

Wall in Houston mall collapses

HOUSTON (AP) — Two people were killed, six injured and as many as six others were feared missing under tons of concrete and steel rubble Thursday after a wall collapsed at a shopping mall.

The collapse sent dozens of other early morning "mall walkers" scrambling for their lives. Northline Mall's doors had just opened around 9 a.m. when a wall being torn down to make room for a Magic Johnson theater complex collapsed, sending those inside, many of them elderly, fleeing for cover.

"It just all of a sudden went crackling. I ran," said Dorothy McCann, who was among people who exercise daily by lapping the inner perimeter of the shopping center.

Rescuers using police tracking dogs searched through the debris for other victims. By early afternoon, cranes had been brought in

to begin moving wreckage. "We're pretty certain there may be other people under the debris," Fire Chief Eddie Corral said at a news conference. "We won't really know until we get in there and pull it off. Some of it is rather large and heavy."

Corral speculated from four to six people may be missing.

Demolition crews working at Northline's south end were removing the last sections of an old Joske's department store when a wall common to the old store and the mall caved in.

Authorities described the wall as about 20 feet high with the fallen section about 150 to 200 feet long.

"I just heard a loud rumble," said Mary Shields, 59, who was inside the mall. "I could see dust flying. I turned around and looked back. I saw people running out of the offices

saying somebody got hurt. The dust was so thick ... You couldn't see."

Five of the injured were "mall walkers," most of them in their 60s and 70s, including a man who ran through a glass window to flee the avalanche of debris and a couple who were pushed to the ground by force of the wall's collapse.

The most seriously injured — a 67-year-old woman with a broken ankle — was expected to be the only person kept overnight and require surgery. The others were treated and expected to be released later Thursday.

Mayor Bob Lanier said the immediate search by firefighters was being slowed while crews made certain rescue crews were in no additional danger.

"They've got to make it safe," Lanier said. "When they do, we think they will find some more (bodies)."

Investigator testifies in Routier trial

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Darlie Routier never denied killing her sons when she was interrogated at the Rowlett police station the day of her arrest, an investigator testified Thursday.

"She always had the same verbal response: 'If I did it, I don't remember,'" said private investigator Bill Parker, the only rebuttal witness called by prosecutors.

Parker is a retired Dallas police officer who helped the Rowlett Police Department in its investigation of the June 6, 1996, stabbing deaths of Routier's two sons.

Prosecutors allege Routier, now 27, used a kitchen butcher knife to attack 5-year-old Damon and 6-year-old Devon Routier then slashed herself to cover the crime.

But Routier contends an intruder assaulted her and her boys before fleeing through the garage of the family's suburban home near Dallas.

Her capital murder trial was moved to Kerrville because of publicity in North Texas. If

convicted, Routier could face the death penalty.

Parker testified he met with Rowlett police officers to review the evidence against Routier before interviewing her.

"The evidence was in direct contradiction to the way the crime was reported to have occurred," Parker said.

"She (Routier) always had the same verbal response: 'If I did it, I don't remember.'"

Bill Parker
Private investigator

During a three-hour interrogation on June 18, Parker said he told Routier at least six times he thought she killed her sons.

"Did Mrs. Routier ever deny killing her children?" prosecutor Greg Davis asked.

"No sir, she did not," Parker replied.

Defense attorney Doug Mulder questioned why Parker did not record the interview.

Parker said he would have liked to record the session, but the Rowlett officers told him there was no room available with a recording device. He also said there was no room equipped with a microphone so that other officers could listen.

Outside the courtroom, Mulder said Routier has denied making the statements that Parker claimed she made. Mulder, a friend of Parker's, praised his skills as an interrogator.

"If Darlie were guilty, I think Bill Parker would have gotten a confession from her," Mulder said.

The defense rested its case Wednesday after Routier took the witness stand and firmly denied killing her sons.



Finger painting

Jayson Owens, a senior environmental design major, and Aimee Llewellyn, a senior psychology major, work together in their painting class.

Pat James, The Battalion

Twen

By B
T

In 1977, freshman Stephen ... but she still ... Star Wars.

"I remember I was a kid," she said. "I was a kid, she still ... Star Wars."

Tonight a cousins may be bludgeoning pi ... \$323 million ... a merchant ... than \$4 billion.

To celebrate ... anniversary, it is ... Century Fox an ... Special Edition ... This trilogy ... four, five, and ... films are also ... fresher course ... release of chap ... The chapter ... place 40 years ... Wars and will ... Skywalker (Da ... Dark Side."

PETITION UPDATE
As of January 30, 1997, 3,900 students have signed a petition calling for a referendum on yell leader run-offs. If 10 percent of all students sign the petition, the results of the referendum would be binding — possibly forcing run-off elections for yell leaders this spring.
SOURCE: Liz Rayburn

► State

Students just say no to random drug tests

VIGO PARK, Texas (AP) — Hollister Gardner says he reacted to his school's random drug testing program just like he's approached dope all his life: He just said no.

Barely a month after his 18th birthday, Gardner drafted a federal lawsuit challenging the policy — and sued his father in the process.

Gary Gardner is among the Tulia Independent School District board members named as defendants in the lawsuit. But Gardner, the only board member to oppose the policy, has been happy to help his son

by providing tapes of board meetings and other district documents.

"Boy, you think you raise them right, and as soon as they turn 18 they up and sue you," Gardner joked.

This rural district, about 45 miles south of Amarillo, asked parents and students last fall to sign permission slips agreeing to random drug testing as a condition of involvement in extracurricular activities.

Gramm angered over voting rights challenge

WASHINGTON (AP) — His voice rising in anger, Sen. Phil Gramm on Thursday denounced as "outrageous" a taxpayer-funded legal challenge questioning the right of out-of-town mil-

itary personnel to vote in local elections.

"Is there no shame?" he thundered, demanding that the Justice Department intervene in a West Texas voting-rights case that has blossomed into a cause celebre for conservatives.

Texas Rural Legal Aid, which represents thousands of poor Texans, filed suit in December challenging some 800 out-of-town ballots cast in Val Verde County races by military personnel and their families. As a result of that suit, a federal judge in San Antonio has temporarily barred two Republicans from taking office as sheriff and county commissioner.

Letter to Simpson civil trial jurors angers judge

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Two jurors from

the first O.J. Simpson trial and an entertainment agent are under investigation for allegedly contacting jurors in the civil trial, sources said Thursday.

An angry Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Jisaki ordered the probe after two civil trial jurors reported receiving a letter at their homes from criminal trial jurors Brenda Moran and G. Rosborough, sources told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

In the handwritten letter, Moran and Rosborough praise the civil trial jurors and urge them to consider contacting an entertainment agent-publicist named Bud Stewart offering to represent them in media deals, sources said.

It was this letter that caused Tuesday's court session to be delayed about an hour while the judge interviewed all of the jurors, sources said.

► This day in history

Today is Friday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 1997. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite into orbit, Explorer 1.

In 1606, Guy Fawkes, convicted for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot" against the English Parliament and King James I, was executed.

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria.

In 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee was named general-in-chief of all the Confederate armies.

In 1917, Germany served notice that it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces began invading Kwajalein Atoll and other parts of the Japanese-held Marshall Islands.

In 1945, Private Eddie Slovik became the only U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion. He was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1950, President Harry Truman announced he had ordered development of the hydrogen bomb.

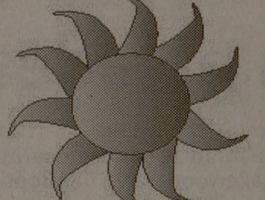

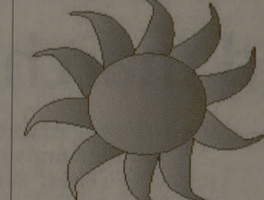
In 1971, astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Edgar D. Mitchell and Stuart A. Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14.

In 1990, McDonald's Corporation opened its first fast-food restaurant in Moscow.

► Today's birthdays

Actress Carol Channing is 74. Author Norman Mailer is 74. Actress Jean Simmons is 68. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Ernie Banks is 66. Actress Suzanne Pleshette is 60. House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo. is 56. Actress Jessica Walter is 53. Baseball pitcher Nolan Ryan is 50. Singer Phil Collins is 46.

► Weather

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High 76°F
Sunny and pleasant. SW winds at 10 mph.	Clear and cool.	Mostly sunny. SW winds at 10 mph.	Tonight's Expected Low 50°F
			Tomorrow's Expected High 78°F
			Tomorrow Night's Expected Low 58°F

Information courtesy of TAMU

VERTICAL HORIZON
INSTORE PERFORMANCE
TODAY 4PM

MONDAY AT MIDNIGHT
ON SALE. SILVERCHAIR, OFFSPRING
WIDESPREAD PANIC, SPICE GIRLS

IMPORTS
T-SHIRTS
POSTERS

TEXAS BUY & SELL
MUSIC USED CD'S

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ROCK

DANCE MUSIC
TRIP HOP TRANCE
BREAKBEAT
DRUM N' BASS

RAP **REGGAE** **BLUES**

JAZZ **COUNTRY** **CLASSICAL**

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NEWS: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu; Internet address: http://bat-web.tamu.edu.

ADVERTISING: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald, and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

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THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.