

G. Rollie White gets renovation

By BILLY MORAN
Special to THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's "Holler-House on the Brazos" will sport a new floor, brighter lights, and additional seats for the beginning of the 1992-93 basketball season opening Nov. 1.

A \$550,000 renovation of G. Rollie White Coliseum began this past summer with the installation of a new floor. The old floor had numerous "dead spots" where the ball wouldn't bounce well, said A&M Head Basketball Coach Tony Barone.

"On the old floor you couldn't roll a ball down the court without it running into hills and valleys," Barone said.

Joseph Sugg, director of the Texas A&M University Physical Plant, said the new court has been redesigned to allow for the addition of bleachers under the scoreboard.

The old bleachers around the court have been replaced with individual-seat pullout bleachers which increases seating by about 400. Barone said the additional

seats around the court will help increase student involvement by placing students closer to the action.

"We touched all the people involved," said Barone, "The students, fans and the players."

New court lights make the court brighter, providing the proper lighting needed for television cameras. The old lights only provided 100 foot candles of light, instead of the 200 foot candles required by television cameras.

Sugg said the windows at the back of the coliseum near the ceiling will be filled-in with bricks because they are a distraction to players. He said that by filling in the windows will also save energy.

Other renovations include installation of handrails in the aisles and replacing hall ceilings and lights.

Barone said the home court improvements will help the basketball program gain respect.

"We're trying to rebuild," said Barone. "When you're doing that, you look for credibility anyway you can get it."

El Paso man stands trial for 6 murders

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A convicted rapist charged with capital murder in the deaths of six girls and women, whose bodies were buried in shallow graves in northeast El Paso, went on trial Wednesday.

Attorneys gave opening statements in the trial of 35-year-old David Leonard Wood. The trial, which is expected to last six to eight weeks, was moved to Dallas because of extensive publicity in El Paso.

Wood, who was described by defense attorneys as "borderline mentally retarded," is charged with killing Ivy Susanna Williams, 23; Desiree Wheatley, 15; Karen Baker, 20; Angelica Frausto, 17; Rosa Maria Casio, 24; and Dawn Marie Smith, 14.

Authorities described most of the victims as either runaways or young women with troubled lives. Their bodies were unearthed from desert graves in 1987 and 1988.

Attorneys are not sure whether Wood, who sat with his hands clasped and leaning slightly forward throughout Wednesday's testimony, will take the stand.

Prosecuting attorney Karen Shook said that evidence in the trial would show that a "serial killer was loose in the summer of 1987" and she identified that killer as Wood. She said testimony would show that Wood was

acquainted with some of the victims through dance bars in northeast El Paso.

She also said testimony would show he used a motorcycle and beige pickup to transport the women to the grave sites in the desolate brush of the desert.

Defense attorneys agreed that Wood may have known some of the victims, but they said it was not uncommon for bikers and dancers in the area to be acquainted.

Defense attorney Dolph Quijano Jr., told the jury that a "media blitz" put pressure on El Paso law enforcement officials to quickly identify a suspect once the women began disappearing.

He said law enforcement officials ignored evidence that appeared to clear Wood, opting instead to "get somebody and stick these cases on."

"At the end of this, you're not going to know who killed those women, but you will know that David Wood didn't," Quijano said.

Wood, who was raised in El Paso, has been in and out of prison several times on sex-related crimes. His first parole came in 1980, after serving 31/2 years of a 5-year sentence for indecency with a child.

Later that year, he was convicted of raping a 19-year-old and a 13-year-old and sentenced to concurrent 20 year sentences.

Gorbachev's adviser to visit A&M

Interpreter for Soviet leader to discuss current events, Russia's future

By CHERYL HELLER
Reporter of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University will host Dr. Pavel R. Palazchenko, personal adviser and English interpreter for Mikhail Gorbachev, from Oct. 22-24.

Palazchenko, who will be the guest of the Mosher Institute for International Policy Studies, served as personal adviser for Gorbachev and Russian foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze from 1985 until December 1991.

Trained in English linguistics, Palazchenko was present during key meetings between Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of States James Baker and George Schultz, and President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during the crucial years of perestroika, the change from hard-line communism to a more humanistic form of government.

Palazchenko continues to aid Gorbachev, who currently heads the International Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies in Moscow.

During his visit to Texas A&M, Palazchenko will meet with members of the Mosher Institute and its Board of Advisers to discuss research and cooperation with the Gorbachev Foundation.

"We're in an evolution of political climate to a new era of cooperation," said Dr. Ron Hatchett, director of the Mosher Institute. "We're embarking on unique insights and hopefully Palazchenko's visit will help us forge better relations between the Mosher Institute and the Gorbachev Foundation."

According to Hatchett, Palazchenko's visit will focus on the current world situation and Russia's place in the future.

"The concerns of Russia and the United States will be discussed," Hatchett said. "We're going to talk about what happened to

the Soviet Union and how those changes occurred."

Palazchenko will also meet with the leaders of several Memorial Student Committees interested in international issues such as Great Issues, Political Forum and Jordan Institute.

The meeting will be an informal round-table discussion that will give student leaders a chance to discuss changes in the international political situation.

Palazchenko will present a public lecture entitled "Perestroika, The New World and the Future of Russia," on Friday, Oct. 23, 5:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

The presentation, which is open to the public at no charge, will consist of a lecture question-and-answer period.

Palazchenko will be working at the Institute on Saturday, Oct. 24, in Room 226 of the Blocker Building. He may be reached at 845-9900.

Texas Lottery grapples problems shown during million-dollar drawing

Staff encounters, overcomes glitches, spokesman for comptroller's office says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ZAPATA — The Texas Lottery's first round of million-dollar drawings may have seemed polished by the time the show hit the television screen, but that's because few people knew about the time the wrestlers were late.

Or about the sick emcee. Or the narrow barn doors that forced finalists to draw for the million-dollar prize while being battered by a 30 mph Lubbock wind.

"There are always glitches," Steve Levine, spokesman for the state comptroller's office said Wednesday as he sat in the Zapata County Fair Grounds Pavilion. "We try to make it so that only the staff knows there are glitches."

All around Levine, workers hustled to erect the lottery set for Wednesday night's drawing, the first in a series of monthly grand prize giveaways to be held in small Texas communities.

The workers moved with the efficiency of long familiarity with their tasks. They finished so quickly it prompted drawing supervisor Scott Murphy to joke: "You're getting so fast we're going to have to start doing it twice."

The 30-minute drawings are meticulously planned by staffers such as drawing assistant Laura Wallace, who makes up detailed schedules to keep the show, the finalists and the surrounding events running on time.

But it is a traveling show and that's where the fun starts.

"You have the pattern down and you know what to do but each one is different," said Wallace. "It just depends on what you have to work with."

For the drawing in Laredo that meant using professional wrestlers to escort the finalists onto the stage.

Levine said they had contacted the grapplers weeks before the event only to lose touch with them until just five minutes before the drawing, when they arrived.

In Lubbock, the drawing was to be held in a barn, which had been measured to make sure it would hold the set. Workers arrived the day before the drawing to find the barn's doors were too narrow to get the set inside, said Levine.

"We moved outside in a 30 mph hour wind," he said.

But besides such unexpected events, the

show has usually moved smoothly since it began. Advance crews select suitable sites for drawings. Necessary equipment is loaded before and after each show.

Security is always present. Everything is also videotaped in case a dispute or problem ever arises, said Wallace.

Levine estimated that the cost of the show, providing travel for the staff, parking, moving company that hauls the set and overhead comes out to an average of \$4,000 to \$5,000 per show.

That's not counting the really big expense: the cash awards for the seven finalists. In the past, the lottery also spent roughly \$5 million on the statewide satellite feeds.

Levine said the lottery will disperse the funds for the monthly drawings because officials expect million-dollar drawings to come more routine when the lotto game starts next month.

The cost of the show will still vary depending on the city.

The Zapata drawing was inexpensive, partly because of the cheap lodging and because some staff flew into the area on the state plane rather than on a commercial carrier.

JFK conspiracy theorist, prosecutor dies at 70

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — Jim Garrison, the pistol-packing prosecutor whose conspiracy theories about President Kennedy's assassination were scoffed at by many but inspired the director of the movie "JFK," died Wednesday. He was 70.

Garrison, who served 12 years as New Orleans district attorney and 12 as a judge on the state's 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, never stopped believing that CIA hardliners had Kennedy killed to keep the United States in Vietnam.

The cause of death wasn't listed, but heart trouble forced Garrison to

leave the appeals court on Nov. 1, 1991, three weeks before his 70th birthday and mandatory retirement age.

His theories formed the basis for the widely publicized trial of businessman Clay Shaw and for three books, including "On the Trail of the Assassins," a major source for Oliver Stone's 1991 movie.

Shaw was acquitted in 1969 on charges that he conspired to kill Kennedy. Jurors heard 34 days of testimony, then deliberated less than an hour.

"It was a very sad day, I think, when he focused on Clay Shaw because that indictment and prosecution was totally unfounded," said

District Attorney Harry Connick, who unseated Garrison in 1973.

But Frank Mankiewicz, a spokesman for Stone and a political aide to Robert Kennedy, said Garrison's investigation was important.

"Every American owes him a debt of gratitude. He kicked open a door that had been closed too long," said Mankiewicz, of the Hill & Knowlton public relations firm. Stone was in Thailand, he said, and unavailable for comment.

"Anybody who knows anything about this story realizes Jim Garrison was the only public official to try to bring legal action in the case of the assassination of President Kennedy," said Jim Marrs, author of

the book "Crossfire: The Plot to Kill Kennedy."

There was a strong resemblance between the way Stone and Garrison looked at the assassination of Kennedy.

"Stone was either unaware of the details and particulars of the Shaw investigation and trial or he was aware, that didn't get in the way of what he perceived to be the way the case should have been handled," Connick said.

"That was sort of the main reason Garrison — 'We don't care what there's any evidence or not, we want a good story.' That's a sad thing. A funeral service was scheduled for Friday."

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