing is as sensitive as existing procedures.

MGIA measures direct molecular

reactions of an antibody to an antigen, or vice versa, instead of secondary chemical reactions, he said.

It produces acoustic waves on the crystal surface through oscillating voltage. Any solution on the surface of the crystal must also move, so the new assay combination can measure changes in wave frequency and give readouts of the mix and concentration of the sample solution.

Secretion samples, such as viruses, are injected into a chamber connected to the crystal.

Bastiaans said that he and graduate student Joy Roederer have been working for two years to develop this technique. Electrical engineers in the University's Institute of Solid State Electronics collaborated by depositing electrodes on the experimental crystal.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• The College of Business Administration is sponsoring a Careers in Business Seminar next week for minority high school students. See story page 3.

State

• Austin began rationing water to combat an over-taxed water system in Texas' hot, rain-thirsty capital. See story page 5.
• Gov. Mark White signed a bill requiring motorists to use passenger safety seats or restraints for children. See story page 8.

World

• The Soviet Union is protesting a lifting of the ban on German missile and bomb making. See story page 5.