



Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

Aggieland photographer Phelan Ebenhack photographs Neeley Hall's dorm council in the rotunda of the Academic Building Thursday.

Construction mishap near Pavilion causes gas leak, building evacuation

By Richard Tijerina
Staff Writer

The Pavilion was evacuated Thursday afternoon after a gas leak caused by a construction accident. The building was closed for half an hour while Grounds Maintenance and Lone Star Gas crews worked to repair the damage.

The leak began when a worker from Co Ad, an independent contractor hired by the University to replace several pipes on campus, inadvertently drilled into the gas pipeline.

The escaping natural gas accumulated and seeped into the building, rising to the second floor.

Dean Coffer, a construction worker, said he stopped his tractor immediately after hitting the pipeline. Workers then began evacuating the building.

However, Jamie Sneed, a worker for Lone Star Gas, said no real danger existed, because the natural gas flowing was not pure enough to be flammable.

"It wouldn't matter," Sneed said. "The gas mixture's got to be just right. The mixture in here is something like 10 percent gas and ninety-six percent nitrogen. The mixture would have to be just right for it to explode. It's just like a bomb. The gas has to be either too rich or too lean."

Pinochet to rule Chile until 1990

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A stern Chilean. Augusto Pinochet told the nation of Chile Thursday he will remain as president until his term runs out in 1990, as police fired water cannons and tear gas to crowds celebrating his defeat in a referendum on extending his rule to 1997.

"Every man and woman of this country can be absolutely sure we will carry out completely the itinerary foreseen in the constitution," Pinochet said in a speech broadcast nationwide.

It was his first public declaration since resounding loss in Wednesday's referendum.

"I recognize and accept the majority verdict expressed yesterday by the citizenry," he declared.

Pinochet also warned opposition leaders not to misinterpret the vote as a mandate for them, or a rejection of an 8-year-old constitution that called for the referendum. The referendum also provides for Pinochet if defeated — as he was — to remain in office until March 1990, when the winner of an open election planned for late 1989 will assume power.

"No one can feel they have the mandate of the people to twist what the people decided," he said. The constitution, drafted by his administration, was passed in a loosely organized 1980 referendum that opposition leaders said was rife with voter fraud.

Thousands of jubilant foes of Pinochet chanted "He has fallen!" and marched in confetti-strewn streets to celebrate their ballot-box victory over the military ruler.

Building Proctor Willis Ritchey said he was concerned about the leak because the broken line led to the Pavilion's kitchen and snack bar. He said, however, that the leak was not inherently dangerous and that it caused only a minor inconvenience.

"The gas all just seeped in from the west end door," he said. "Gas just rises. You could really smell it on the second floor, but on the first floor you could hardly smell it at all."

No one was available to explain why the construction workers were drilling over the pipe. Lone Star Gas Construction and Maintenance Supervisor Joe Merka said Lone Star Gas is responsible

only for the line leading up to the meter and that the broken pipe leads from the meter to the building.

Eugene Ray, Grounds Maintenance director, said that apparently no one knew the location of the gas line.

"The line went from the meter back to the building and no one apparently knew it was there," Ray said. "We go through a real rigorous process on sign building. We go through a checklist with University plumbers, the telephone company and so on."

"Occasionally a miss is going to happen because on this campus we don't know where things are. We should be able to very consistently tell what we have underground in the very near future. This is just one of those unfortunate things that happened that no one is really responsible for."

Ray said that the sign being replaced is directly above the broken gas line. However, the hole being drilled for the foundation of the new sign is deeper than the original hole.

Coffer said evacuating the building did not take long, but keeping students from going inside was a problem.

"They didn't care," he said. "I told one girl that the building was closed and she sat there and argued with me because she wanted to find out who was elected the Class of 1992 president."

Freshman will have run-off election for five student government positions

By Kelly S. Brown
Staff Writer

When results of Freshman Student Government elections were announced Thursday most candidates weren't surprised to hear that five positions would be decided in a run-off election — 49 candidates were running for six offices.

The class historian and ten senators were elected, but the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and social secretary will be decided in the Oct. 10 run-offs.

Of the 8,136 registered freshmen, 1,491 voted in the election.

Heather West was elected historian with 57 percent of the vote.

Fifty-six students ran for senator.

The ten elected are: Todd Fisk, Danny West, Dan Rooney, Greg Raab, Greg Couger, Torey Dangerfield, David Hawkins, Tony Resendez, Andrew Zeigler and Steven Weber.

Sixteen students ran for freshman president, but only two candidates remain after the preliminary vote.

Kim Nietenhoefer, a biomedical science major, and Trenton Kelley, a animal science major, are vying for the office.

Kelley said the initial competition was tough and that he is ready to campaign again.

Nietenhoefer said she has high hopes for the Class of '92, and that she will be able to devote a lot of time to the presi-

dent if elected.

Kelley said time will not be a problem for him either, if he is elected.

Running for vice-president are Shawn R. Roberts and Michael L. Bruno II.

Michael Pilgrim and Echo Phipett will meet in the run-offs for the position of class secretary, and Melissa Connelley and C.R. Cook will compete for the title of treasurer.

Rod Garrett and Lisa Mayer are vying for the position of social secretary.

Perry Liston, a junior business major and co-chairman of the election commission, said, "The turnout was excellent and we are very happy, but I hope the freshmen realize how important the run-offs will be next Monday."

Studying past key to better future

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

The key word at the 4th Symposium of the Texas A&M University System, held Thursday at Prairie View A&M, was change — change in minority populations in Texas, changes and advances in technology and changes in international markets.

The theme, "State and Global Challenges of the 1990s: How Should We Respond?," presented statistics, attitudes and suggestions for dealing with these changes through four guest speakers.

Dr. Amitai Etzioni, keynote speaker, stressed the importance of studying the past to look for solutions to the problems of the future.

"It's necessary to look at where someone has been as well as where he's projecting himself to discover his purpose and sense of identity. The same is true for society."

Etzioni, Thomas Henry Carroll Ford Foundation Professor at the Harvard Business School, said Texas needs to go through a 10- to 15-year diet of building up its resources for the future, beginning now by projecting itself toward improving primary and secondary education.

"Our society needs to be much more productive and prepared character-wise when they get to the college gate," Etzioni said.

State Representative Eddie Cavazos, the second

speaker, agreed.

"Those in first grade today will be graduating from high school in the year 2000," Cavazos said. But the problem lies with the changing demographics of the state.

"Thirty years from now, no ethnic group will claim a majority in the state of Texas," Cavazos said. "The expected growth of Hispanics, in particular, will have a definite impact. In 1985, 63 percent of Texans were Anglo. By 2000, the number will be decreased to 56 percent. Hispanics will have increased to 28 percent by that time."

The rising number of minorities in Texas is cause for concern because of the lack of role models for minority youth, he said.

"Only 35 percent of the Hispanic population have completed high school," Cavazos said. "Even worse, only 6 percent have finished four years of college. Adequate training of Hispanics today is essential. Our growing Hispanic population is ill-equipped to take over the burdens of the future."

Dr. Norman Hackerman, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Robert A. Welch Foundation and the third speaker, re-emphasized Cavazos' point by saying just how important technology will be in the near future.

"Advances in science come from demand," Hackerman said. "The system (which includes development, demonstration, marketing, and distribution,) requires talents and capabilities."

"Science is an important part of culture. It is greatly involved in the advancement of civilization; we simply cannot do without it."

Hackerman said change, such as the changes in demographics Cavazos mentioned, is the most constant thing in the universe.

"Ignorance leads to research and research leads to change," Hackerman said. "Customs, morals, ethics and even truth change."

The people of tomorrow must be prepared to face those changes.

Hackerman suggests society measure ignorance against the stockpile of knowledge, he said.

"The stockpile of knowledge is modest and growing," Hackerman said. "But the stockpile of ignorance is infinite."

Lee Hogan, president of the Houston Economic Development Council, said today's universities must produce students who are literate in a global sense.

"Texas is way, way behind the rest of the nation in internationalizing its education," Hogan said. "We need to find out how higher education can make better use of our resources and how we can better participate in international business. And we need to prepare a generation of people to handle this."

Hogan said tomorrow's society is increasingly dependent on intellectual resources.

Bush, Dukakis vie for support of Texas voters

Democrat Michael Dukakis criticized Dan Quayle in campaign rhetoric and commercials on Thursday, saying the Republican vice presidential candidate appeared "extremely insecure" in debate. George Bush praised his running mate's performance but quickly changed the subject to crime control.

Quayle shook off a poll suggesting Democrat Lloyd Bentsen beat him handily in their debate Wednesday night and said the Republicans are still ahead in the race for the White House. Most pre-debate surveys gave Bush a slight advantage over Dukakis with a little over a month remaining in the campaign.

Bentsen preferred an instant ABC poll rating him the debate winner by 51 percent to 27 percent.

"I was just delighted," the Texas senator said.

The highlight of the debate came as the 41-year-old Quayle said his experience in Congress compared favorably with John F. Kennedy's record at the time of the 1960 campaign.

"Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy," Bentsen shot back.

The Dukakis campaign rushed to air two television commercials questioning Quayle's qualifications.

One commercial showed pictures of Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson and Gerald Ford, all vice presidents who succeeded to the presidency without an election, while an announcer said Bush's pick of Quayle as running mate marked a "lapse of judgment."

Dukakis told reporters aboard his campaign jet en route to Texas the debate was a real plus for his campaign and called Quayle's performance "very disturbing."

"I thought he was programmed beyond belief... extremely insecure, this fellow," Dukakis said in Lone Star, Texas, where he campaigned together with Bentsen.

"He didn't have a sense of strength or control or anything... Thinking about Quayle being a heartbeat away from the presidency, to watch that, I think, is very, very troubling," Dukakis said.

Republicans from Ford to Ronald Reagan rallied to Quayle's cause as the Bush

organization appeared to be practicing damage control.

Bush aides conspicuously violated their rule about publicly discussing polls.

Campaign manager Lee Atwater said the vice president was ahead in Michigan and New Jersey, two key swing states. He predicted the vice president would carry Bentsen's home state of Texas by at least six points.

"This race is going to quickly get back to the two candidates for president," Atwater said. "There are two gladiators in the arena that are going to count in the end."

In Midland campaign signs distributed to children attending a Bush campaign rally said, "Dan's no JFK. Thank God."

Bush delivered his first speech of the day on crime without mention of his running mate or the debate. Instead, he ridiculed a Massachusetts prison furlough program by mimicking tough-guy actor Clint Eastwood's popular refrain "make my day."

"My opponent's answer is slightly different," Bush said. "His motto is: 'Go ahead, have a nice weekend.'"

He praised Quayle's performance as he warmed up for a morning jog, though, and later told a people at a rally in Midland "I think Dan Quayle did an outstanding job."

Reagan, coming to Quayle's defense, said Bentsen resorted to a "cheap shot... unbecoming a senator of the United States" with his much-quoted debate put-down of the GOP vice presidential candidate.

Bentsen disputed any suggestion of nastiness on his part.

"What happened there was Quayle kept comparing himself to Kennedy, and he overreached himself and I got fed up with it," the Texas senator told reporters.

However, Bentsen threw his jab after Quayle's one and only reference to Kennedy in the 90-minute debate.

One Democratic aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bentsen and his debate advisers had honed the remark in practice sessions.

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Redesign

The Battalion has adopted a redesign in an effort to better serve our readers and to improve the quality of our newspaper.

The redesign was originally a journalism project of former Battalion editor Sue Krenek. During Spring 1988, Krenek researched and compiled a design stylebook that, except for a few minor changes, set the format for the redesign.

The Fall 1988 Battalion editorial board decided to go ahead with the redesign after Krenek submitted her designs for its consideration during the summer.