

Weekend wrap-up

Savalas dies at 70 of prostate cancer

LOS ANGELES — Telly Savalas, the gruff, bald-headed actor who became a television favorite as the lollipop-loving New York detective in the 1970s series "Kojak," died Saturday of prostate cancer. He was 70.

Savalas died in his suite at the Sheraton-Universal Hotel in Universal City, said his spokesman, Mike Mamakos.

"Who loves ya, baby?" which Kojak muttered to fellow cops and assorted hoodlums, grew into the detective's signature and a national catch-phrase.

"Kojak" broke into the top 10 rated shows in its first season, 1973-74, and Savalas won an Emmy as best actor in a dramatic series.

After "Kojak" ended, Savalas remained active in films and television, including returns in his Kojak role.

GM says supplier to blame for recall

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. blamed the supplier of a fuel system part for the recall of 120,000 new GM compact pickups that could explode in side-impact crashes.

The safety defect was discovered in GM's Chevrolet S-10 and GMC Sonoma trucks this month by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

The agency said the fuel system leaked more than allowable under federal standards when it rolled over. Leaking fuel can cause explosions and fire. NHTSA and GM traced the leak to a joint in the fuel system.

GM spokeswoman Linda Cook said Friday that the supplier — which she refused to identify — switched the method of making the joints, making them less resistant to heat.

Bobbitt committed to mental hospital

MANASSAS, Va. — Lorena Bobbitt was committed to a state mental hospital for a psychiatric evaluation after a jury found she was temporarily insane when she cut off her husband's penis with a kitchen knife.

Defense lawyers had argued that Bobbitt was a battered wife seized by an "irresistible impulse" to cut off her husband's penis on June 23 after he came home from a night of drinking and raped her.

Prosecutors called Bobbitt's attack a calculated act of revenge.

Doctors will decide if she poses a danger to herself or others. They must report back to the judge within 45 days.

L.A. churches cope with quake

LOS ANGELES — Before makeshift altars in church gymnasiums and tent cities Sunday, Angelenos gave thanks for what they'd salvaged and gathered strength to plunge back into an earthquake-twisted version of normalcy.

St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church in Santa Monica, damaged in the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, was closed again after Monday's \$30 billion quake cracked walls and sent frescoes tumbling onto the altar. The 5,000-member parish held Mass in the gym — and planned 11 baptisms Sunday.

It was a scene repeated across Los Angeles as thousands displaced by the quake struggled to find temporary lodging or get their own homes habitable again.

—The Associated Press

UPD investigates System funds scandal

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

The University Police Department is investigating allegations that a Texas A&M lobbyist took money from the Texas A&M University System funds for personal use.

According to an article in The Dallas Morning News, Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner confirmed a top attorney with the System appeared unannounced at his office Tuesday to turn over an internal file on suspected theft by lobbyist Timothy L. Shaunty.

Bob Wiatt, UPD director, said the file was referred to his department later that day for review.

"We will thoroughly review the case and determine if criminal theft took place," Wiatt said. "If it did, we will turn the results of our investigation back to Bill Turner's office, who will then determine if indictments are warranted."

The article said Shaunty, the chief of legislative staff for the System, is under investigation for allegedly receiving funds from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station to furnish and lease an apartment in Austin, and then billing the system for daily expenses, including lodging costs.

Wiatt said if the allegations against Shaunty are true, it would constitute felony theft between \$750 and

Lobbyist allegedly took System funds for personal use; A&M Board of Regents under scrutiny for liquor purchases

\$20,000.

"Since Mr. Shaunty is a public official, if he is charged with felony theft, the charges will automatically be enhanced by one degree and he could face two to 20 years in prison," Wiatt said.

Terri Parker, system communication director, told the media Friday that Shaunty indicated he would resign, but she could not confirm the System had received his resignation.

Shaunty assists the System in forming requests for state funds and then lobbies on behalf of Texas A&M. He had also served as assistant deputy chancellor for agricultural programs and assistant director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

In addition, The Dallas Morning News article reports state law officers are investigating whether state funds have been used illegally to buy liquor for the A&M Board of Regents and other University officials, and whether invoices were altered to conceal liquor purchases.

The published expense vouchers total more than \$4,900 for items purchased in 1992 from a business listed as Ruffino Catering.

The staff also provided five separate bills from J.J.'s Package Stores. J.J.'s is owned by J.J. Ruffino and lists the same address as the catering business.

The article reports the bills from the liquor store itemize purchases of Budweiser and Miller beer and wine. However, the regents' staff listed the items on official vouchers as "food, soft drinks, ice and cups for the Board of Regents."

An invoice from J.J.'s Package Stores reflects the sale of seven cases of beer at a cost of \$113.66 on January 17, 1992. Another invoice published in The Dallas Morning News shows a State of Texas purchase voucher authorized a check the same day for \$113.66 to Ruffino Catering and does not reflect the payment of beer but rather "food, soft drinks, ice and cups."

Texas law prohibits the use of state funds to buy alcoholic beverages. However, the article reports A&M officials said the funds came from the Texas A&M Development Foundation.

James Bond, system chief legal counsel, told The Dallas Morning News that gift money or contributed funds may be spent on alcohol, with the donor's permission.

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Malls adjusting to stop gang violence

Post Oak: no gang clothing ban

By Karen Broyles

THE BATTALION

Gang violence has become a problem at shopping malls throughout the nation, and Post Oak Mall in College Station is no exception.

Ann Kyle, manager of Post Oak Mall, said security officials at the mall have attempted to stop gang violence before it gets started.

"They do come through, but the mall has been neutral territory so far," Kyle said. "If they even so much as try to start a verbal fight, our security officers escort them to the edge of the property and ask them to leave."

Lt. Raymond McCarver, head of mall security, said he has not seen a major problem with gangs at the mall.

"We know who they (the gang members) are, and we keep an eye on the problem," McCarver said. "The gangs have come to the mall to spend money and have not caused any trouble so far."

In response to gang violence, some malls have implemented dress codes banning backward baseball caps, bandannas and other clothing associated with gangs.

Post Oak Mall currently has no dress code banning gang-associated clothing.

"We see no need for it at this point," McCarver said. "The only dress code we have is that no clothing with blatant profanity may be worn."

McCarver said the mall has no written policy on dealing specifically with gang violence, but the company that owns the mall does have guidelines on dealing with violence.

McCarver has received correspondence from the security company since the Dec. 27 shooting of Kevin Bacon, an Irving Mall shopper caught in the crossfire of teenage gang members' gunfire in the mall's food court.

The correspondence contained instructions on dealing with potential gang violence.

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A few good Aggies ...



Stew Milne/The Battalion

The Fish Drill Team practices Saturday afternoon in the rain on Duncan Field for the upcoming Mardi Gras competition. The so-called "ripple effect" will

be a part of the teams drilling arsenal, that will allow. The all-freshman drilling unit is a nationally ranked drill team.

Fraternities hope new approach helps image

By Laurel Mosley

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University fraternities continue their 1994 spring rush this week and hope to improve the image of Greek life with a new and different approach.

Donald Eknoyan, president of the Interfraternity Council and a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, said the new tent set-up last Wednesday, the first day of rush, encouraged more people to come out.

He said about 250 students expressed an interest in fraternities during this event.

Changes in spring rush activities to make Greek life less formal for prospective rushees

Eknoyan said people are less intimidated by an easy-going activity, and it makes fraternities seem less formal.

"It shows people they don't have to be dressed up in a coat and tie to be a frat man," Eknoyan said.

Eknoyan said people believe in a myth of what a fraternity man is, and the reality doesn't always match the myth.

"I see fraternities as just another vehicle to the undergraduate experience," Eknoyan said. "They are just another

way to get involved."

Chris Giessinger, president of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, said the big turnout to his fraternity's activities leads him to believe people are more accepting of fraternities than in the past.

He said he wants more people to give fraternities a chance, and there is a fraternity out there for almost everyone.

"I think more people need to come out and look at it," Giessinger said. "I don't think we are a typical fraternity. We

have a lot to offer a lot of different people."

King O'Shea, a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, said his fraternity accepts many different types of people.

"A fraternity is not renting a friend. I believe it is a lifelong commitment," O'Shea said.

Activities this week include date parties, billiards and informational meetings.

It all culminates at "Bid House" Friday at 5 p.m. at the Systems Administration Building, when the students participating in rush find out which fraternities want them to join.

Houston engineer joins A&M

Moore wants to bring colleges together with center

By Laurel Mosley

THE BATTALION

An engineer who helped design the Houston Astrodome and The Summit, has joined the faculties of the College of Engineering and the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Walter P. Moore, Jr., a Houston engineer, said he will attempt to bring the two colleges together with his leadership.

Dr. Ignacio Rodriguez-Iturbe, head of the department of civil engineering, said he is happy to have Moore as a colleague.

"Dr. Moore has a high reputation," he said. "He is a magnificent addition to the department."

Rodriguez said he hopes Moore, who will be involved in construction research and technolo-

gy, will bring fresh new leadership to both departments.

Moore said he is excited about his appointment to both colleges and would like to see the two work together more.

Moore said he would like to begin what he calls a center for building design and construction. This center is one way of having faculty from both colleges, as well as other departments, work together, he said.

"I vision it as an interdisciplinary center for academic activity," Moore said.

The center would have classes mostly in building design, Moore said. It would also be involved with research and graduate students,

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