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Monday, April 21, 1997

Two workers injured in elevator shaft accident

Both men still are hospitalized after falling 35 feet.

BY JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Two men were seriously injured after falling 35 feet down an elevator shaft in the Texas A&M Nuclear Science Center near Eastwood Airport Friday morning. A public official for the nuclear facility said the men were conducting routine maintenance when the accident occurred at 10:45 a.m. Bryan Fire Chief James Bland said the in-

vestigation into the cause of the accident should take a few days.

The College Station Fire Department was called to the site. Paramedics were lowered down the elevator shaft to the men and stabilized them for transport.

The Bryan Fire Department high-angle search and rescue team was called in to remove the men from the elevator shaft.

Fire Chief James Bland said the rescue team had to do a one-point vertical raise to get the injured men out.

"The team had to literally lift them vertically on a hoist in a standing position," Bland said. Larry Krisanits, a senior health physics su-

pervisor, was one of the men injured in the fall. Krisanits was taken to Columbia Medical Center for treatment where he is recovering.

Maxine Greek, a Columbia Medical Center administrator, said Friday, Krisanits was in stable condition. Columbia representatives would not comment on his condition Sunday.

Michael Spellman, an electronics technician, also was injured in the fall. Spellman was transported to Columbia Friday, but was transferred to Herman Hospital in Houston. Herman representatives also would not comment on Spellman's condition.



Rony Angkirwan, THE BATTALION

Smooth Move

Leonel Flores, a member of the silent drill platoon, practices a rifle maneuver. The group performed on Kyle Field Sunday as part of Parents' Weekend.

Propane vehicle ready for competition

BY LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

Dr. Ray M. Bowen turned the ignition of a modified 1995 Dodge Dakota pickup truck at a dedication ceremony Friday afternoon. The truck was converted by a team of 20 Texas A&M University mechanical engineering students to run on propane and will be entered into the Propane Challenge in May.

The three-part competition is designed to build vehicles that produce low emissions, yet maintain speed, range, drivability and other performance characteristics of the base gasoline-fueled vehicle.

Brad Johnson, student project manager for the Propane Vehicle Challenge and a senior mechanical engineering major, said the team dedicated long hours to prepare for the competition. He said the ceremony allowed administrators and observers to witness

the team's advancements and explain the project.

"We knew it (the truck) was going to start up," he said. "But there is that moment when the president of the University cranks the key and your heart skips a beat."

Johnson said converting gasoline-run cars to propane has not been the biggest obstacle, but rather making technological advances to develop vehicles designed only for propane use.

"Right now there are cars on this university that run on propane, but they are dual fueled," he said.

The research done during competition is handed over to companies such as Chrysler to help develop dedicated propane vehicles.

Johnson said the alternative propane fuel is not accessible now, but if adopted, it will help clean the environment.

"It (propane) is a cleaner burning fuel," he said. "It does not exude as

"If we get everybody in the United States to use propane, that will significantly reduce the pollutant fuels in the air."

Brad Johnson
student project manager

much carbon monoxide... and other polluting chemicals into the air," he said. "If we get everybody in the United States to use propane, that will significantly reduce the pollutant fuels in the air."

Johnson said the unavailability of the fuel is the only drawback of using propane.

"People don't want to go on a long road trip and be stranded on the side of the road with their three kids and not be able to fill up their car because there is no propane available," he said.

Courtney Haydon, management support team leader and a senior management major, said companies soon will jump on the propane bandwagon.

"As we become more environmentally conscience, companies are going to have to start making environmentally conscience vehicles," she said.

Last year's team placed first, winning Best Overall and Lowest Emissions awards with their 1996 Dodge minivan.

Haydon said the team is confident they will repeat those wins at this year's competition.

"They work well together and I think they are ready to succeed and make the school proud," she said.

Jewish community observes Passover

BY GRAHAM HARVEY
THE BATTALION

People of the Jewish faith will celebrate the 3000 year-old festival of Passover tonight and Sunday.

Rabbi Peter Tarlow of the Hillel Foundation, the Jewish student center for Texas A&M, said there will be several Passover services throughout the week. There will be two ceremonies Passover night at 8 and Tuesday night at 7, as well as a special service Friday at 8.

Passover is the story of liberation, from slavery to freedom and from degradation to human dignity," Tarlow said.

All national liberation movements are based on the Passover. The whole American revolution was based on the Passover."

The Book of Exodus explains the origin of the festival.

In the beginning, God's plagues on Egypt did not compel Pharaoh to free the Hebrew slaves, so the final plague — death. Exodus 12: 6-13 quotes God's commandments to Moses the last night of Hebrew slavery in Egypt.

"The congregation of Israel shall kill their



James Palmer, THE BATTALION

lamb in the evening. Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts... of the houses in which they eat them... It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the first-born... and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments; I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you... when I smite the land of Egypt."

The next day, Exodus says, Pharaoh freed the Hebrew slaves, and Moses led the new nation of Israel out of Egypt. Jews celebrate this

liberation every spring during Passover, a seven-day observance.

The book *Passover*, edited by Mordell Klein and distributed by the Philadelphia-based Jewish Publication Society of America, outlines the customs associated with the week.

"Families congregate around a festive table on the first night of Passover, and in the course of a picturesque ceremony called the seder, parents perform the religious duty of telling their children the story of the national beginnings of their people... The Bible vividly portrays how Israel was chosen by God from all the nations, and acquired by Him... by the act of the redemption from Egypt... They were to be God's torchbearers, 'a light to the nations.'"

Deborah Benich, a Hillel Foundation member and a freshman poultry science major, said Passover is a time of personal reflection for her.

"It is an occasion for us to remember what happened to us, 3,000 years ago," Benich said.

"It is a joyous time and a fun learning experience."

Ceremony honors deceased Aggies

H.B. Zachry Jr. will be the guest speaker for tonight's Muster at G. Rollie White.

BY ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION



H.B. Zachry Company in San Antonio. Vandaveer said Zachry has had a successful career, since graduating from A&M.

"I think he (Zachry) can offer [to students] how A&M is a basis for the success you can build in your life," Vandaveer said, "and how you always remember where you come from, because he has continually given back to A&M."

Christina Horz, a Muster program sub-chair and a senior marketing major, said Zachry is an example to students of a person who has kept the Aggie Spirit after graduating from A&M.

"I think he really can pass on to them (students) that the Aggie Spirit is alive and well," Horz said. "This (Muster) is a tradition you can have forever, whether you are in College Station or not."

A camaraderie barbecue will be held at the Academic Plaza from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Entertainment, such as the Aggie Wranglers and Highway 6, will be provided.

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Aggies who have died in the past year will be honored by A&M students and former students during the Muster ceremony in G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7 p.m. today and at 400 other ceremonies around the world.

A roll call for the deceased Aggies will be read as students and former students answer, "Here." A candle will be lit as each name is called.

Amy Vandaveer, Muster chair and a senior English and speech communications major, said every student should attend the ceremony, because it is a tradition that includes every A&M student.

"It (Muster) unites all Aggies, no matter who they are and where they come from," Vandaveer said. "It's the one tradition that binds us and doesn't separate us."

David Hofmann, a Muster program sub-chair and a senior history major, said students' attendance supports the families of the deceased, because every Aggie will be called to Muster at some time.

"It's a person's responsibility [to attend Muster], because whenever they pass away someone will be there to answer for them," Hofmann said.

Tonight's Muster speaker will be H.B. Zachry Jr., Class of '54 and CEO of

Award recognizes contributions to community service

Three students were presented the Margaret Rudder Service Award

BY MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

For three A&M students, devoting time to activities such as cooking for a camp of 600 high school students or playing with children at Kemp Gym in Bryan has allowed them to make an impact on the lives of others and be recognized.

The contributions of Rebecca Wood, Brooks Henry and Cassie Suitt earned them the first Margaret Rudder Community Service Award at the All-University Awards Ceremony yesterday.

The award recognizes students who help serve aspects of the community such as the elderly, public safety, the environment and children.

Wood, a senior sociology and psychology major, received the grand prize \$500 cash award. Henry, a sophomore biochemistry and genetics major, and Suitt, a sophomore management major, each received a \$250 cash award.

In Colorado last summer, Suitt volunteered as a baker at Frontier Ranch, a nondenominational Christian youth camp. Wood devotes her time helping keep Bryan-College Station children out of trouble at Kemp Gym in Bryan and is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a co-educational community service fraternity. Henry is active with agencies such as the Brazos Food Bank and Phoebe's Home.

Shelley Howell, founding chair of the award and a senior finance and marketing major, said the award developed as a way to honor students for community service and help create an incentive for others to serve the community.

"It's created to recognize those who significantly impact their community and who themselves are impacted by that contribution," Howell said.

Originally, the award was known as the Outstanding Service Award when it was given for the first time last year.

However, coordinators of the award said they felt it needed to be associated with someone unique, similar to other honors such as the

Buck Weirus Spirit Award. Margaret Rudder was chosen because of her commitment to volunteer efforts.

Rudder, who now volunteers her time at the Crestview Nursing Home in Bryan, is the widow of the former University president, James Earl Rudder.

Howell said they chose to name the award after Rudder because of her motivation and reputation for helping others in the A&M and the surrounding communities.

"We felt it would be very appropriate to associate her name with the award because of her lifelong dedication to service," Howell said.

In addition to the award being renamed, it will be presented every year at the All-University Awards Ceremony and recognized as a permanent committee of Student Government.

Wood, who received the \$250 award last year, said the added bonus of receiving the honor this year is having Rudder's name associated with the award and having it presented at the All-University Award Ceremony.

"Now the University is finally putting community service up there with everything else," Wood said. "It sends a message that they think this is important."

Wood said community service is something that should be done more than once a semester.

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