

A&M student revives victim

By TROY HALL
Of The Battalion Staff

A Bryan resident was rescued by a Texas A&M student late Sunday afternoon at Bryan Utilities Lake, said Clyde Goen, deputy chief of the Bryan Fire Department.

As of early Monday morning, Zelerion Medellin Rojas, 24, 1804 Echols St., was listed in critical condition and in a coma at St. Joseph Hospital's intensive care unit after being rescued by Robert Green, a sophomore civil engineering major from Alvin.

The victim and some friends were swimming at Bryan Utilities Lake when he went under water. When the friends realized Rojas was in trouble they began calling for help, Goen said. Green found Rojas about 30 feet

"A couple of friends and I ran out to the bank assuming a kid was drowning."

— Robert Green, A&M student

from shore in five feet of water. He began one-man CPR, while two of his friends went to the nearest telephone to call for help.

"We were about to pack up and leave when we heard a lady yelling for help," Green said. "A couple of friends and I ran out to the bank assuming a kid was drowning."

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U.S. hostages escape captivity, return home to reclaim freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four dozen Americans reclaimed their freedom Sunday, liberated from Saddam Hussein's clutches and grateful to be back home. "I wasn't a guest," Lloyd Culbertson said. "I damned near starved to death."

The 47 Americans, weary from 24 hours of travel and their weeks as unofficial prisoners of war, arrived at Washington-Dulles International Airport aboard an Iraqi jetliner cleared to land only for this homecoming flight.

A handful of the passengers talked with reporters; most cleared customs and left the airport quietly with relatives. A U.S. official said 24 women, 11 men and 12 children arrived but declined to identify them, citing privacy laws.

The Americans who were held in Kuwait, which was overrun by Iraqi soldiers on Aug. 2, brought ominous

word that Saddam Hussein's forces may be mistreating Americans left behind.

Culbertson, 76, of El Paso, said some of the hostages were being held without food and without water. He did not provide details. Cul-

bertson took issue with Iraqi Ambassador Mohamed Sadiq al-Mashat's insistence that hostages were treated well as "guests" of Saddam: "The ambassador from Iraq is dead wrong."

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— Lloyd Culbertson, former hostage

"If it were not for the grace of God and Jesse Jackson, we would not be here. The State Department has not lifted a hand for us."

bertson described meals as "pretty skimpy rations" — mainly frozen turkey. "I have never eaten so much turkey in my life."

Asked if the people left behind feared for their lives, Culbertson said, "Yes, they certainly do."

Bonnie Anderton left her husband, Richard, after an emotional parting in Kuwait. She said they talked about sending their 10-year-old daughter, Jennifer, home alone but decided against it because the little girl needs medical treatment. She declined to say what the treatment was.

She said the Americans slept on the floor, had no water or power and Iraqi troops often fired shots nearby the U.S. Embassy compound during the day.

Anderton said her family had been in Kuwait for three months. Her husband was working as an engineer.

"I think Jennifer will agree with me: Next summer we are going to Disneyland," she said.

Ed Johnson, a businessman from St. Louis, said he sought refuge in the embassy Aug. 17 at the suggestion of diplomats there.

Committee recommends class A&M commits to multicultural awareness

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University students may be required to take a mandatory culture-awareness class if recommendations from a committee formed to eliminate discrimination are implemented.

At a press conference Friday, University President William Mobley formally accepted the final report from the Committee for a Discrimination-Free Campus.

The 17 member committee, which includes members of faculty, staff and students, called for both prompt adoption and implementation of their recommendations.

Mobley said A&M must ensure its commitment to multiculturalism and diversity if it wants to fulfill multiple missions.

"The predictions of our demographers on this campus are that by 2030 at the latest, the traditional minorities will be the majority," he said.

Because of this, the president said A&M should be doing everything it can to promote a better learning environment for all students, regardless of their ethnic backgrounds.

"We need to nurture diversity in all its forms on this campus," he said.

Mobley noted that A&M's policies on discrimination are up to par with other institutions.

He said the committee's recommendations will serve as an enhancement to the policies currently in effect.

The committee made proposals concerning faculty, students and academics.

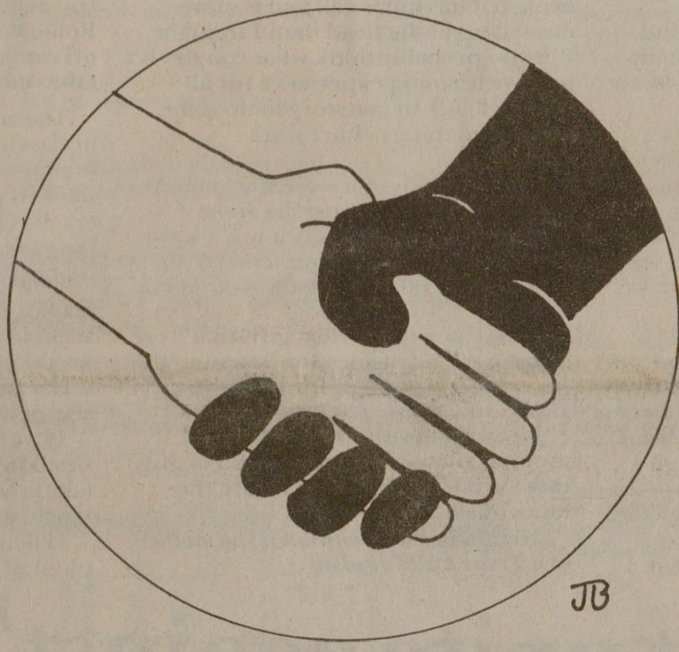
Mobley said he already had taken steps to implement the 14 general-administrative recommendations which include: the dissemination of the newly drafted "University Statement on Harassment and Discrimination," improvement of employment policies and use of nondiscriminatory language.

He said the other recommendations, which dealt with academics and multicultural education and awareness, had been referred to the appropriate vice presidents, faculty and student organizations for further study and appropriate action.

The mandatory culture-awareness class was one such recommendation.

The committee's other recommendations include:

- The University should establish an ethnic or multicultural studies program to be offered as an interdisciplinary minor.
- All members of the University community should be encouraged to participate in conferences or workshops on minority and women's issues.
- Residence halls should be required to hold a special session at the beginning of each semester that will focus on multicultural issues. Similar programs should be offered for Off-Campus Aggies.
- Disciplinary hearings that involve a minority student should have a minority staff member involved.
- The Handicap Planning and Advisory Committee should continue to provide input in addressing the needs of handicapped students, faculty, staff and visitors to the campus.



Sheran Riley, an assistant to the president and chairwoman, said the committee chose to follow a positive proactive program in eliminating discrimination at A&M, rather than supporting a disciplinary policy.

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De Klerk continues democratic reforms

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — President F.W. de Klerk called Friday for the governing National Party, which implemented apartheid four decades ago, to accept non-whites as members.

De Klerk said the all-white party's restrictions were at odds with its goal of creating a democracy free of domination by any race or group.

"The new South Africa demands that those who belong together through inner conviction should come together," he told a party provincial congress in Durban.

The government is looking for political allies among black political groups to buttress its position in negotiations with the African National Congress, the main black opposition movement, on sharing power.

The ANC seeks a one-man, one-vote system, virtually guaranteeing a black majority government. De Klerk wants protection for whites and other minority groups, a free market economy and guaranteed rights, such as the right to own property.

"The requirement of no (racial) domination means that power has to be shared in such a way that a majority will neither have absolute power nor be able to abuse its power to the detriment of minorities or for their suppression," de Klerk said.

The congress and three other upcoming provincial meetings are expected to approve accepting non-

whites. Even with the change, black party members would not be able to vote for the party's candidates in national balloting because apartheid bars them from voting in national elections.

Accepting blacks and other races would reverse the National Party's heritage as the architect of apartheid. It won power in 1948 on a platform of white dominance and has been the main voice of Afrikaner nationalism, representing whites of mostly Dutch descent who dominate South African politics.

Under apartheid, the country's five million whites control the government and economy, while the 30 million blacks have no voice in national affairs.

Since replacing P.W. Botha as president in 1989, de Klerk has pushed for repeal of apartheid laws and held talks with the ANC.

His efforts have caused more whites to leave the National Party for the right-wing Conservative Party and extremist groups.

Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht called de Klerk's move Friday political surrender. He said in a statement the National Party had lost touch with people's desire for nationalism instead of integration.

In his speech, de Klerk accused Treurnicht of advocating violence to prevent change in South Africa. He said the Conservative Party sought continued policies of oppression.

Student locator assists students 24 hours daily

By BRIDGET HARROW
Of The Battalion Staff

If you lost an old friend's phone number, or you can't remember the number of a new friend, Texas A&M's student locator service might help you.

Student locator, at 845-4741, is a directory assistance number that provides a listing for all A&M students.

When the service was started in 1968, calls were handled by the Student Affairs office until 10 p.m.

After 10 p.m., student locator calls were transferred to the Physical Plant's communication center.

But since 1980, the communication center has operated student locator full-time due to the growth of A&M's student body, said Geneva Johnston, administrative assistant for telecommunications and key control.

All the information for student locator is provided by Student Information Management System (SIMS), which is operated by the admissions and records office in Heaton Hall.

"At the beginning of the school year, after all students have registered, the communication center is provided with a full roster after the 12th class day," Johnston said. "This gives off-campus students time to get a telephone, and it gives on-campus students, especially overassignments, the chance to move to their permanent dorm."

Students must go to the admissions and records office and fill out a card if they want a number changed in the student locator file, she said.

Students who don't want their names or numbers to be given out

need to fill out a "hold directory information" card. The card must be updated every academic year.

"This gives students the option of deciding what information can be withheld from the public," she said.

Many students don't turn in an updated phone number and are listed incorrectly, Johnston said.

Other students don't turn in a local Bryan/College Station phone number, so only their hometown numbers are listed, she said.

The only information student locator gives out is student names, classifications and phone numbers.

"We do not have time to give out addresses," Johnston said. "We are not only the student locator. We are directory assistance for the rest of the University as well."

Besides handling calls for student locator (845-4741) and directory assistance (845-3211), the communication center also handles general listing information calls (0) for A&M.

Currently, the communication center is not computerized, and the operators work from a hard-copy directory.

But the communication center will be going to an on-line directory by mid-September, Johnston said.

"This will enable us to be updated more frequently," Johnston said. "We will not have to insert updates manually anymore. If records have the information in their system, we'll have it immediately too."

Student locator and directory assistance are open 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

"We are only as good as the information that is given to us," Johnston said. "Students have to be sure they update their phone information with us, even if they live in a dorm."

State, local Democrats rally support of voters

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

The rainy weather didn't dampen the spirits of state and local candidates and area voters who met at the Southwood Valley Athletic Complex Saturday evening.

"Our intention is to bring out the swing voters, the ones who are undecided," Brazos County Democratic Chairman Bill McGuire said. "The voters can't really know the candidates if they just rely on television and 30-second sound bites for information on political issues."

Nikki Van Hightower, candidate for Texas state treasurer; John Sharp, candidate for comptroller of public accounts; Jim James, candidate for state representative; Jim Turner, candidate for Texas state Senate 5th District; and Judge Morris L. Overstreet, candidate for place 5 judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals gave short speeches and mingled with Brazos County residents.

Local Democratic candidates who attended the rally and also gave speeches included Jean Williamson, Judge Sarah Ryan, candidate for judge, County Court at Law No. 2; Judge W.T. McDonald Jr., candidate for judge, 85th District Court; Ron Gay, candidate for county judge; and Mary Ann Ward, candidate for Brazos County clerk.

"Texans need to be concerned with the environment and public education," McGuire said. "Republicans have paid lip service to these issues only at election time."

Aggie Democrats President Stephen Medvic said Texas A&M students should be knowledgeable

about local races, as well as the governor's race.

"Local races for state representatives and senators are important because the legislature could vote during any session on a woman's legal right to an abortion," Medvic said.

"State races like the comptroller, treasurer and governor will impact the state and A&M almost immediately, whereas local races may not be a factor for a while," he said.

Medvic said even students who plan to leave the Brazos Valley after graduation should care about the local races now.

"So many (A&M students) give back (to A&M) when they're gone, move back or maintain close ties with the university that it's important to vote intelligently, so A&M and the community can be a place they're proud of and want to move back to or visit," Medvic said.

Local races also are a concern for Judge W.T. McDonald, who hopes that his race for the 85th District Court judgeship will not be hampered by those who vote a straight ticket.

"Vote for who you want to at the top of the ticket, but know who you are voting for further down the ballot when you go to pull the lever," McDonald said. "If you want to vote for Republican gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams and don't know about anyone else, then get out of the voting booth. Be informed about your choices."

Overstreet, the first black to be nominated to state-wide office, said the voters couldn't ask for a better slate of candidates if they picked it themselves.

Other activities included face painting, a \$5-a-ticket raffle for a limited edition print of Ann Richards and a voter registration booth.

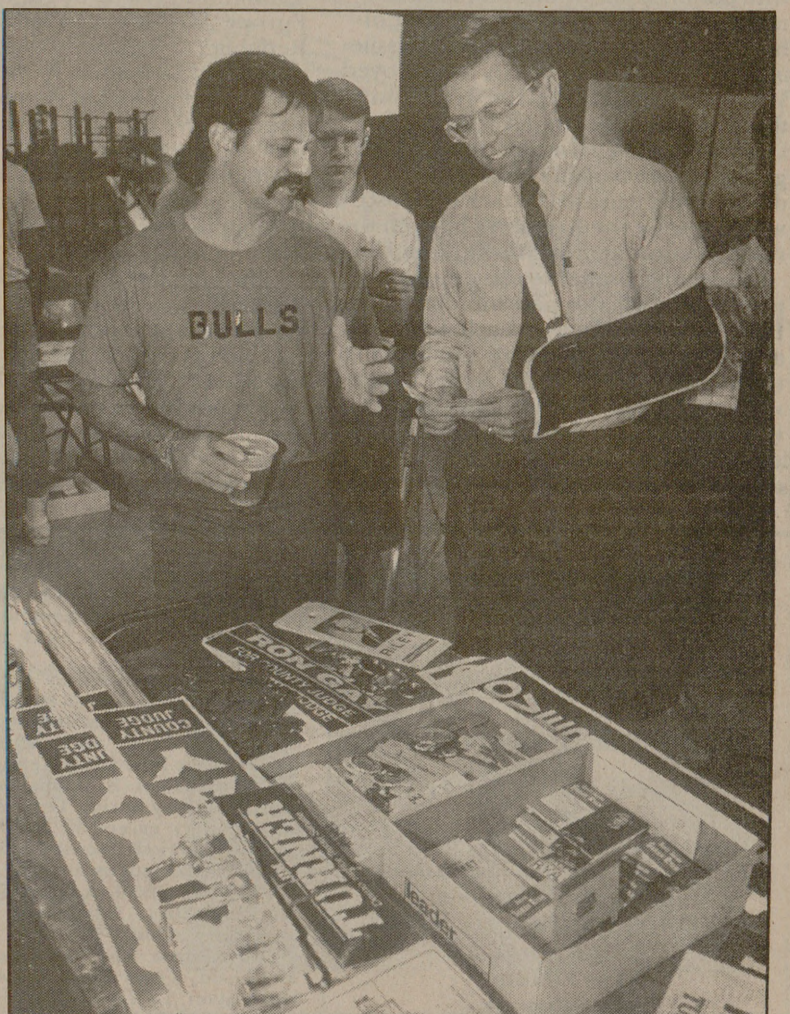


Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Julian McMurrey of College Station and Stephen Medvic, senior political science major from Bedford, from left to right, talk politics with Jim Turner, who is running for the state Senate.