

# Recreation class saves family after canoe sinks

By John H. Neill  
Reporter

Eleven A&M students rescued a family of four from the upper Guadalupe River last weekend after the family's rental canoe capsized in the Rock Pile Rapids.

The students, fulfilling a requirement for an outdoor recreation class, were canoeing near New Braunfels when they were forced to use the rescue techniques that they learned in Dr. Mickey Little's class, said Gordon Hiebert, a senior from Ft. Worth.

According to Hiebert, the A&M students had passed through the rapids, above Canyon Dam, in front of the family. Fortunately, the A&M's sixth and last group of canoeers looked back to see if the family had made it through safely and realized the family's canoe had capsized, Hiebert said.

Linda Marak, a junior recreation and parks major from Houston, said the river was 30 feet to 40 feet wide and the water level was low, causing more rocks to stick out of the water. That made the rapids more dangerous.

Marak said when the canoe hit the rocks, the family had their center of gravity too high and leaned upstream instead of leaning over the rocks. This caused the canoe to fill with water and turn over, she said. "They (the family) didn't handle the rapids correctly," she said.

Hiebert, an industrial engineering major, said the family swam through the rapids to calm water. Two of the swimmers continued to the bank while the other two climbed into an A&M canoe and were carried to safety.

After getting the family to the bank of the river, the students used the Z-drag technique, a technique which doubles the pulling strength, to pull the damaged canoe to shore.

A rope was tied to a tree on the bank and another was connected to a pulley. Two ropes were latched to the canoe and the students, along with two other canoeers who stopped



Photo by Gordon Hiebert

David Peyton, junior wildlife and fisheries major, drags a canoe from the Guadalupe River after he and some other students rescued a family who had capsized last weekend.

to help, pulled the canoe from the rock it was wrapped around, Marak said.

These rescue techniques were learned from Little, a professor in the Health and Physical Education Department.

"I was quite pleased with their ability and the way they handled the situation," Little said. "My students really jumped to the cause... everybody helped in the process."

Marak said the family had not planned for an accident, therefore, they did not have any dry clothes or food. She said the children were very cold and frightened.

The students gave the children some food and two of their dry shirts for warmth.

After getting the family to the river's edge, the Aggies went downstream to get first aid equipment, Hiebert said.

The woman had scraped her knee on some rocks, but there were no se-

rious injuries, he said.

"It makes you feel good to be somebody," Marak said. "Hopefully they (the family) will do a little search to find out more about canoeing before the next time they go."

Little supported the idea of canoeing only with proper experience. "The people who owned the canoe followed the family down the river because they (the owners) were uneasy about the family's safety," Little said.

Marak said the woman and children walked around the rapids the rest of the trip.

Hiebert said, "It's kind of neat because we learned these canoeing techniques in class and we got to apply them in a real situation. It's fortunate that we were there."

Little said, "It makes me proud to see my students apply things I learned in my class. They were per-

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## Coverage by press causes transfer of trial from Houston

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A Tennessee man accused of soliciting contract killings through Soldier of Fortune magazine has been transferred to Brownsville for trial after intense publicity drove his case from a Houston federal court.

Richard Michael Savage, 39, was moved into the Cameron County Jail on Monday, according to jail records.

Gary Cobe, the assistant U.S. attorney in Houston who will prosecute Savage, declined comment Wednesday on the case.

Savage is set to face trial in Brownsville Monday on charges that he arranged a grenade attack on a Pasadena house at the behest of a terminally ill widow.

Alice V. Brado, 48, allegedly hired Savage through a Soldier of Fortune advertisement to kill former Pasadena resident Dana Free. Savage had been scheduled for trial earlier this month in Houston until U.S. District Judge James DeAnda ruled Savage could not get a fair trial in Houston after a federal jury there on March 3 levied a \$9.4 million judgment against Soldier of Fortune in an unrelated civil case.

A federal jury, in that case, found the magazine negligent when it published a classified advertisement that led to the slaying of a Bryan woman. Savage was not implicated in that killing.

All but five of 66 potential jurors called for Savage's trial said they read news accounts of the civil lawsuit against the magazine, prompting DeAnda to grant a change of venue in the criminal case.

Savage was indicted in October 1986 along with several others in

connection with a murder-for-hire scheme reportedly initiated by Brado of Aurora, Colo.

Brado allegedly hired Savage through an ad in the magazine to arrange the death of Free, whom she said absconded with her \$300,000 life savings.

She later pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the scheme and told investigators she wanted to collect a \$300,000 life insurance policy she said Free had taken out as a guarantee he would invest her savings.

Brado later died of emphysema in a Kentucky prison while serving a five-year term in the case.

The indictment stated that Brado paid Savage \$20,000 to arrange Free's murder, to have been carried out by William Clayton Buckley, 36, and Sherry Lynn Breeden, 22, both of Knoxville, Tenn.

The pair allegedly tried to bomb Free's car in Atlanta during June 1985, but Free escaped and fled to Pasadena. On Oct. 12, 1985, two grenades were thrown through his living room window, but no one was injured in the attack.

Buckley and Ward C. Lambeth, a 61-year-old co-defendant, also have pleaded guilty to charges in connection with the grenade attack.

Meanwhile, Savage is serving a 40-year prison term in Florida for arranging the 1985 beating death of former West Palm Beach Assistant City Manager Anita Spearman. The attack also was arranged through an advertisement in Soldier of Fortune, the Brownsville Herald reported Wednesday.

Spearman's husband, Robert Spearman, is serving a life term for soliciting his wife's murder.

## Officials fired after vehicles not delivered

DALLAS (AP) — Two Dallas Fire Department supervisors have been fired as an investigation continues into reports that the city paid more than \$220,000 for ambulances that were never delivered.

Karl Henry, 41, and James Schaefer, 56, who supervised the department's maintenance facility, were fired for helping authorize payments to Select Ambulance Inc. for five ambulances that were not delivered, officials said Tuesday.

Two other employees were placed on administrative leave while investigations by the city auditor and Dallas County district attorney continue.

None of the four have been charged with criminal wrongdoing, but the district attorney's investigation could result in criminal charges against them and Select Ambulance owner Otto Beck.

The company allegedly failed to deliver two refurbished Fire Department ambulances for which the city paid \$88,000 and three new ambulances for which the city paid \$134,913.

Schaefer and Henry were fired for breaking city and fire department rules of conduct, Assistant Fire Chief J.L. Hatcher said.

Fire Chief Dodd Miller, in letters of dismissal, accused the pair of breaking numerous rules of conduct, including indifference toward work, dishonesty, disregard of public trust and violation of interest guidelines.

Henry was with the fire department for 16 years and Schaefer was there for nine years.

The city employees have been accused of cooperating with Beck, who allegedly received payment for the five ambulances.

## Teen accused of stealing Einstein notes

AUSTIN (AP) — An arrest warrant was issued Wednesday for a man identified as former University of Texas football coach Darrell Royal's grandson after a missing page of Albert Einstein's notes was found at the teen-ager's home.

An investigator said the page of handwritten notes, owned by the university, was found Tuesday in a photo album in Samuel K. Royal's west Austin residence.

Royal, 18, had not been arrested by 6 p.m. Wednesday, UT police Lt. Roland Thomas said.

The page was reported missing last week from a locked glass display case in the Peter T. Flawn Academic Center on the university campus. Six pages were on display from a series addressing Euclidean rotation.

Investigators from the district attorney's office and the UT police department recovered the manuscript late Tuesday evening, District Attorney Ronald Earle said. The investigators searched the duplex on a tip provided by Crime Stoppers, he said.

UT Police Sgt. Jimmy Moore said in an affidavit for a search warrant that he met with Mack Royal, who identified himself as Darrell Royal's son, Friday. Mack Royal said his son was Sam Royal, Moore said.

The arrest warrant was issued for felony theft.

The missing page is part of an archive of 600 pages "upon which Einstein wrote the notes representing his thinking as he was trying to work out his theories near the end of his life," said John Chalmers, director for UT's Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.

The university has owned the papers for 25 years. Einstein apparently wrote the notes in the early 1930s. It appears that the manuscript taken from the display suffered minor damage before it was recovered, Chalmers said.

The display case was locked and the glass shattered when the theft was discovered. It is unclear whether the person who took the document had a key to the case or was able to remove the document in some other way, Chalmers said.

"For all of us, it's a piece of our heritage, and it has to be replaced. In that sense, it has no price," Chalmers said.