

Explosion blasts Bryan nightclub

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

A popular Bryan nightclub was extensively damaged after an explosion ripped through the building early Tuesday morning.

Graham Central Station, a country-rock club located at 1601 S. College Ave., was a shambles after an explosion collapsed the east end of the building and cracked the back wall.

The building was empty when the blast occurred at about 4:50 a.m., setting it on fire. No one was injured in the explosion.

Audra Lou Shannon and her husband Robert, who live a few blocks away from the club, were awakened by the explosion.

"That thing popped," Shannon said. "It didn't really rattle the windows, but we felt the vibration. It wasn't real loud. Maybe it was like thunder."

Investigating officer Mike Hallmark, of the Bryan Police Department, said there is a "good possibility" the explosion was the work of an arsonist.

Club employees refused to comment about the explosion.

Officials from the Bryan Fire Department and the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating the explosion.

Fire Inspector James Jones said the parking lot in front of the club will be swept for clues to the blast.

Witnesses told police a man was seen walking behind the building shortly before the explosion.

After the building blew up, witnesses said the man drove to a phone booth at the corner of the club's parking lot and called police.

Police said witnesses reported the man told several people a bomb had gone off and that he had called the police. He then left the scene.

Witnesses described the man as acting "extremely bizarre" after the explosion, police said.

Police said the rear door of the club had been pried open. A half-empty, five-gallon gas can was found just inside the rear entrance to the building and a gas nozzle that fit the can was found just outside the door. A pair of brown surgical gloves were found about 20 feet away.

Police have not determined whether the objects were used in the explosion.

Pets useful to psychotherapists

By KARLA K. MARTIN
Staff Writer

They gathered Monday — comparing research plans and pet pictures — and Tuesday, their progress continued.

The Delta Society's three-day conference progressed as the emotional, physical lectures of the human-animal bond led to the lectures of the emotional-psychological bond.

"What we're trying to do is make people aware of the need for pets," said Linda Hines, executive director of the Delta Society. "In the past, pets were considered as luxury items. We're saying that they are a social necessity."

Hines referred to the Society's continuing research of the therapeutic effects of animals on the elderly, abused children and prison inmates, as well as in the home.

One research idea discussed was the role of animals in psychotherapy.

Lee Bowers, of the Northwest Employee Assistance Center in Houston, said the use of animals in therapy (called pet-therapy) is a recent discovery.

"Pets take us away from the irrational and scientific," Bowers said. "Most of us have been overly conditioned to be constantly thinking and evaluating, and there is little time for person to his or her emotions. Animals provide this psychological link."

Carol Peacock, a psychology counselor, did research on the role of dogs in therapy. The results, she said, were positive.

"Our exploratory study suggests that the presence of dogs in the consulting room helps the subject relax, to enjoy self-disclosure, and participate in the process of psychotherapy," Peacock said. "They have the ability to foster people's feelings of mastery and self-esteem."

Other discussions centered on the psychological benefits of training animals.

Matthew Margolis, of the National Institute of Dog Training, Inc., said his company often brings pets to prisons. This, he said, gives the inmates a sense of responsibility.

"There are over 50 million dogs in America," Margolis said. "So why not have people in prison train them? This gives the inmates a career, and when they get out, it keeps them off the streets."

Margolis holds 12-week school in many prisons to teach inmates how to train dogs to help the handicapped.



Photo by KARLA K. MARTIN

Bruce Nicolaisen shows off Kalob, his 130-pound Rottweiler.

Proposition

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• It would add three institutions in the A&M system and nine institutions in the UT system to be eligible to participate in the PUF and AUF, and designate Prairie View A&M as an "institution of the first class." Prairie View would receive a special appropriation of \$6 million from the UT portion of the AUF each year for 10 years.

• It would authorize the UT and A&M regents to increase the PUF bonding capacities for their institutions to 10 percent at A&M and 20 percent at UT — a total of 30 percent of the PUF's value. Currently the bonding capacity is 20 percent of the PUF's value.

The amendment would benefit both the two system schools and the non-PUF schools because it would expand the use of the AUF money A&M and UT receive and it would set up a stable means of construction funds for the other schools.

The proposal had its first stirrings of life in the state Legislature about two years ago as House Joint Resolution 19. It came about because of a funding problem for non-PUF schools.

Until 1979, non-PUF schools received building funds from a special state property tax.

The tax, which was added to the

state constitution several years ago by voters, was challenged in court in 1978 as unconstitutional and made inoperable in 1979.

But, since the PUF is protected by the constitution from all schools except A&M and UT, the non-PUF schools were unable to receive any kind of legislative appropriations.

All parties involved would benefit from the amendment; A&M could broaden its funding uses and the non-PUF schools would have a guaranteed source of building income.

The proposition has been endorsed by the governing boards of all public universities in the state and by the state Coordinating Board that oversees higher education.

It also is being supported by college presidents, faculty, the Texas Student Association, the Republican and Democratic parties and several business, labor and agriculture groups. No one is actively opposing the proposition.

A political action committee has been organized to lobby for the proposition — the Education Assistance Committee — and the regents of some of the colleges are raising money to fund heavy promotion of the proposition on TV, newspapers and other publications.

Potential voters will be hearing much ado about the proposition the next three weeks before the Nov. 6 election.

NOW

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of it, than she does," Parsons said.

In the second half of the symposium, members of the Brazos Valley Peace Action (BVPA) spoke on various topics.

Dale Nave addressed the topic of American involvement in Central America and spoke against the gov-

ernment for supporting covert activities there.

Hugh Stearns spoke in favor of the "tearing down of the war machine in America," and non-participation in the draft.

Parsons also spoke on behalf of the BVPA, condemning President Reagan's proposed "Star Wars Program," which deals with the deploy-

ment of weapons in space.

Stearns, a spokesman for SWAMP, said the reason for the open air symposium was to encourage free speech.

"We are hoping that by bringing in topics that will stir people up, we will encourage people to voice rebuttals," Stearns said.

On Thursday, a representative

from the American Atheists spoke and on Friday, representatives from the Gay Student Services spoke. On Monday, a talk will be given on freedom of speech followed by a period of free phone for anybody who wants to speak.

All the talks are scheduled from noon to 2 p.m. by Rudder Founda-

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