

AGGIE life

WEDNESDAY
April 10, 1996

entertainment GLANCE

Pavarotti and secretary start life together

NEW YORK (AP) — Luciano Pavarotti and his 26-year-old secretary are making a home together, although they deny they've started making a family.

The 60-year-old tenor and Nicoletta Mantovani have been living together for the past two weeks in Pavarotti's Manhattan apartment, and Pavarotti says, "We are together. We are very happy ... extremely happy."

Mantovani, visiting an art gallery with the opera singer Monday night, said she was "very sure of ... my love for Luciano. Love wins everything!"

Pavarotti and his wife of 35 years, Adua, are legally separated. Mrs. Pavarotti, who lives in Italy, reportedly has won a settlement of \$150 million plus half his ongoing royalties for her and their three daughters.



Pavarotti

Cosby fires writer to keep warm image

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Cosby wants America to remember him as a family man, not a crotchety curmudgeon.

So says the writer-producer of a CBS sitcom just fired by Cosby in a difference of opinion over Cosby's new character.

Richard Day says the untitled sitcom, slated for a 44-episode, two-season run, is based on the British series *One Foot in the Grave* about an old man who's lost his job. Telma Hopkins has been signed to play Cosby's wife.

"The British show is an edgy, dark, absurd program about an intellectual curmudgeon awaiting death, in effect, Bill signed on to do that," Day said in Tuesday's New York Post. Cosby, Day said, "lost his nerve because he's had a lot of success with a very lovable persona."

Assassins rises in popularity on campus

By John LeBas
THE BATTALION



The setting: a typical Texas A&M classroom, packed with a dedicated instructor and rows of attentive students.

The scenario: one of these students is about to meet a tragic fate in a classic example of "the hunted meets the hunter."

Suddenly, another student rears up, wields his weapon and shoots the victim. The "killer" makes his escape.

Yet this "hit" is not as blatantly violent as it seems. The weapon is a water gun, and the two students are participants in Assassins, a game becoming popular on campus.

Assassins players try to avoid being shot by an assigned killer while trying to murder their own victim. If an assassin finds and shoots his or her victim, they then have to kill the victim's target. In culmination of this murder chain, the last living assassin wins the game.

Keith Randolph, a junior environmental design major, has been playing Assassins for the last two weeks with a group of friends. Randolph and his friends are assigned victims each week through a random drawing, and at midnight on Monday, the game begins. The campus is the only designated hunting ground for the group, Randolph said, which often necessitates clever search and evasion techniques.

"You have to make sure you don't get killed," Randolph said. "It gets into espionage and trying to find out who has who."

Randolph said espionage may involve making deals to avoid getting shot or to try to find a target. Conspiracy also abounds, he said, and ambushes are not uncommon.

"Someone will get cocky, and everyone else will turn against them," he said. "I was personally one of the people set up. Someone brought (my assassin) into my class and hid them."

The resulting ambush ended Randolph's play in that particular game.

But since some professors might frown on this, killings often occur at bizarre times and places.

Many of Randolph's friends are architecture majors, making them easy to find and shoot in the architecture complex. One of his friends was shot there at 3 a.m. while working on a project.

"We needed a more creative way to kill time."

— KEITH RANDOLPH
Assassins participant

Hiding is part of the game as well. Players not afforded the convenience of a low profile must rely on trickier methods of seclusion.

"We get real paranoid, watching every direction," Randolph said.

He said he takes different routes to class and adjusts his schedule to avoid detection. Of course, an assassin's best friend is a water gun.

"Be armed at all times," Randolph said.

Katherine Mengerink, president of the A&M Zoological Society and a senior zoology major, knows the importance of this advice well. She was "killed" last Monday in the Zoological Society's Assassins game, caught unarmed by a tipped-off killer who tracked her to her workplace.

"The vice president gave me away," Mengerink said. "I work at a lab, and the person chased me down and got me in the lab."

In the Zoological Society's game, which started two weeks ago, assassinations are rendered null and void if a victim can manage to shoot his killer before or while being killed. Mengerink had actually thwarted an earlier murder attempt in this way, but last Monday, she forgot to pack her piece, and her luck ran out.

Despite the fact she now cannot shoot her own victim, Mengerink said Assassins has been a fun way to get to know others from the Zoological Society. She also said she likes the feeling of wariness that an Assassins player has while trying to skirt death.

"Walking on campus and being afraid gives you something to do between classes," she said.

For Randolph and his friends, Assassins offers a welcome diversion from daily schedules.

"It's different than the normal, everyday stuff — and I get to shoot random people," Randolph said, referring to players' habit of practicing their aim on the innocent. "We needed a more creative way to kill time."

Wednesday • April 10, 1996

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Department of Biophysics, discussed
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r. Steven M. Smith, a
professor of psychology,
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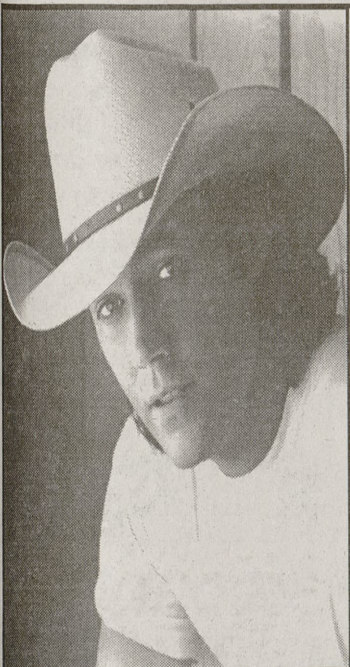
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