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Heat brings new troubles to border

Intense temperatures have tripled immigrant heat deaths since 1997

SARITA, Texas (AP) — Texas' summer heat wave, blamed for at least 130 deaths across the state, has killed dozens of immigrants trying to enter the United States illegally. Many of those who died were circumventing checkpoints by navigating the vast, unfamiliar brush.

Meanwhile, Border Patrol representatives from the U.S.-Mexico border kicked off a weeklong conference in Tucson, Ariz., Monday to discuss coordination of lifesaving efforts.

Since the beginning of May, the Border Patrol has documented 53 immigrant deaths in Texas attributed to heat. There were 16 heat-related deaths documented in 1997.

"One of the things that really alarms us is that this year we've almost tripled the number of deaths," said Paty Mancha, spokesperson for the Border Patrol's Del Rio sector.

"That's alarming and that should-

n't be happening and we're trying very much to reach the people who this affects — which in fact are the Mexican citizens," Mancha said. "We don't want to see any more people dying." The Border Patrol patrols Texas in

"That's (the rise in immigrant deaths) alarming and shouldn't be happening."

— Paty Mancha
Border Patrol spokesperson

five sectors: Del Rio, Marfa, El Paso, Laredo and McAllen. The Marfa and El Paso sectors have reported no heat-related deaths for Texas in the last two years. Border crossers in both sectors are more likely to drown in the strong currents of the Rio Grande.

That is not the case down the river, where despite recent flooding it's

been hotter than usual. The Laredo area — where one heat death was recorded in 1997 and 20 have been logged in 1998 — has sweltered in triple-digit heat this summer.

The Border Patrol credits part of the increase in documented deaths to its stepped-up efforts to patrol the region, meaning they have found more illegal immigrants both dead and alive. The increased vigilance, which calls for searching the dense Texas brush in utility vehicles and planes, has led to a number of rescues.

The Del Rio sector has established toll-free numbers that can be reached from both the United States and Mexico for callers who need help or who want to offer tips about illegal smuggling. All along the Texas-Mexico border, agents are learning how to recognize and treat heat illness and stocking up on water jugs and ice.

Ozarka sue over rights groundwater

AUSTIN (AP) — A battle between rural East Texas landowners and a bottled-water company they contend is draining wells through a spring operation will be considered by the state Supreme Court.

The court, which scheduled arguments for Nov. 19, is asked by the landowners whether the concept of "absolute ownership" of water should be changed.

The absolute ownership states that all "percolating" ground water, such as the water in the Ozarka Spring Water Co. case, belongs to the owners of the land where it is found, the Ozarka Spring Water Co. said in its documents. It said the company "may use the water for any purpose he desires."

The Legislature "has joined this court in recognizing the absolute ownership rule," said documents filed by the company. It said lawmakers have not changed the rule and the court previously has recognized any change should come from the Legislature.

"Regardless of the absolute ownership rule, it would be counterproductive to our business to mention our industry, to draw a spring or a neighbor's water supply," added Lauren Cargill, company spokesperson.

"Ozarka has gone above and beyond the standard of the law by unilaterally implementing a state-of-the-art, 24-hour, seven-day-a-week monitoring system to ensure water collection would have no negative impact on the spring or on neighbors — all this before state operations began," she said.

"Ozarka has pledged and continues to pledge that operations would be reassessed if scientific evidence showed anything to the contrary."

STUDENTS

Continued from Page 1

Srini Neralla, an I-Camp counselor and a graduate student studying soil microbiology, said the students enjoyed meeting the team.

"Many of them are not as familiar with American football, so many were interested and excited to find out more, and probably will [attend] when the season starts," he said.

Tatsuki Ohashi, president of ISA and a senior international studies major, said it is important to teach international students the traditions of Texas A&M for many reasons.

Ohashi said he feels topics such as football and activities such as Midnight Yell can give international students common ground with the rest of the student body.

"By introducing international students to the traditions of this campus, it gives them something in common with other students and does not leave them feeling left out," Ohashi said.

Vinay Ramanathan, assistant director of I-Camp and a graduate student studying business administration management information systems, said he hopes to reduce any potential for alienation international students might feel by creating an interest in the traditions on campus.

"Not knowing or understanding what is going on can leave students feeling left out and discriminated against, or alienated," Ramanathan said. "This is why we encourage the international students to attend I-Camp. This is their first overall glimpse at Texas A&M."

Ramanathan said the international students really enjoyed the yell practice and the Aggie Wranglers performance.

Along with teaching international students traditions, I-Camp offers other advantages to those attending. It provides a chance for students to meet others from different countries and cultures.

"I-Camp provides an opportunity for students to make friends before the semester starts," said Ohashi.

PTTS

Continued from Page 1

Fines for parking in unauthorized areas have been increased from \$10 to \$25.

Parking regulations at the Bush School of Government and Public Service and the Bush Presidential Library Center will remain the same as last semester. Library parking is reserved for visitors to the library and fines will be given to violators, according to PTTS.

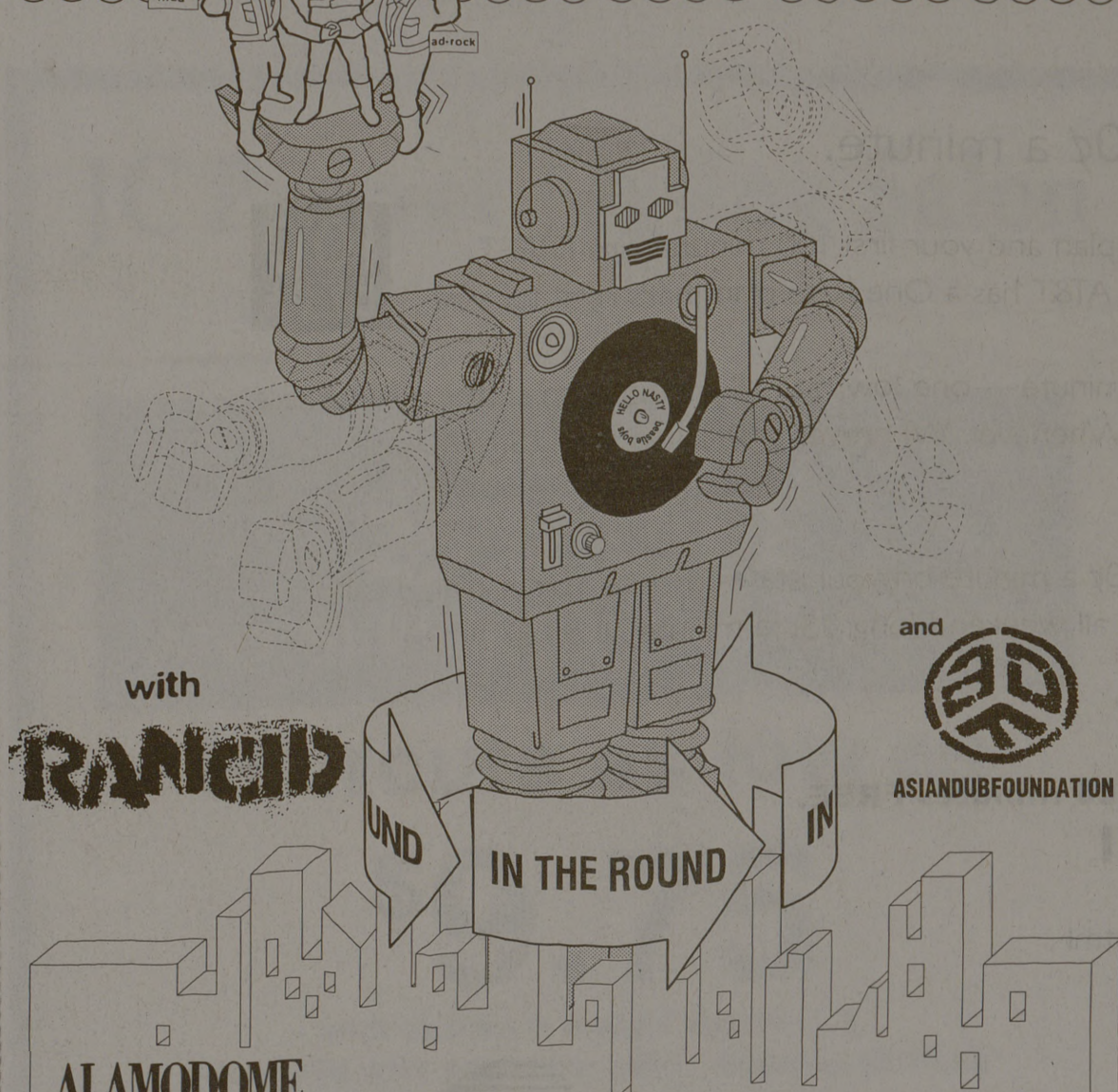
Doug Williams, the associate director of PTTS, said an officer is usually stationed full-time to monitor parking at the Bush complex.

Rates for visitor parking areas will increase to \$1 per hour, beginning Sept. 1, according to a press release from PTTS. The maximum billing for visitor parking will total \$8 per day. Visitors may use available parking in the Northside parking garage, University Center parking garage, PA-72 on Olsen Blvd. and the Central Campus parking garage.

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