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The Battalion

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Congress approves after-school prayer

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The House Wednesday passed and sent to President Reagan a measure to let high school students hold prayer meetings in classrooms after hours, rejecting charges that would make public schools recruiting grounds for religious cults.

The so-called equal access provision, approved 337-77, was attached to a bill providing almost \$1 billion over two years to beef up mathematics and science instruction. With a two-thirds majority vote needed for passage, the bill was approved, 393-15.

The prayer meeting provision allows students to meet before or after

school for religious discussion, but not during school hours.

It prohibits outside speakers from coming into the meetings unless invited by students. Nevertheless, opponents charged the measure would allow schools to be invaded by religious cults.

Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., predicted schools would be "inundated" by requests by various types of cults and so-called religious groups.

"Just because a student must initiate the request is not going to hinder many cults, whose aggressive proselytizing of students is one of their traits," he said.

The equal access bill has the support of Reagan and religious groups

that lobbied for a constitutional amendment allowing prayers in schools. That proposed amendment was rejected by the Senate March 20 after weeks of heated debate.

The House June 28 rejected a tougher form of the equal access provision that would have cut off federal funds to schools that did not allow the prayer meetings.

The milder form of the measure, approved by the Senate last month, does not prescribe penalties for failing to comply and would not restrict the funds.

Backers of the legislation said it was a question of equal access by all groups to public property.

Four killed in bar

United Press International

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — A gunman who killed four people and wounded another in a motel massacre shot himself through the heart as officers prepared to move in, authorities said Wednesday.

Police Sgt. Paul Jackson said a preliminary autopsy revealed two gunshot wounds in the body of Wayne Crossley, 33, of Benton, Ark., who died in the Grand Central Motel Lodge after killing a lounge manager, two patrons and a truck driver Tuesday.

"It was a bloody mess down there," Jackson said.

He said Crossley apparently was wounded in the right shoulder in a shootout with police Sgt. Wayne Warwick before the rampage at the motel. Crossley had been ejected from the bar last week for being drunk.

The fatal wound, a .45-caliber shot through the heart, was self-inflicted, Jackson said.

Crossley, who had a record of violent crimes that included terroristic threatening, shot Warwick after the officer had stopped him during a routine traffic check, police said. Warwick, 36, was in serious condition with gunshot wounds to the chest.

Workers at the lounge and adjoining restaurant recognized Crossley as a regular customer who recently was kicked out of the lounge.

Mayor Jim Randall said it was the worst tragedy in the history of the resort town.

It was the fourth major bar-restaurant shooting rampage in a month.

On June 29, a 39-year-old Moroccan spurned by a woman shot and killed six people and wounded a seventh in a Dallas bar before he surrendered to police.

Last Wednesday, James Huberty, 41, killed 21 people at a McDonald's near San Diego, Calif. Huberty was killed by a police sniper.

In San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, a man armed with a rifle took over a Shakey's pizza parlor whose operators had fired him, held police at bay for nearly 8 hours before surrendering after randomly firing 15 shots. No one was injured.

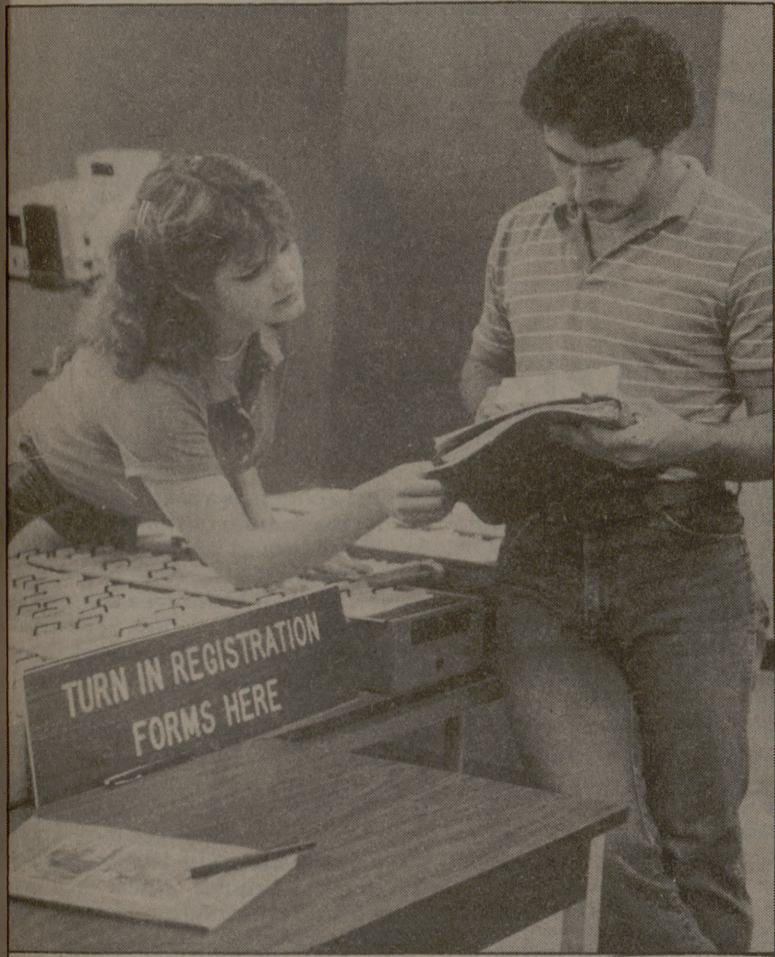


Photo by Robin Black

Where are the lines?

Pam Smith, a Bryan High School senior, helps Greg Simons, a wildlife and fisheries science major from Seagoville, register for fall semester classes.

South Padre hunts shark

United Press International

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND — Shark patrols went up Wednesday along one of Texas' most populous tourist beaches, where the first apparent shark attacks in more than 20 years injured two teenagers, one seriously.

The attacks Tuesday left Carmen Castro Gaytan, 18, of Mexico City in guarded condition with deep bites on her feet.

The other victim, an unidentified 13-year-old girl, was treated Tuesday for deep lacerations and puncture wounds on her foot and released from a Port Isabel clinic.

Marine experts said they could not absolutely confirm the attacks were by sharks, but Castro said she was bitten by a 4-foot-long shark and the mother of the other teenager said she saw a shark bump against her daughter's leg.

The attacks occurred between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tuesday about a mile apart on the South Padre Island beach, which teems with tourists during the summer.

City officials said patrols were out scanning the beaches and shallow water for signs of the normally reclusive but dangerous fish.

"We have a plane flying over,"

said city spokesman Joe Rubio. "A boat from the Coast Guard is patrolling (as well as) a boat from the Fish and Wildlife Department to confirm any sightings. We have a couple of vehicles going up and down the beach."

"So far it's a dry run. We did spot a couple of large sharks yesterday but they were out in deep water. We're going to monitor the situation the rest of today."

"Everybody's back out on the beach today, enjoying themselves. This is an isolated incident."

Immigration bill may 'hang by a thread'

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Sen. Alan Simpson, the chief Senate sponsor of a sweeping immigration reform bill, said Wednesday the controversial measure that would grant amnesty to millions of illegal aliens "hangs by a thread" in Congress.

Simpson, R-Wyo., made the comment at a rare news conference following a White House spokesman's statement that the bill, as passed by the House, is "unacceptable" to President Reagan.

The bill would grant legal residence to millions of illegal aliens

now in the country and seek to discourage the entry of others by punishing employers who knowingly hire them.

Simpson told reporters there was "no question" but that a House-Senate conference committee could work out major differences between differing versions of the bill.

"However, I do have very serious concerns that the raging partisan hysteria, hoopla and hype against this legislation which sprang from the Democratic National Convention — and which continues to reverberate through the halls of Congress —

may have seriously damaged the chance that the House could accept any bill reported by the conference," he said.

The Wyoming Republican also accused Hispanic leaders of being "out of touch with the Hispanic-American community" in opposing the bill, which they contend would lead employers to discriminate against "foreign-looking" job seekers.

Simpson, who had met with the bill's key House sponsor, Rep. Romano Mazzoli, D-Ky., said he would not seek immediate negotiations between the House and Senate because

that would rule out other options.

One such option, he said, would be for the Senate to accept the bill as passed by the House to avoid sending it back to the House — where it was passed by a slim 216-211 margin.

With elections fast approaching, some Democrats now appear to be bowing to the demands of Hispanics to switch their votes if the bill comes up again — and both Walter Mondale, the Democratic presidential nominee, and Geraldine Ferraro, his running mate, are opposed to the bill.

Reagan blasts Democrats' 'obsession'

United Press International

AUSTIN — President Reagan, accusing his rivals of being obsessed with "doom and envy," said Wednesday the nomination of Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro pushed the Democrats "so far left they've left America."

"Don't let them bury the American dream in their graveyard of doom and envy," Reagan said, prompting a thunderous roar of "no" from an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 persons at a dusty park, where temperatures hit 100 degrees.

Democrats seek "endless tax increases, deeper dependency, planned protectionism, certain sacrifices and veiled promises," Reagan said in kicking off a three-state campaign swing that includes stops in Georgia and New Jersey.

"This election," he said, "offers the clearest, sharpest, most important choice in modern times: greater freedom or coercion."

With his eye on the Lone Star State's 29 electoral votes — more than one-tenth the number needed for victory — Reagan teamed up

with Vice President George Bush in a bid to drive an ideological wedge between conservative Southern Democrats and the Mondale-Ferraro ticket.

In blunt language unleashed less than 24 hours after his pledge to run on a positive note, Reagan — once a liberal Democrat himself — claimed Democrats "gave Texas the back of their hand" at their national convention. He was alluding to Mondale's choice of Ferraro over Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas as his running mate.

The Reagan-Bush "Family Festival" was the first stop of a trip directed at two potentially decisive battlegrounds: the South and the ethnic, industrial Northeast.

"When I heard some of the things being said last week in San Francisco, I couldn't help thinking maybe that fog is so thick out there it's getting inside their heads," he said.

"But maybe there is another explanation: the national Democratic leadership is going so far left they've left America."

Engineers 'train' drivers about safety

By CARL BECKER
Reporter

"Don't make a railroad crossing your finish line — train yourself to watch for trains by observing lifesaver signs."

That is the message of Texas Operation Lifesaver, a free public education program involving presentations by volunteer railroad employees. Because many of the speakers are locomotive engineers with a special stake in the program results, the presentations are filled with personal experiences in addition to the facts and figures.

Dale Evans and Doug Smith, both Southern Pacific locomotive engineers, said they joined Operation

Lifesaver because they have seen all the railroad crossing accidents they want to see.

"I've got 30 more years on the railroad, and I don't want to have another accident," Smith said. "They are horrible accidents... so unnecessary and so easily avoidable."

In their combined 24 years as engineers, Evans and Smith have been involved in 15 accidents, nine of which resulted in deaths. The emotion the two men convey in telling their experiences helps the program hit home with the audience.

"You watch the scenario play out in front of you, and you carry that for the rest of your life," Smith said. "The emotional problems of some-

one dying... it tears me up when I think I hit another person."

Evans agreed. "Seeing a car try to beat a train to a crossing, and knowing there is nothing you can do to stop the train on time, is one of the most sickly, helpless feelings you could ever imagine," Evans said.

The power of the presentations is achieved when the speakers combine their emotional accounts with some impressive facts. For example, the average freight train weighs 12 million pounds and takes more than a mile to stop when traveling 60 mph. In contrast, the average car weighs about 4,000 pounds and can stop much faster, within 225 feet, when

traveling at the same speed. Consider the weight ratio — 3,000 to one. No contest.

Smith put these facts into a more understandable perspective.

"Kids are always asking us what it's like to hit a car, so we put them in our position," he said. "It's like hitting an aluminum can with a standard-sized automobile; that's what it's like."

In their eyes, Evans and Smith have too many experiences to draw upon in their presentations, and they would be happy if their presentations keep one person from becoming an "experience."

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In Today's Battalion

Local

• Light rains offer little help for parched Texas. See story page 12.

State

• Contempt charges against the Houston couple who refused to testify against their son are dropped. See story page 3.

National

• Widow of "McDonald's murderer" says she'll sell her story rights to the highest bidder. See story page 4.
• Federal judge strikes down Louisiana's 'blue laws.' See story page 8.

World

• British police clash with striking coal miners for a third time. See story page 6.