

# Square dancers can go to school to learn dance

BEAUMONT, (AP) — Absent from this square dance are the petticoats that swish and turn on the allemande-lefts and the do-si-dos.

T-shirts and shorts take the place of the western-cut vests, bright bandanas and bolo ties of normal square-dance fashion.

Occasionally the dancers will pause when the caller does to mop sweat from their faces and necks with handkerchiefs already wet from perspiration.

The dancers may be tired and hot, but they dare not sit out from a dance. Instead, they clap their hands and tap their feet to the beat, whether they feel like it or not.

These people are working — and learning.

As students of the only formal square-dance calling school in Texas, they and their partners arrive at CJ's Square Dance Boutique off Interstate 10 East each Sunday afternoon fully prepared for a four-hour workout.

And they get it. Wayne Morvant, a federal game warden by day and a square-dance caller by night and weekend, makes sure his 10 students get their money's worth during the 20-week course, because his reputation as a caller rests on it.

The students must know the steps to call them. And that's why they go through the same movements week after week, though the summer heat sweltering inside the rear of the building, which has yet to get air conditioning, sends them running to the water cooler more than once each Sunday afternoon.

"Bend the line, up through the middle and turn the girl," Wayne half-sings, half-says, stopping the record to say, "OK, now what's wrong here? Are they really out of sequence? No, I've got the right men over here. They just don't have their partners with them."



## Blowin' in

Dale Cuthbertson enters Burger Boy in Bryan Friday. The windows were boarded up in anticipation of Hurricane Gilbert. The owners

decided to take precautions against the storm, as did several other local businesses.

Photo by Jay Janner

# Man flees Nicaraguan hostility; applies for asylum in U.S.

HARLINGEN (AP) — Elias Vega did not want to fight for the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, so he fled the country with his wife and two daughters when it looked like he was about to be drafted.

After a difficult journey through Guatemala and Mexico, the family ended up in South Texas, a popular transit point for Central Americans looking for a new life in the United States.

Since mid-May, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has seen a 10-fold increase in Central Americans who walk into the agency's Harlingen District office to apply for political asylum, according to INS records.

On Sept. 6, a Tuesday, the INS saw more than 400 asylum applica-

tions submitted by Central Americans in its Harlingen office, said INS spokesman Virginia Kice.

"Prior to mid-May, it was unusual for us to have more than 100 in a single week," Kice said.

Vega, like many others, said he cannot return home, and has applied for asylum.

"There are strong repressions against those who left Nicaragua," he said in Spanish, while at the Catholic Church-operated Casa Oscar Romero shelter for Central Americans on the outskirts of Brownsville. "They would throw me in jail."

Obdulio, a farmer from Progreso, Honduras, said he also cannot return. The 22-year-old man, who asked that his last name not be used, said he found himself in trouble with

the Honduran government for being part of an agricultural cooperative some farmers formed on abandoned land.

"They (soldiers) went to my house once to look for me," Obdulio said. "It was obvious they came to capture me."

Obdulio, who was at Proyecto Libertad, a legal office in Harlingen that offers help for Central American refugees, said he thinks he would have been killed in Honduras, and has applied for asylum in the United States.

The week ending Sept. 9, the INS Harlingen District took in 931 asylum applications from Central Americans, and received 999 applications the week before. Since mid-May, the INS has seen more than

10,000 Central Americans' asylum applications in the office covering the southern tip of Texas.

"This does not include any of the people who are apprehended," Kice said. "These are people who have crossed (the border) undetected and have made it to our office."

Fifty-seven percent of those asylum applicants were from Nicaragua, with El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala accounting for the rest, according to the INS.

The U.S. Border patrol also reports an increase in the number of Central Americans apprehended in South Texas — 755 in August of this year compared to 516 in August 1987.

Harlingen is about 10 miles from the Mexican border. Many Central

Americans pass through the Lower Rio Grande Valley en route to other parts of the United States because the southern part of Texas provides the shortest land trip, said George Somerville, deputy director of the INS' Harlingen District.

Thelma Garcia, a Harlingen-based immigration attorney, said the high percentage of Nicaraguans seeking asylum is due to the U.S. government's tendency to consider people from the Marxist-ruled nation to be subject to political persecution.

"Nicaraguans usually get preferential treatment in asylum cases," she said.

Garcia, however, said she has heard of more cases of political violence in other Central American na-

tions. "One of the stronger points is that the death squads are on the rise in El Salvador," Garcia said.

Somerville said he thinks most Central Americans are here to better themselves economically.

"That's what they're telling us... that things are tough down there and it's hard to make it," Somerville said. "Certainly if somebody is from Central America where strife is going on, if they can show they would be persecuted for their political beliefs, or have been persecuted, they will have a good case."

Most of the Central Americans are headed for areas more prosperous than the Lower Rio Grande Valley, government officials and refugee advocates said.

Off Campus  
AGGIES



## SECOND GENERAL MEETING

RUDDER ROOM 701  
TUESDAY 8:30

COMING UP:

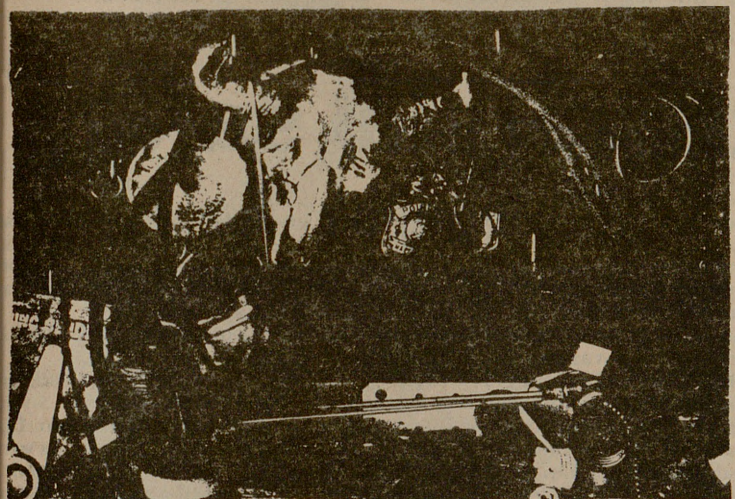
FISH WEEK ACTIVITIES

MIDNIGHT BOWLING  
FISH NIGHT AT THE CHICKEN



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Some women think they need to take an occasional rest from the Pill. So they switch to a less effective form of birth control, and increase their chances of getting pregnant. Just how restful this can be is highly questionable. What is certain, however, is that there's no medical evidence that supports this notion of taking a break. None.

There are other myths, misconceptions and questions about the Pill. What about the Pill and breast cancer? Although there are conflicting reports concerning this issue, the Centers for Disease Control reported that women who took the Pill—even for 15 years—ran no higher risk of breast cancer than the women who didn't. They also reported that ovarian and uterine cancer are substantially less common among women on the Pill. What's more, Pill users are less likely to develop pelvic inflammatory disease (tubal infections), benign breast disease, and iron deficiency anemia—not to mention menstrual cramps.

And the rumor that the Pill makes you less fertile is just that. Rumor. Studies indicate that if you were fertile before you took the Pill, taking it should not affect your ability to have children later. Some women

may experience a short period of readjustment after discontinuing the Pill. But even so, they usually become pregnant soon.

So does the Pill have any real risks? Yes. And you should know what those risks are. For example, if you are taking the Pill, you should not smoke. Especially if you're over 35. Cigarette smoking is known to increase the risk of serious and possibly life-threatening adverse effects on the heart and blood vessels from Pill use. What's more, women with certain conditions or medical histories should not use the Pill. Even if you're already on the Pill, you should see your doctor at least once a year. And be sure to read the patient information that's included in every Pill package.

When it comes to birth control, the best advice is to seek out the best advice. Go to reliable sources. Ask a lot of questions. Discuss all the options with your doctor.

Because only then will you know where the myth ends. And the truth begins.

# SHOULD YOU TAKE A BREAK FROM THE PILL?