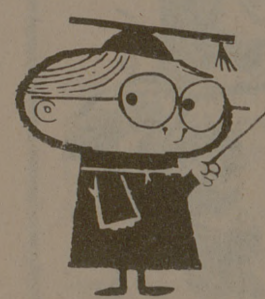


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Fraternity aids in community cleanup

By **CHRIS SIGURDSON**
Reporter

It was a dirty job and nobody had to do it.

On gray and dismal Saturday, 50 Texas A&M students trudged along two roads leading into Millican, a small spot on any map of south Brazos County.

The students, all members of Alpha Phi Omega, an A&M service fraternity, weaved back and forth through the grass and mud, impaling bits of litter along the farm-to-market roadways and dropping them into the black plastic garbage sacks they carried at their sides.

"It (the community) is improving all the time," said Tommy Lyons, president of the "Don't Mess with Millican" community cleanup campaign.

Dan Cox, APO vice president of projects, said the objective of the fraternity was to provide a worthwhile use of free time for its members and help people out at the same time.

But temperatures on Saturday didn't respect the student's good intentions.

Temperatures stayed buried in the low 40's and windchill from the 5-10 mph northeasterly winds dropped them closer to 28 degrees.

The students who picked up paper, stovepipes, beer bottles and cast-off car parts along FM 2154 and FM 159 were all volunteers, Lyons said.

According to Lyons, the students are an indispensable part of the small town's effort to beautify the area and create an interest in the area's appearance.

Mike Fulbright, the APO project chairman for the event and a mechanical engineering senior, said his group welcomes a chance to perform a worthwhile service, especially for a town as appreciative as Millican has been.

This is the third time the students have worked the roads around Millican, Fulbright said, and the people in the area have responded with free lunches, beverages and lots of thanks.

"We just casually come out and clean up the highway," Fulbright said.

Millican had heard about APO and contacted them, he said, and the co-ed service organization jumped at the chance.

"We're always looking for projects where we can use an unlimited number of members. Something like this is perfect because we can use everybody who shows up."

Fulbright said he was surprised that so many people would show up in the face of the miserable weather.

Split into about four groups numbering from four to 15, students clad in long underwear, bright-colored sweatshirts, mud-streaked ski jackets or puppydog earmuffs slowly made their trek down three miles on FM 159 and about the same distance on FM 2154 north towards Wellborn and College Station.

Sustained by members running back and forth and dropping off snacks and drinks from a little red car, only one shortage was moaned by a couple of workers.

"There wasn't any hot chocolate," Lyons said.

Others said they would have been dressed warmer but the weather on Friday had fooled them.

The students worked until 3 p.m., Lyons said, despite the slight, erratic drizzle.

Lyons said the volunteer effort was vital to "Don't Mess with Millican" because the community is competing for a \$20,000 award from Texas Beautiful, Inc. The money is to be used for highway landscaping projects and an existing, ongoing cleanup effort is part of the criteria.

Residents of Millican and workers from the Brazos County Jail worked the roadways, Lyons said.

According to the Millican residents, the total of the day was 132 bags of trash and four dumpsters full of articles such as hot water heaters, car batteries, fenders, stove pipes. About 11 miles of ditches were picked clean.

Work hours on the project are required for prospective members and the cleanup campaign is a good way for them to earn a few hours and meet a large number of active members, Lyons said.

About 15 prospects or more had shown up Saturday, he said.

Singer mixes Christianity and pop rock

By **SAM BUCHMEYER**
Reporter

Dan Peek proved Friday night that it's possible to mix Christianity with a little rock'n'roll.

In a concert that lasted just over an hour, Peek, a former member of America, managed to intertwine his Christian message with his popular secular hits. Peek also breathed new life into several old America classics as well as presenting some of his new material.

Peek was met with warm approval to his opening song "Ventura Highway," a song that dates back to 1972. It was that year that Peek, along with Dewey Bunnell and Gerry Beckley, gained his first success with America.

Peek left the band in 1978 to pursue a solo career in contemporary Christian music. During his show, he recounted an experience that explains his change to Christian music. He said before America became famous, he prayed that if the band could see success he would someday try to live his life for the Lord. Soon after, America had its first giant hit with "Horse With No Name."

Peek's performance was energetic. Backed only by his brother on guitar and a keyboard player, Peek showed a vitality that his former partners couldn't recapture after his departure.

So why isn't Peek more widely known? It may have something to do with the definite separations of pop music and contemporary Christian

music. In a newspaper interview, Peek said that the lines between the various genres of music are beginning to blur. This was apparent throughout Peek's show.

Peek performed several classics including "I Need You" and "Lonely People," as well as songs from his latest album, "Doer of the Word." Peek's performance was marked with catchy tunes and small injections of his personal religious beliefs.

Peek's appeal comes not only from his music but also his ability to convey his messages without being overbearing.

The show was opened by the Graf Brothers, an acoustic duo that performed several humorous songs as well as an interesting cover of the Beatles' "Come Together."

El Paso officials upset by survey

Associated Press

EL PASO — City officials have criticized a survey that rates El Paso among the worst of the nation's cities in terms of crowding, poverty and water availability and quality.

The "Urban Stress Test" by the Zero Population Growth ranked 184 U.S. cities — 17 in Texas — with populations of 100,000 or more by the amount of social, economic and environmental pressures on population.

El Paso scored an overall 3.9 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the worst.

Survey spokeswoman Nancy Debevoise said she wasn't surprised by the reaction and noted that many

communities have complained about the survey's results and in some cities, officials have threatened to sue.

"The idea of the survey was to hold public officials accountable for the results of city growth and planning," she said. "We wanted to be able to show people in a graphic way that there is a population problem."

Zero Population Growth, whose report was issued last month, advocates a stable population growth and restoring a balance between people, resources and the environment, Debevoise said.

Other Texas cities and their rankings were Houston 3.9, Pasadena 3.5, Odessa 3.3, San Antonio 3.4, Abilene 2.6, Amarillo 2.5, Arlington

2.4, Austin 2.5, Beaumont 2.8, Corpus Christi 3.6, Dallas 3.2, Fort Worth 3.4, Garland 2.8, Irving 2.7, Lubbock 2.6 and Waco 3.2.

El Paso's best ranking came in the hazardous waste site category, with a score of 1. But it registered a 5 in crowding, poverty and water availability and quality.

It scored a 4 in population change, education, economy, birth-rate, air quality and sewage treatment capacity. In the violent crime category, El Paso ranked a 3.

John Hickerson, Public Service Board director, said when it comes to water, El Paso is better off than most cities in the Southwest and California.

Final jury selection today in Chagra re-trial

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Final jury selection was scheduled today in the re-trial of Elizabeth Chagra, charged with conspiracy in the 1979 killing of U.S. District Judge John Wood.

Testimony was to begin late today or Tuesday. U.S. District Judge William Sessions has estimated the trial will take two to four weeks. About 150 prospective jurors were interviewed for three days last week by Sessions and attorneys.

One of the early witnesses is expected to be Joe Chagra, a former El

Paso lawyer now serving a 15-year sentence for conspiracy to commit murder. He testified for the Justice Department in the first trial of Chagra on a similar conspiracy charge.

Chagra was convicted in 1982 of conspiracy. Wood was shot in the back with a high-powered rifle as he left his San Antonio condominium to go to work.

Wood was known as "Maximum John" because of the stiff sentences given drug dealers, had been scheduled to preside in the government's drug case against Chagra's husband,

Jimmy Chagra, a high stakes gambler and accused narcotics smuggler.

Elizabeth Chagra was convicted in the 1982 trial of conspiracy but the verdict was overturned by the 5th Circuit Court in New Orleans on the grounds that the San Antonio jury had been given improper instructions by Sessions.

At the San Antonio trial, testimony indicated Jimmy Chagra was afraid he would be sentenced to life in prison and he, with the aid of others, hired Charles Harrelson to kill the judge.

Boy can't be tried in shooting authorities

Associated Press

EARLY — Although a 10-year-old boy has confessed to the shooting of another youth, authorities say they cannot take criminal action against him because of a state law barring prosecution of those under the age of 10.

The shooting death of Jacob Perkins, 12, took place Thursday near a gravel pit about two miles north of this Central Texas town. The boy who admitted to the shooting turned 10 Sunday, authorities said.

Brown County Deputy Val Posey said the statements and other evidence will be turned over to the Department of Human Resources, which could place the youth in juvenile custody. The boy has been released to his mother.

B. J. McCullough, special education coordinator for the East school district, said school officials plan to talk to the child's mother and suggest that he return to school.

The shooting took place about 5 p.m. Thursday after Perkins left his grandparents' house to hunt with his grandfather's .22-caliber rifle. Near the gravel pit, he began fighting with another youth — the brother of the 10-year-old, Posey said.

"Then (the 10-year-old) picked up this gun and shot him trying to stop the fight or protect his brother or whatever," Posey told the Dallas Times Herald.

The brothers apparently told their mother they had found Perkins on the ground, covered with blood, investigators said.

Deputies did not suspect the shooting was deliberate and school officials reported Perkins and a teacher that he'd shot Perkins, Posey said. The youth confessed, he said.

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