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The Texas A&M Battalion

Vol. 80 No. 102 USPS 045360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, February 22, 1985

Sheriff probes local woman's fatal shooting

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Staff Writer

A woman was killed Thursday night about six miles east of here at her home on Bark-N-Holler ranch off Farm Road 1179.

Brazos County Sheriff Ron Miller said late Thursday Sandra Black, 37, was shot with a pistol at her home on Sleepy Hollow Road about 6 p.m. He would not comment on the type of pistol used, where Black was shot, or how many times she was shot.

"She was shot with a pistol and we are waiting on an autopsy report before we make any further statements," he said. "Mrs. Black was apparently the only one in the house at the time of the shooting."

At 9:30 p.m. investigators had not found anything missing inside the Black's house, but Miller said a van taken from the house was found at the Safeway store in Bryan at Briarcrest and 29th Street. The store is

about four miles from the Black's residence.

Investigators were continuing to probe the van and its contents for evidence related to the incident, Miller said.

Miller said some teenage children were in the house late Thursday while investigators continued to look for evidence in the case, but were not there at the time of the shooting.

No suspects were being sought late Thursday in connection with the

homicide, but Miller said the investigation would continue throughout the night.

"We aren't searching for anyone in particular," Miller said. "We haven't found anything missing from the house at this time, but two investigators are still inside looking for evidence."

"Some people have called in with some information about the case and we will continue to investigate to-

night. I'll be out awhile (looking into the incident)."

Carl Gentry, a neighbor of Black's who lives across the street, said the Blacks moved into the house about five years ago.

"There never seemed to be any problems over there," he said. "Bob (Sandra's husband) was an electrician and Sandra worked at a nursery. Things seemed fairly quiet around there."

Gentry said it was usually quiet in the country neighborhood at night.

"It certainly isn't very quiet tonight," he said. "We don't need this kind of excitement around here."

Black worked at the Happy Face Nursery at 1015 Winding Road in College Station.

Funeral services for Black are pending at Memorial Funeral Chapel in Bryan.

Thatcher won't say when ships carry weapons

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher concluded two days of talks here Thursday with a stern warning that Britain will follow America's lead in refusing to yield to New Zealand's demand to know whether ships entering its ports are equipped with nuclear weapons.

"I shall be very disappointed if the Royal Navy ships cannot visit New Zealand," she said at a press conference. "But I cannot answer, and will not answer, that question."

Thatcher's emphatic statement was designed to help the Reagan administration put to an end any notion other countries may have to fall in step behind New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange.

"All our ships are seconded (assigned) to NATO," she said. "At any moment they might have to take up NATO positions and therefore they must carry whatever is appropriate to their NATO task."

"And I have no intention whatsoever of revealing whether or not a nuclear armament is part of their weaponry on any particular ship," Thatcher said.

Lange's action several weeks ago has led the United States to cancel several joint military exercises with New Zealand, as well as other activities.

Thatcher, whose departure from Washington was delayed by bad weather in Britain, also said she had no "ready-made answers" to the economic problems caused by the strong U.S. dollar.

The British pound, along with other Western European currencies, has been driven to record lows against the surging American dollar. Thatcher's Conservative Party has blamed America's \$200 billion deficit for siphoning capital from around the world, weakening other currencies and driving up interest rates abroad.

On another topic, the prime minister suggested the United States spend more time talking to Soviet leaders to increase understanding that could aid in the quest for arms control agreements.

"I found — particularly in my talks with congressmen — a very, very strong interest in making a greater effort at dialogue with the Russians and getting to understand their viewpoint better," she said.

"I do think that if we are to get better results in arms control talks, we have to have more dialogue and more understanding of one another," Thatcher said.

Correction

In Thursday's The Battalion a caption for the Chem Busters picture on page one was partially incorrect.

The caption said Michael Coad is questioning the chemistry department's policy of assigning students to teaching assistants. However, this is not what he said.

What Coad said is that he is concerned with students and their understanding of freshman chemistry, not the policies of the chemistry department.

The Battalion regrets the error.



It's Safer This Way

If you want to play with "Hersh, ole boy," it's much safer to do so behind a thick pane of glass according to Nancy Burgess, a

senior English major from Dallas. Burgess bought the three-month-old "attack kitty" at Post Oak Mall.

Photo by CATHERINE CAMPBELL

Regents gain new member

Senate gives Mays the nod

From staff and wire reports

The Texas Senate confirmed the appointment of L. Lowry Mays of San Antonio to the Texas A&M Board of Regents Thursday by a 28-0 vote.

Mays said, "I am very honored that I was appointed and I was very proud. I look forward to serving on the board for the next six years and helping the Texas A&M System in any way I can."

Mays, 49, graduated from Texas A&M in 1957 with a petroleum engineering degree. He is president of Clear Channel Communications, which owns San Antonio radio station WOAL.

Mays has served on the University's visual arts committee and the Memorial Student Center Council.

Two other appointments to the board by Gov. Mark White — Royce E. Wisenbaker of Tyler and John Mobley of Austin — have not yet cleared committee.

A controversy has developed over the appointment of Mobley. Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, objected to Mobley's appointment because White ignored his recommendation of Don Mauro of Bryan, Caperton's former law partner, to the board.

Ex-cadets charged in Goodrich case

Plea hearings scheduled for Monday

By DAINAH BULLARD
Staff Writer

Plea hearings for four former Texas A&M students are scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday.

The hearings for former Corps of Cadets juniors Jason Miles, Anthony D'Alessandro and Louis Fancher III and former Corps senior Gabriel

Cuadra originally were scheduled for March 25.

A spokesperson from the Court Administrators Office, which schedules court dates, said County Court-at-Law Judge Carolyn Ruffino decided to move the court date up for the four former students. Ruffino, who has imposed a gag order on everyone associated with the case, was

not available for comment Thursday.

The four former students face charges of hazing in connection with the Aug. 30 death of cadet Bruce Dean Goodrich, 20, who collapsed and later died of a heat stroke after participating in an early morning exercise session. Miles, D'Alessandro and Fancher also face charges of criminally negligent homicide.

Cuadra, who now attends Miami-Dade Community College in Florida, was found guilty Jan. 31 of tampering with evidence in connection with the case. The six-woman jury advised a punishment of a \$500 fine and a jail term to be decided by Ruffino. The jury also advised probation for both punishments.

Monday night Ruffino an-

nounced her decision of one year's probation, with no jail time, and a \$500 probated fine for Cuadra.

Like the charge of tampering with evidence, the charge of criminally negligent homicide carries a penalty of up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000. Hazing carries a jail term of 10 days to three months, and a fine of \$25 to \$200.

Reagan defends plan to cut agricultural aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Thursday night he would not "pull the rug out ... instantly" from under the nation's farmers, but that government agricultural programs have not worked and he wants to return the "farm economy into the free marketplace."

He said he plans to retain his controversial budget director, David Stockman, who angered embattled farmers by questioning their right to government bailouts. "I can understand a fellow blowing his cool," Reagan said of Stockman. Asked if he wanted Stockman to stay on the job, Reagan said yes.

At the first news conference of his second term in office, Reagan also said his goal in Nicaragua is to remove the Sandinista government "in the sense of its present structure," but said he would not seek to oust

the government "if they say uncle."

"It is not a government chosen by the people ... we believe we have an obligation to be of help where we can ... and we're going to try to persuade the Congress that we can legitimately go forward," he said.

Congress last year imposed a ban on covert aid to the Nicaraguan rebels known as "contras" and Reagan has said he will seek to reinstate the financial assistance.

Reagan also renewed his calls for Congress to pass tax overhaul legislation this year, and to summon the "political courage" needed to enact his program of spending cuts.

With the Senate embroiled in a dispute over emergency aid to cash-strapped farmers, the president told the nationally televised news conference he supports a short-term program including \$650 million in loans and loan guarantees.

In addition, he said his administration would be presenting legislation on Friday to try to get the farm economy back into the free marketplace.

"We won't pull the rug out from under anyone instantly" who relies on government programs, he said. But, the president added quickly, "The government programs did not succeed. Many of the problems they (farmers) face today are the result of government involvement."

Reagan also repeated his opposition to a tax increase, saying the issue was debated and decided on Nov. 6.

Reagan has called on Congress to enact nearly \$50 billion in spending cuts in his 1986 fiscal year budget, and while many of his proposals have provoked sharp controversy in Congress, he said, "protecting recovery will require political courage."

Senate bill honors Aggie post-mortem

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

The Texas Senate Thursday approved a memorial bill honoring James William "Bill" Robinson, a Texas A&M University senior who died last August as a result of a one-car accident.

"Bill Robinson led an exemplary life...this personable young man was on everyone's list of most admired students of his senior class at Texas A&M," states Senate Resolution 141, introduced by Sen. Lyndon Williams of Houston.

The Senate adjourned Thursday in honor of Robinson. Williams was not available for comment.

"I can't speak for the senator," said Patsy Goldwater, administrative assistant in Williams' Austin office, "but I think he wanted to

honor a fine young man with an excellent academic record."

Charlie Burnham, administrative assistant in Williams' Houston office, said Williams "is a big supporter of Texas A&M."

Robinson, 22, was a senior journalism major and editor of The Battalion at the time of his death.

He had planned to work as a writer after graduating.

Robinson's father, Jim Robinson of Round Rock, said, "It's kind of unique for a student leader to be honored this way."

Mr. Robinson, deputy director of the state property tax board, said Williams called him last week to tell him the resolution would be introduced in the Senate.

Robinson's parents established the Bill Robinson Memorial Scholarship fund to help journalism majors at Texas A&M.