



Photo by SUSAN M. JUDGE

Float To Relax

Mike Shryne, a junior political science major; Pat Eidemiller, a sophomore aerospace engineering major; Alan McDonald, a freshman animal science major; and John Rowan, a junior political science major, spent about two hours floating in the Fish Pond during the "Purveyer

Yacht Club 2nd Annual Regatta" before Saturday's football game. The group's first regatta was held at Rudder Fountain in protest of the bombing of the Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior, but this regatta was strictly for fun.

Some graduates still lack basic skills

Universities raising requirements

Associated Press

AUSTIN — There's no money-back guarantee on a college education. A bachelor's degree doesn't come with a warranty.

But increasingly Texans are concerned that some of the many students who come to college unprepared are graduating without mastering even elementary skills.

"We, with our taxes, are supporting another generation of college illiterates," said Tony Bonilla, a Corpus Christi attorney who served both on the college coordinating board and the Select Committee on Public Education.

A Southern Regional Education Board study of five southern states showed that 40 percent of college freshmen need remedial work.

"I think it's every bit that bad if not worse in Texas," said State Commissioner of Higher Education Kenneth Ashworth, who served on the board's Commission for Educational Quality.

"Too many students are playing their way through high school. That's why we have to pay \$37 million for remedial education every biennium.

"Then, too many manage to get through their specialized areas in college without adequate testing or an adequate demonstration of basic skills. That's a condemnation of what's going on in college."

Despite rocketing costs and the best intentions, Texas' public university system in many cases has failed to remedy the shortcomings of a public school system branded mediocre by all national standards.

Some statistical evidence: Despite \$18 million a year in taxpayer dollars spent on remedial edu-

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cation in universities, one-third of sophomore university students flunked a test of 10th-grade-level reading, writing and arithmetic skills, a test necessary to enter teacher education. Last year, it was nearly one-half.

Students from four-year universities didn't score as well on the state nursing examination as those from junior colleges and hospital diploma programs.

Freshmen flunk-out rates run as high as 50 percent. At Lamar University, for example, only 30 percent of freshmen who enter get a degree. Some 40 percent of academic students must take at least one remedial course.

"Students come from high schools sadly lacking in basic skills," said Bob Hardesty, president of Southwest Texas State University.

"We had students who couldn't write a simple declarative sentence, who couldn't do basic math problems and we were graduating them. It wasn't intentional. Our system just wasn't sophisticated enough to catch them in time.

"We all seemed to be taking the attitude that if the public schools

couldn't teach the basic skills to their students, there was nothing that we could do about it once those students reached college," he added. "It was a vicious cycle."

Texas is trying to break out of the cycle, first with sweeping changes in public schools; next, with a hard look at higher education.

The Southern Regional Education Board, after determining that the average community college freshman reads at the eighth grade level, chided institutions for giving college credit for work that is not college level.

Texas officials were doubtful enough about the quality of the state university product to ask a special committee to decide if universities should require a sophomore year basic skills test. Gov. Mark White has endorsed that idea.

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And universities are admitting unpleasant truths about the quality of their product.

A University of Houston study conducted by consultants Richard F. Dini & Associates determined that the university was held in such low esteem in Houston that a multimillion-dollar money drive should be delayed because the university lacks the respect to make that effort a success.

At East Texas State University, students who can't write a literate junior-level essay can't graduate. Only 48 percent of East Texas State University students passed the test the first time they took it in 1984. This year the scores improved, up to 69.4 percent.

The average Scholastic Aptitude Test score of freshmen entering state universities in 1983, the last year for which figures are available, was 848 out of a possible 1600.

"I doubt that any faculty member deliberately pushed students along," said Jack Humphries, president of Sul Ross State. "But the feeling was, 'We've got them, we've got to graduate them.' The colleges were caught up in the same democratic, egalitarian attitude.

"We were not demanding in our standards. We tended to adjust curriculum so that students could succeed."

The reputation of Texas universities varies widely. "I think we have two institutions with the potential for greatness as major international universities, and that's A&M and UT," said coordinating board chairman Larry Temple. "I don't think that has been achieved but it can be achieved with the right leadership, funding and direction."

Subpoena sent to director of FBI in espionage trial

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — FBI Director William Webster has been subpoenaed by the defense to testify in the trial of Richard W. Miller, the only agent ever charged with espionage, it was revealed in court Wednesday.

The subpoena and an accompanying affidavit were filed "a couple of days ago," Miller's attorney said, and were aimed at refuting testimony by an author who said the FBI would never use its own agents to penetrate a hostile intelligence operation such as the Soviet spy agency, the KGB.

Miller has said he was trying a maverick infiltration of the KGB in a bid to save his wavering career, not selling out to the Soviets.

The subpoena for Webster apparently is based on an interview the FBI chief gave earlier this month in which he said FBI double agents are being used to keep Soviet spies off balance.

"We're also causing them to be suspicious of people who are offering information because they don't know whether that's a bona fide traitor or an FBI agent," Webster said.

Webster's statement apparently is at odds with author John Barron, who testified earlier in Miller's trial that the FBI would never use one of its own agents to infiltrate the KGB.

Barron, who wrote "KGB Today — The Hidden Hand," testified that the FBI avoided using infiltrators because, if discovered, the agent could release vital information during interrogation.

The subpoena had apparently not yet been served on Webster, as no government motion had been filed to quash it.

In earlier testimony, an FBI supervisor testified that Miller's boss asked him to "consider the moral and spiritual consequences" of committing espionage against the United States.

During five days in which agents questioned Miller, fired him and searched his home one year ago, Miller had several office meetings with Richard Bretzing, special agent in charge of the Los Angeles FBI office, said P. Bryce Christensen, Bretzing's assistant.

Christensen was called to the stand by defense attorneys to explore Miller's state of mind during the time he was under questioning for allegedly handing FBI documents over to Soviet KGB agents.

Miller, 48, is accused of passing the classified documents to Svetlana Ogorodnikov, a Soviet emigre who became his lover, in a deal for \$65,000 in cash and gold. If convicted he could face life imprisonment.

Mrs. Ogorodnikov and husband, Nikolay, pleaded guilty during the trial and are serving prison terms.

Under questioning by defense attorney Joel Levine, Christensen described a meeting that Miller had with Bretzing three days before his Oct. 2 arrest on espionage charges. The FBI had already questioned Miller for two days on whether he had indeed handed any documents to Ogorodnikov.

"Mr. Bretzing requested that Mr. Miller consider the moral and spiritual consequences of his actions," said Christensen, who like Miller and Bretzing is a member of the Mormon church.

Youth's last request honored by Marines

Associated Press

HARLINGEN — A 12-year-old who showed courage during three years of suffering with a brain tumor was buried Wednesday in a Marine Corps uniform — the boy's last request.

Benito Gonzales Jr. was buried in his hometown of Harlingen, but he had been in and out of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston since 1982 for nine operations and treatment for the malignant tumor.

The honor of wearing Marine dress blues normally is reserved

for active duty and retired Marines, but when marines at the Houston recruiting office heard of his dying wish, they took up the fight with Corps headquarters.

"It was tedious," said Staff Sgt. Mike Eck. "I made a lot of phone calls to Washington and a few other places.

"He was given the authority to wear the blues, the same blues we wear," he said.

Benito died Sunday at the hospital after being in a coma two months, said his aunt, Nora Torres of Harlingen.

Thailand questioning 400 coup suspects

Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Thirty-one people have been arrested for alleged involvement in an abortive coup attempt early this month, and police are investigating nine other suspects, a senior police source said Wednesday.

The failed power bid Sept. 9 left five people dead and about 60 others wounded. Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda appointed a commission two days later to investigate the incident.

The source, who asked not to be

identified, said about 400 people have already been questioned by the team, which is expected to conclude its investigation within 30 days.

The team, headed by police chief Gen. Narong Mahanond, last week arrested five former and current military officers as well as four prominent labor leaders and charged them with sedition, which is punishable by death.

Meanwhile, the surgeon who tried to save the life of an American television soundman, said he was struck by a small metal object.

British Airways selected as airline of the year by air travelers

Associated Press

LONDON — Regular air travelers voted British Airways the airline of the year, Executive Travel magazine said Wednesday, and described their woeful experiences on other carriers — such as being forced to run a race to qualify for seats on an overbooked flight.

In the article published Wednesday, one businessman described how Nigerian officials, after discovering a domestic Nigeria

Airways flight was overbooked three times, asked the passengers to run twice around the plane.

The fastest ones got the seats. A passenger on an aircraft preparing to leave Bangladesh on a flight to London wondered why the crew ignored the hammering from outside.

Eventually, the door was opened and the pilot climbed aboard, it said.

About 5,500 air travelers, mostly businessmen, who on average make 25 or more

flights a year, voted in the magazine's annual poll.

British Airways, the state-owned airline, which is expected to have its shares go on sale to the public next year, also won first place for the most helpful cabin staff, the best food and wine, and the best business class, the monthly said.

Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific was voted the second best airline, followed by Singapore Airlines and Swissair, the magazine said.

Singapore Airlines' stewardesses were considered the most beautiful and British Caledonian's the smartest, the poll showed.

The magazine said six voters claimed they had been victims of plane hijackings in the last year, 53 had endured engine failures or landing gear problems, and three said their planes had made crash landings.

One passenger said he had to dive for cover in Tehran when Iraqi warplanes bombed the airport, the magazine said. Cabin crews did not escape complaints,

the magazine said.

One British passenger claimed he was refused a glass of water while flying to Paris because he was seated in an economy-class section.

Another Briton expressed dismay when cabin staff instructed passengers in lifeline drill on an overland flight from the northwestern city of Manchester to London.

"I hate to say it but I think most of these episodes are true," the magazine's editor Mike Toynbee, told The Associated Press.

Shooters

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HAPPY HOUR

SAT.
11-8

SUN.
12-8

HAPPY HOUR

MON.-FRI.
4-8

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College Station

846-0085

The Mens Texas A&M Soccer Team hosted Rice University this past weekend. The match ended in a 0-0 tie. The Aggies will travel to Lubbock and Abilene this weekend to play Texas Tech and Abilene Christian University, respectfully. The fall schedule for remaining games is:

Date	Opponent	Time	Place
Sept 28	Texas Tech	11:00	Away
Sept 29	Abilene Christian	11:00	Away
Oct 5	Lamar	2:00	TAMU
Oct 13	Sam HoustonSt.	4:00	TAMU
Oct 19	Texas	2:00	TAMU
Oct 20	Stephen F. Austin	2:00	TAMU
Oct 26	Lamar	2:00	Away
Nov 1	Baylor	4:00	Away
Nov 3	Texas Christian	2:00	Away
Nov 9	Houston	2:00	Away
Nov 23	Houston	2:00	TAMU

Note: Location of home games will be announced in The Battalion the week prior to the scheduled game.