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State fair violence increases

Associated Press

DALLAS — Both attendance and revenues for the 18-day State Fair of Texas are expected to be up over the same period for last year, a spokeswoman for the fair said Monday.

But attendance and money were the only figures that increased. Violence at the fair was up.

The crime record included 22 assaults and two murders — the first homicides at the event since the late 1970s, according to fair officials.

Despite the well-publicized crime record, officials called the fair "very successful" and reported about 2.18 million attendance through Thursday.

Nancy Wiley, director of communications for the fair, said Monday complete attendance figures were available yet for the full 18 days.

The only estimates we are making at the moment is it looks like fair attendance and revenue will be up over last year's fair, which ran for 18 days instead of 18, she said.

This year's fair was marred by reports of violent attacks on fairgoers and workers.

On Oct. 6, just a few days after the fair opened, Donovan Goodman, 19, of Grand Prairie, was fatally stabbed. Violence continued on the last weekend of the fair when a ride operator was fatally shot during an argument with a man who wanted a ride, police said.

Tim Lloyd Johnson, 28, of Brunswick, Maine, was shot in the chest Saturday at the Looping Star ride, police said. A South Texas man being held Monday in connection with the slaying.

A rash of assaults also were reported earlier in the fair's run, including the rape of a 10-year-old boy in a livestock barn.



Photo by BILL HUGHES

Pinocchio?... No It's Cyrano!

Megan Gallagher (left) played Roxane, who is passionately loved by Cyrano de Bergerac, played by John Cullum. Rain delayed the show for about an

hour, but those who waited for the award-winning Cyrano de Bergerac were well entertained. See story Page 4.

Group seeks litter education

Brazos Beautiful keeps B-CS 'godly'

By TONY CORNETT
Reporter

Cleanliness is truly next to godliness, then Brazos Beautiful Inc. — Brazos County's answer to Keep America Beautiful — is out to make Brazos County Station two of the cleanest cities in the state.

Based on the latest test results, Brazos County residents are being religion at a rate that would make any evangelist envious.

Those results show that the cities of Brazos County Station are cleaner than they were three years ago.

"We're really excited at Brazos Beautiful," says Dorothy Miller, a Brazos Beautiful board member.

"We've just completed our semi-annual photometric index and the thing that we've come up with is that the cities of Bryan and College Station are 61 percent cleaner than when our first photometric index was taken three years ago."

The photometric index is a scientific method of computing how much litter exists in a given area.

"What we do," Miller says, "is take randomly selected spots and take photographs of (places like) street block phases, parking lots, rights of way and loading docks. Then we project those pictures on a screen, onto a grid, and then count the number of pieces of litter."

The results of that count are used

to compute the index.

Brazos Beautiful is the outgrowth of an organization started in 1979. The Beautify Brazos County Association became Brazos Beautiful in February 1983, when the association became affiliated with Keep America Beautiful, a national organization dedicated to keeping the United States litter-free.

The old association seemed to be on the right track but, Miller says, it finally came to some harsh realizations.

"We realized that we would clean up the county and it would get dirty again," Miller says. "We were picking up litter, but people were soon littering again. We realized that

picking up litter was not the answer."

Miller says education is the key to solving the littering problem.

"This doesn't happen just by accident," Miller says, referring to the improvement. "It happens as the result of an educational program called the Keep America Beautiful System which is designed to change the attitudes and behavior of people. We've learned through the years that litter is not the problem, but that littering is. It's actually the people who litter. And mostly it's thoughtless litter. We work through businesses, schools, governmental groups and community organiza-

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U.S., Egypt try to ease strain in relationship

Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — President Reagan's special envoy said a meeting Monday with President Hosni Mubarak was "a good first step" toward easing diplomatic tensions over Egypt's handling of the Achille Lauro hijackers and the U.S. interception of the plane carrying them out of Egypt.

John C. Whitehead, deputy secretary of state, told reporters he gave Mubarak a letter from Reagan that "expressed his continued commitment to close U.S.-Egyptian relations and his hope that we can now put our recent differences behind us."

He came to Egypt from Italy, whose coalition government collapsed over Prime Minister Bettino Craxi's decision to release Palestinian guerrilla leader Mohammed Abbas.

Mubarak had accused the United States of treachery for intercepting an Egyptian airliner on Oct. 10 and forcing it to land in Sicily, where the alleged hijackers were arrested and

charged with piracy and the murder of an American passenger aboard the cruise ship.

Whitehead left Cairo Monday afternoon. U.S. Embassy spokesman Edward Bernier would not comment on his destination, but air controllers at Cairo airport said Whitehead's pilot filed a flight plan for Tunis, Tunisia.

A visit to Tunis by Whitehead was expected to be aimed at smoothing diplomatic feathers ruffled by the Reagan administration's refusal to condemn Israel's Oct. 1 air raid on the Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters outside the Tunisian capital.

Mubarak charged in an interview broadcast Sunday night by CBS that Tunisia and the United States consulted about plans for the Egyptian plane's flight, making the interception possible. White House spokesman Larry Speakes denied Monday that there was any such consultation.

Whitehead said he assured Mubarak that the U.S. takeover of the Egyptian aircraft was "in no way directed against Egypt or its people."

Craxi expected to resurrect former Italian coalition

Associated Press

ROME — Bettino Craxi was asked to form a new government Monday, four days after he resigned as prime minister. Politicians expect him to try to resurrect the same coalition that fell apart over the Achille Lauro hijacking.

"I will immediately start work to resolve the political crisis, which does not lend itself to easy solutions," Craxi told reporters after President Francesco Cossiga named him premier-designate.

Politicians said Craxi would try to form a government with the same four parties that joined his Socialist in the former coalition — the Christian Democrats, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals.

Hopes for a solution to the latest of many government crises in post-war Italy boosted prices on the Milan Stock Exchange. Shares regained two-thirds of the 6 percent they lost after Craxi's resignation Thursday.

The success of Craxi's effort appeared to depend largely on his talks with Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini's Republican Party, which pre-

dictated the collapse by withdrawing its three ministers from the 26-month-old Cabinet.

Craxi's previous government was the 44th since World War II and in another month would have been the longest-lived.

Political sources said another five-party coalition headed by Craxi would be the most realistic way of obtaining a comfortable parliamentary majority and fending off Communist Party attempts to gain a foothold in the government.

Italy's Communist Party is the largest in the West and the second most powerful political force behind the Christian Democrats.

All previous partners but the Republicans have said they would join a new Craxi government. The Republicans have set conditions that include closer consultation during times of crisis and clear definition of foreign policy, particularly toward the United States and the Middle East.

The Republicans quit over the decision to release PLO official Mohammed Abbas.

Rural, urban students adapt in own ways

By TOM TAGLIABUE
Reporter

When Texas A&M students from both rural and large urban high schools are asked if they thought urban students had an academic and social edge over rural students, they answer an emphatic "yes."

Most students from large schools say they believe they adapted better to college because they had been exposed to more people and were used to the hustle and bustle of the college scene. Students from rural schools agree with the observation.

Education experts say they also believe rural students may be disadvantaged in rural education compared to urban education, or at least some inequalities. Few studies support the idea, but educators have made some observations from what they've seen.

William P. Kuvlesky, a Texas A&M sociologist who has studied rural youth, said both disadvantages and advantages exist in rural education.

It seems quite clear to me that, in the United States, rural youth of a given type are generally more alike than different from their urban counterparts in values, attitudes, life goals and mobility expecta-

"... I had never realized there were different people in the world (until I came to A&M)."
— sophomore Chris Kothman

tions," Kuvlesky wrote in his 1973 article "Rural Youth in the USA: Profile of an Ignored Minority."

"While rural youth may suffer disadvantages... certain aspects of their life experience as compared with urban youth might be considered advantageous — a greater frequency of interaction with family, an earlier and greater involvement in work roles and an opportunity to participate more or less freely in outdoor activity."

He added that some research indicates a difference between rural and urban youth in social behavioral patterns, cognitive skill development and normative roles. Rural and urban youth showed little differences in their basic values and aspirations. His study states that some rural youths put a high value on goals linked to achieving social mobility in education, jobs and income.

Dr. Garland E. Bayliss, director of academic services at A&M, says there may be some advantages in coming from a large town because large schools may help motivate students. However Bayliss points out that some small schools do a better job than some urban schools.

"I know students tell me coming from a smaller school they don't feel as prepared," Bayliss says. "I don't know whether it is reality or just excuses."

Most students, whether from rural or urban areas, usually are not prepared for the rigor and expectations of university level work, he says.

Those from small towns certainly will not have the same type of opportunities as those from a medium or large town, he says.

A&M sophomore Chris Kothman from Uvalde says she was less prepared for college than students from larger schools. She says she was shocked and intimidated by the different types of people she saw the first day of school.

"Being from a small town, there is just one sort of person," Kothman says, "and when I got here, there were 20,000 differ-

ent types of people who wore different clothes, talked different languages and did different things, and I never realized that there were different people in the world, per se."

When she first came to A&M, Kothman says she believed she was prepared for college, but later realized she was not prepared and had to make adjustments in her study habits.

Kothman says she made another realization — all high schools need computer

"I know students tell me coming from a smaller school (that) they don't feel as prepared."
— Dr. Garland E. Bayliss, director of academic services.

classes because they're important for a college education and a necessity in the real world. Kothman's high school is just now starting computer classes, but too late for her benefit.

While Uvalde is just getting into com-

puter education, Austin has offered it to students for several years.

Sophomore Keith Lukshin came from Austin, where his school had an abundance of computers. He says his exposure to computers helped him decide to major in computer science.

Lukshin, whose high school background included four years of math and two of computer math, says that being from a large city helped him adapt to college life.

"When I got here it seemed perfectly natural to go to college," he says. "I always thought of going to college and it's what I pictured it being."

Other students from large urban towns, such as Amy Couvillon of Houston, say being from a large city is a big advantage when dealing with people and bureaucracy.

"I had a better time adjusting to all the red-tape," Couvillon says. "You get used to dealing with people that are not going to listen to your story, they just want their form."

Junior Bruce Monroe, who spent two years in a rural Texas school, Blanket, says he agrees with Couvillon. His graduating

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