

State and Local

Every participant wins at Youth Fun Day

By Natalie Hedblom
Reporter

As the "Marine Hymn" played in Texas A&M's Kyle Field Saturday, approximately 200 third, fourth and fifth-graders marched onto the field for the opening ceremony of Youth Fun Day III, an afternoon filled with various field events.

In the event, sponsored by A&M's Student Y, the children were divided into four teams: radical red rockers, purple penguins, aqua alligators and pink panthers.

Each team had an original team yell that they chanted throughout the day to show their team's spirit.

All four teams had counselors who were A&M students. The counselors assisted the children and cheered them through the day.

Paula Malone, a mother watching her third-grade son, said she thought the Youth Fun Day staff had come up with some neat ideas.

"The kids really seem to be enjoying themselves and it doesn't even matter if they are winning or losing," Malone said. "I have never seen any games like these."

The events were Dizzy Lizzy, Balloon Relay, Cotton Bowl Relay, Spoon Relay and Dress-up Relay.

Talyn Koite, a third-grader at Sam Houston Elementary School and a member of the aqua alligators, said her favorite event was the dress-up game.

Some fifth-graders from Lamar Elementary School said the Dress-up Relay was their favorite game of the day also.

The games were under the direction of David Mendoza, a senior computer science major from Beaumont.

Mendoza served as sub-chairman last year for Youth Fun Day and this year had the role of chairman.

"I have two younger sisters and I love children and enjoy working with them," Mendoza said.

Mendoza felt "Kids' Day Out," this year's theme of Youth Fun Day, went very well.

"The kids had a good time as well as the counselors," he said. "That in itself made it successful."

He also felt this year's Youth Fun Day was more publicized, which helped in its success.

Student Y sponsored Youth Fun Day with the help of McDonalds, Coca-Cola and First City National Bank in Bryan.

The day ended with a closing ceremony, when Mendoza taught the children and their parents the popular "Freeze" dance well-known to many A&M students. After the dance, ribbons were awarded to each child in the first, second, third and fourth place teams. Every child was a winner at Kids' Day Out.



The Radical Red Rockers, a team of third, fourth and fifth-graders participating in Youth Fun Day,

runs onto Kyle Field during the opening ceremonies Saturday.

Photo by Lisa Roe

Police chief denies blocking investigation

HOUSTON (AP) — Police Chief Lee P. Brown denies that he has interfered in the investigation into alleged criminal activity by members of a now-disbanded officers' tactical unit.

Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes Jr. and some of his senior assistants, however, are angry at what they consider interference by top police officials in the investigation of the Southeast Tactical Response Unit, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Sunday.

Among the accusations aimed at Brown and his senior staff are that members of the disbanded narcotics unit were tipped off they would be targets of an internal investigation before the inquiry was begun.

Michael "Jamaica Mike" Grant, the informant whose tips led to the investigation, said one targeted officer "told me exact things I had told (internal affairs investigators)."

The *Chronicle* reported that a source in the district attorney's office accused Brown or his staff of hindering the investigation by bogging down investigators with paperwork.

Letters urging ban on 'dial-a-porn' flood PUC

AUSTIN (AP) — Never have so many letters — and prayers — been offered up for the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Some of them quoting from Scripture and offering prayers for guidance, more than 20,000 Texans have written letters urging the three-member panel to ban controversial 976 services, including so-called "dial-a-porn" numbers.

"To be telling our children and grandchildren to just say no to drugs and alcohol, then making this type of material readily available — it is simply not right," Mary Brumley of Lufkin wrote. "These messages are, in reality, another type of drug. Let's say 'no' to this, also."

On Tuesday, the PUC will consider a rule that would ban all 976 services or allow telephone customers to call by subscription only.

Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. has suggested an alternative: limiting 976 numbers to "honest entrepreneurs" who provide non-controversial programming and moving objectionable calls to a different prefix on a subscription-only basis.

The 976 service allows a phone customer to call a number — beginning with the prefix 976 — and listen to a recorded message for a fee. The messages generally feature adult entertainment, jokes, prayers, sports information or news.

Opponents want an outright ban on the service.

"Do Texans really want to let someone try to make money by destroying the moral fiber of our society?" wrote Burton Moncrief of Waco. "Should someone be given the freedom to profit by luring the children of this

state down a path of personal decay? I say no!"

PUC spokesman Bill Dunn said the 976 issue has generated more public outcry than even the most controversial of rate cases handled by the regulatory commission.

"It's a different kind of issue for us," Dunn told the *Dallas Morning News*. "It's way beyond 'are the rates too high?' It's real unusual that we get an issue that goes beyond dollars and cents and cuts into the social fabric."

The PUC postponed action on a 976 ban after a February public hearing. At that hearing, representatives of the Texas Parent-Teachers' Association and several church groups urged an end to the telephone information industry.

Meanwhile, sponsors of sports information lines, time-and-temperature numbers and

fledgling soap opera-information services pleaded not to be put out of business.

The PUC will consider two ways of handling public discontent over the services, Dunn said.

"The bottom line is we've got two proposals — an outright ban on 976 or a plan to restructure 976 services to allow subscription only," he said.

Southwestern Bell spokesman Dave Lopez said the company has tried to deal with public concern over message services such as "dial-a-porn" by offering free blocking to customers who do not want 976 numbers called from their phones.

In addition, the long-distance telephone companies AT&T, MCI and U.S. Sprint have provided "blocking" of long-distance 976 calls between Texas cities, Dunn said.

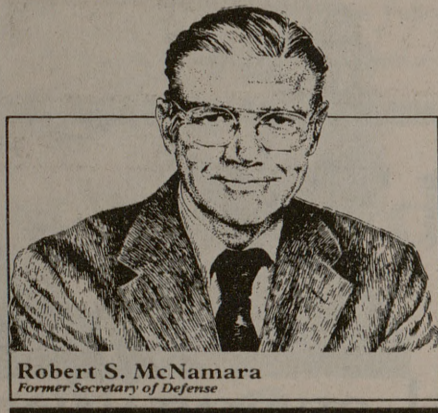
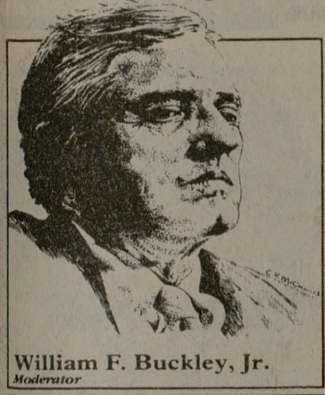
Student Y reschedules charity event

The community service project, "Hands Across A&M," was canceled Sunday because of poor weather conditions. The event, sponsored by the Texas A&M Student Y Association and radio station KKYS-FM, was rescheduled for Sunday beginning at 1:30 p.m. Participants will meet at the Academic Building.

Dave Mendoza, a senior computer science major from Beaumont and public relations chairman for "Hands," said the event was inspired by the national event, "Hands Across America."

All proceeds from the event will go to the Brazos Food Bank.

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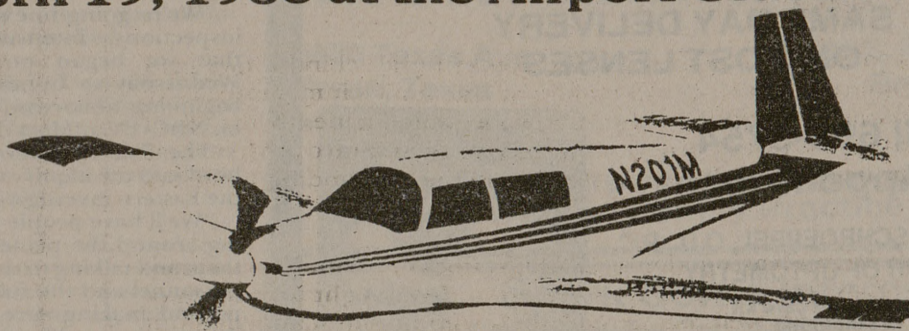
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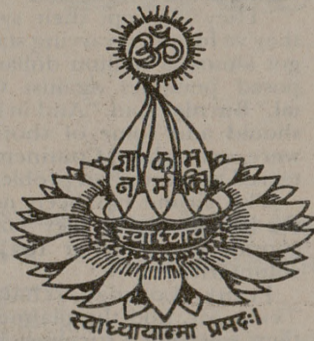


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