



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
 Cloudy and sultry with a 60 percent chance of showers
 HIGH: 72 LOW: 60

Party sends safe message Friend remembers trip, Kilroy tragedy

By ANDY KEHOE
 Of The Battalion Staff

With spring break just around the corner, students may be prone to over-indulge in their partying.

Designed to promote a safe vacation, the Texas A&M National Drug Awareness Week Committee sponsored the all-university "Spring Break-Fest '90" party last night at the Memorial Student Center. The party, as fun as it may have been, had a rather serious message for students.

As part of National Collegiate Drug Awareness Week, the party emphasized responsible decision making and safe behavior during the University's vacation, which begins at the conclusion of classes on Friday and continues through March 18.

Spring Break-Fest '90 activities included music, dancing, stand-up comedy by Thursday Night Live's Jason Porter, door prizes and a presentation by A&M junior engineering major, Bill Huddleston.

Huddleston was the best friend of University of Texas student Mark Kilroy, who was one of the victims in the Matamoros, Mexico, drug-cult slayings of spring break 1989. Huddleston traveled to Brownsville last year with a group of friends, including Kilroy. He is believed to have been the last person to see Kilroy before his abduction and murder.

In a pre-party news conference, Huddleston stressed the need for safety during spring break.

"I owe it to Mark to get the message out to students," Huddleston said. "They need to keep in mind that bad things can happen, even to the best of us."

Huddleston, realizing that students will continue the traditional spring break partying, offered suggestions for a safe vacation.

People who are going to drink, he said, need to make the decision before they start drinking. They need to stay in groups, and designate a driver before it may be too late. Also, he said that people who are going into Mexico need to realize that they're going into a foreign country.

"We felt pretty safe going into Matamoros late at night," he said. "We were in a group, knew what we were doing. It was just a freak accident."

Huddleston said that he still considers the border town of Matamoros, with its drug problems, to be a

Kilroy's parents say some good has come from son's slaying

MATAMOROS, Mexico (AP) — Mark Kilroy's disappearance a year ago during the height of spring break ended with the discovery of a twisted cult's "human slaughterhouse" that stunned even seasoned lawmen.

Yet Kilroy's parents say some good has come from the ritual slaying of their 21-year-old son: greater awareness of the evils of drugs they blame for his death.

The University of Texas student dropped out of sight about 2 a.m. on March 14, 1989, while out bar-hopping with three friends in the border city. After a month-long search, his mutilated corpse was found buried at a ranch west of Matamoros.

Fourteen other victims also were unearthed there and at a nearby farm. A drug-smuggling cult allegedly performed the ritual slayings seeking magical protection from the law and rival smugglers.

Alex Perez, sheriff of Cameron County in Brownsville just across the Rio Grande, described the scene of Kilroy's murder as a "human slaughterhouse," the most gruesome crime he has investigated in 14 years of law enforcement.

The case still haunts him, he said.

"In my life, I've seen a lot of it, but this was the one that got me not to sleeping at night," he said.

Several books on the Matamoros case have been rushed to the market over the past year, including one with the title "Hell

Ranch."

Kilroy's parents said they haven't read them.

"From what people have told us, it was strictly to sensationalize what happened there rather than for people to see that from such an evil thing that a lot of good has come out from that," said Mark's mother, Helen.

Mrs. Kilroy said the positive result of her son's death is a growing awareness of the dangers of drug abuse and the drug trade.

She and Mark's father, James, are writing their own book about Mark's slaying.

"In our book we intend to tell the true story, and exactly what all went on, how we felt about it all," James Kilroy said.

The Kilroys, who live in Santa Fe, near Houston, have waged their own war on drugs through speaking engagements and their anti-drug Mark Kilroy Foundation.

Mrs. Kilroy said they sometimes feel overwhelmed. "And at that point it seems like we always hear from somebody who asks us not to give up, to keep working at trying to make a difference, trying to let people know the destruction of drugs."

The slayings make up case No. 89-110 in the Fourth State District Court in Matamoros. Judge Francisco Salvador Perez has the task of sorting through the evidence and pronouncing verdicts on the seven people accused of the murders.

dangerous spot. "Looking back, I think that students can have just as much fun on our side of the border," he said.

Huddleston admitted that he has heard of several people who won't be going south for vacation because of last year's incident. As for himself, he would find it hard to return.

"I'm not saying that I'll never go back to Matamoros, but for now it would only be a painful reminder," he said.

Huddleston, who met Kilroy during high school, said he has seen some positive results come from the tragedy.

Mark's death, he said, spurred action, not words, from the government.

"With all of the recent action, I feel that Mark did not die in vain."

A year later, Huddleston said he has been able to put most of it behind him. Being busy with school, he said he doesn't wish to relive the experience.

This year, he has planned a snow skiing trip to New Mexico with a friend. He said this year he will be more aware and take greater precautions.

Chow time



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Students walk down the dual staircases leading to the Commons dining area for dinner Wednesday. The dining area was closed last semester for renovations.

Polls to close

Absentee voting will end Friday.

On-campus absentee voting in the Democratic primary will be in 146 MSC. Republican primary on-campus absentee voting will be in 138 MSC.

The other three county absentee polling sites are the Brazos County Courthouse on 26th Street in Bryan, Ben Milam Elementary School on Ridgedale Street in Bryan and the College Station School District administration office on Welsh Avenue in College Station.

All four precincts will have a complete list of registered voters, so voters who have moved or lost their voter registration cards and don't know where they should vote can vote absentee.

Sandinista forces provide guns for civilians

JINOTEGA, Nicaragua (AP) — Sandinista leaders say they'll hand over the government on April 25, but their local forces don't appear ready to hand over their guns.

The army, a party organ, is delivering truckloads of assault rifles to civilians in Jinotega and Matagalpa provinces who live in the poor neighborhoods the leftist Sandinistas regard as their "social base."

"All the barrios have guns. They are all defending their land," Francisca Castilleblanco, a 52-year-old tortilla vendor, said showing off her new AK-47.

High-ranking Sandinista officials in Jinotega and Matagalpa at first denied civilians were being armed.

When confronted with evidence, the officials asserted they were creating a self-defense network to fend off possible attacks by Contra forces

that the Sandinistas have been battling for years.

But they also acknowledged that guns are going to people living on land confiscated after the 1979 revolution, areas the party regards as its grassroots.

The Sandinistas have said they will "defend the conquests of the revolution," including opposing any efforts to return land to previous owners and possibly other aspects of the conservative economic policies of the new government of President-elect Violetta Barrios de Chamorro.

Officials of the United National Opposition say they won't dislodge peasants from land that is being worked, even if it was expropriated under Sandinista rule.

"There is a little tension," acknowledged Col. Manuel Salva-

tierra, the regional military commander. "There is a lot of uncertainty about what will happen when the new government takes over."

International observers, diplomats and opposition officials are worried about the large-scale distribution of weapons at a time when tensions are so high.

"It's a time bomb," said Luis Serrano, part of the Organization of American States observer team monitoring Matagalpa and Jinotega provinces.

Officials of the United National Opposition, the conservative coalition that defeated the Sandinistas in the Feb. 24 elections, say they have reports of arms being distributed in several other provinces and that the issue is on the agenda for transition

negotiations between the Sandinistas and UNO.

UNO representatives have also met with top-ranking regional officials of the Sandinista party and the Sandinista army, Santiago Rivas, UNO's legal adviser in Matagalpa, 78 miles north of Managua, said.

"We've argued that they shouldn't give arms to civilians," Rivas said in an interview. "It could provoke a civil war."

Their rallies resound with political battle cries such as "One Single Army," a slogan expressing the revolutionary goal of melding the people, the party and the military into a united armed force.

"They are trying to intimidate," Rev. Eliar Pineda, a Roman Catholic priest in Jinotega whose family backed UNO, said.

Sandinista gangs known as "tur-

bas" have demonstrated in Jinotega, 100 miles north of Managua, and in Matagalpa since the Feb. 25 election. Intimidated UNO supporters have stayed at home rather than celebrate the coalition's resounding victory at the polls.

Correction

A story in Tuesday's edition of The Battalion incorrectly identified the television station that airs "Campus Journal," a weekly news magazine produced by student TV journalists. "Campus Journal" appears on cable access channel 31.

Miss Texas A&M prepares for University promotional tour



Photo by Eric H. Roalson

Horn

By SUZANNE CALDERON
 Of The Battalion Staff

For someone who just entered the Miss Texas A&M University Scholarship Pageant in 1989 because she wanted to sing in front of an audience, Rhonda Jo Horn, the newly crowned Miss Texas A&M 1990-91, has come a long way.

"I've always liked to sing, that's why I entered the Miss Texas A&M pageant last year," Horn said.

Horn was the first runner-up in last year's pageant and she said that after entering one pageant she had to keep trying.

"You get what you call the bug, the pageant bug, and you want to keep doing it (entering pageants) because it is so fun," Horn said.

As Miss Texas A&M, Horn will represent the University at events around the state and go on a promotional tour for A&M.

"This is my last year at A&M and I want to give my final push for the University and represent them in this way because A&M means so much to me and has such a special place in my heart, that I want to give back what A&M has given to me," Horn said. "I know that sounds like what everyone says

about A&M, but I feel that many people have the same feelings about A&M."

Some students, however, feel differently about the pageant, and protested outside Rudder Auditorium before the pageant, saying that beauty pageants discriminated against women.

Horn said she felt the protestors had every right to protest, but felt they were a little off-the-mark.

"They argued freedom of choice and that this pageant exploits women," she said. "It was my choice and the other contestants' choice to be in the pageant. It builds self-esteem, it builds friendships — there are a lot of advantages to this pageant."

"I don't feel exploited or that I'm a sex object or property... I go out there because I have confidence in myself."

The argument of the protestors that the pageant is judged only on physical beauty is unjustified, Horn said.

"Seventy percent of the competition is based on talent and intelligence, not physical beauty," Horn said. "Thirty percent of the pageant is based on health maintenance."

"I respect their right to protest — I just regret that they were a little bit misin-

formed about how the pageant works."

Horn said physical beauty comes secondary to presence, poise and talent. The judges are not looking for genetic qualities that make you a beauty, she said.

In the talent portion of the competition, Horn sang "Sunday Kind Of Love." The song has been performed by Reba McEntyre, but Horn said she performs it differently.

"I have my own style of voice which is quite different from hers," she said.

Before the pageant, Horn said she was basically a shower singer. She said she took voice lessons in high school, but never performed in front of an audience.

Horn will be performing in front of one less audience this year because she will not be participating in the Miss Texas-America pageant as did former Miss Texas A&Ms.

The Miss Texas A&M pageant defranchised from the Miss America Scholarship Pageant due to lack of funds and a high turnover in the MSC Pageant Committee.

Instead, Horn said, the MSC made a positive move by sending Miss Texas A&M on a promotional tour for the University.

Another reason, she said, for defranchising is that the Miss Texas and Miss America

pageants concentrate on world events and issues, and the A&M pageant has toned that aspect down.

"We've made sure contestants were familiar with those types of issues, but we are concentrating more on poise, personality and basic intelligence," Horn said. "It was more of a concentration of A&M as a university and what A&M means to you."

Along with her new title, Horn is a sub-chairwoman for the Aggie Muster Committee and a volunteer at the Rape Crisis Center.

Horn is a speech communications major from Seymour, Texas. Although she has been at A&M for only three years, Horn will graduate in December 1990. She said she plans on working on her teaching certificate in Spring 1991.

Horn said she would like to go into public relations or sales in the health care field, but would like to teach secondary school eventually.

"There are so many things I want to do — I want to try my hand at the corporate world first, then teach later," she said.