

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
at Texas A&M University


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MEETING

SPEAKER: General Electric

Wed. Nov. 1 @7:00pm

Room : Blocker 163



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"El Dia De Los Muertos"

Thursday
November 02, 2000

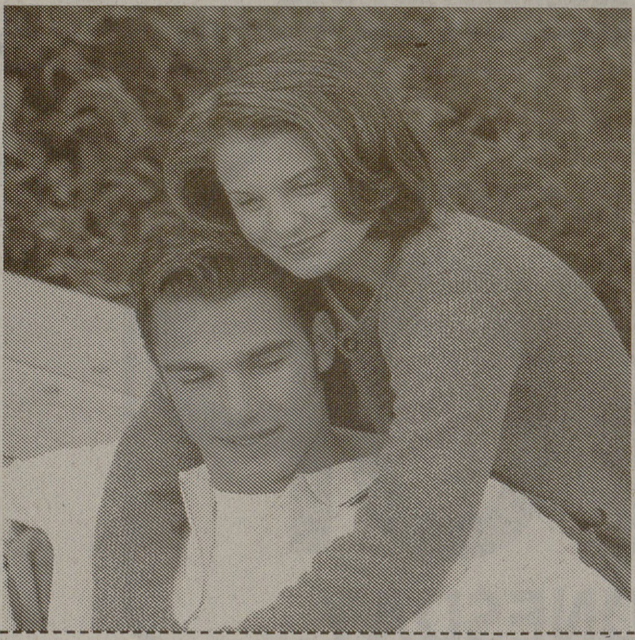
Guest Speakers
Mr. and Mrs. Valdez

Rudder 301
8:30-10:00pm

Cultural Points
pan dulce & hot chocolate

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Environmental commission appointed

Bush selects three with 'industry ties' to oversee state air and water quality

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush's appointees to the three-member commission overseeing state environmental affairs are a former chemical company employee, a former consultant for engineering firms and a member of the Texas Farm Board.



BUSH

Environmentalists are critical, saying those who serve on the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission should not come from the industries they monitor.

Aides to Bush, the Republican presidential nominee, and the commissioners themselves say their business backgrounds do not make them partial to industry. And one commissioner says his experience gives him the upper hand because he understands industry tricks.

"I know how the industry works. I have been there myself," said Ralph Marquez.

Bush appointed Marquez, who worked for Monsanto Co. from 1963 to 1993 before leaving to start his own consulting firm; John Baker, who was on the board of the Texas Farm Board and was agricultural adviser to Environmental Protection Agency chief William K. Reilly from 1991 to 1993 while Bush's father was president; and chairman Robert Huston, whose consulting firm represented industry and government agencies.

Bush's environmental record has become campaign fodder for Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Democrat Al Gore's running mate, who has criticized Bush for appointing commissioners with industry ties.

"Given a chance to stand with people, families or side with the polluters, Governor Bush has too often chosen to side with the polluters," Lieberman said on a recent swing through Texas.

Bush spokesman Dan Bartlett said Bush believes the commission does not favor industry.

"Governor Bush believes he's picked people who will work hard to improve the air, water and land in the state of Texas," Bartlett said.

"I know how the industry works. I have been there myself."

— Ralph Marquez
Commission appointee

But Texas environmentalists say Bush and his appointees have left the state in trouble, with Houston leading the nation in poor air quality and Texas ranking fifth in release of toxic emissions.

"The Bush appointees have not

been folks that have been working for the environment," said Schneider, director of Public Search Works. "They have been working for the polluters' interests."

Environmental groups filed a state review board to rule preventing anyone who earned a significant part of their income in the previous five years from industries regulated by TRNCC from becoming a commissioner.

The commission had a favorable rating under Gov. Richards, who created it, but industry and business groups complained it was too strict in enforcing environmental laws. Richards' commissioners included a former commissioner and attorney, a former West Texas banker, and a former employee of the Texas Land Commission and the Lower Colorado River Authority.

Of Bush's appointees, Marquez has received the most criticism.

Man set to be executed for role in murder-for-hire inheritance scam

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Six days after his 19th birthday, video store clerk Jeffrey Dillingham figured he was on his way to a cool \$1 million when he and an accomplice broke into a luxury home in Fort Worth.

All they had to do was kill the couple who lived there. But the scheme unraveled. Although the woman in the house was killed, her husband survived a savage attack.

Some two weeks later, Dillingham confessed to police. Then he rejected a plea bargain that would have given him a life sentence. After convicting him of capital murder, a jury sent him to death row.

More than 8 1/2 years after Fort Worth socialite Caren Koslow was beaten and slashed with an 18-inch steel pry bar, Dillingham was set for lethal injection Wednesday evening.

"There can't be any satisfaction," Robert Mayfield, one of the Tarrant County prosecutors who worked to convict Dillingham, said of the execution.

"It's just the fact that some crimes are so heinous that the ultimate punishment is required. It's a waste of life. Not only did he destroy his life, Caren Koslow's life, he destroyed his family, Caren's family. It's like the pebble dropping in the pond."

Dillingham, 27, would be the 34th convicted killer to

be executed in Texas this year, three short of the record 37 executed in the nation's most active death penalty state in 1997. He is the first of six set to die over the next 16 days. Another three are set to die on consecutive days in early December.

His appeals exhausted, Dillingham's attorneys asked the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to spare his life. Attorneys said it was unfair he was the only one of the three charged in the case to receive the death penalty.

Dillingham's partner, Brian Salter, also 19 at the time, testified against a third member of the plot, Kristi Koslow, his 17-year-old girlfriend and the murder victim's stepdaughter, and received a life prison term. Kristi Koslow, identified as the mastermind of the scheme to kill her father, former banker Jack Koslow, and stepmother, was convicted and is serving a life sentence.

Testimony showed she wanted them dead because she did not get along with them after her father remarried and because she believed she would inherit as much as \$12 million and promised \$1 million to Dillingham.

In the early hours of March 12, 1992, according to testimony, the men arrived with a drawing of the 4,000-square-foot house and codes to disable an alarm system — both provided by Kristi Koslow.

Agents confiscate ton of marijuana

MADERO (AP) — A suspected drug runner drove a stolen truck full of marijuana into the Rio Grande, rolled down his window and paddled to Mexico to escape Border Patrol agents.

Agents in an unmarked car spotted the truck driving near the Rio Grande Monday afternoon, and saw bundles inside the vehicle. By the time the agents turned around to follow, it was too late: The driver had already splashed down a boat ramp.

While the driver of the Ford Expedition scampered off into Mexican farmlands, firefighters towed the

truck from the river. Inside, agents discovered a two-way radio and a ton of marijuana.

"This is a hotbed for smuggling activity."

— Rosendo Hinojosa
Border Patrol spokesman

The truck was stolen from Florida, Hidalgo County sheriff's investigators later discovered. The marijuana

inside was worth an estimated \$1,681,600.

Monday was not the first time that particular boat ramp offered an escape route to a would-be smuggler.

In June, a man drove a Ford sedan into the river and swam to Mexico. The U.S. Border Patrol later discovered 780 pounds of marijuana in that vehicle.

"This is a hotbed for smuggling activity," Border Patrol spokesman Rosendo Hinojosa told The Monitor in McAllen.

Madero is an unincorporated community on FM 1016, about two miles south of Mission.

News in Brief

Police accuse Houston rapper of bank robbery

FRIENDSWOOD (AP) — A Houston rapper is sought in connection with a series of bank robberies in this Galveston County city.

Andre Erell Barnes of the 5th Ward is accused of two separate counts of bank robbery. Friendswood Police Chief Jeff Stout said Monday.

A third charge is pending against the 27-year-old rapper.

Heists occurred at the Houston Bank of Friendswood on Oct. 2; at Guaranty Federal on Oct. 10; and at a Bank of America branch on Oct. 21.

At total of \$8,000 was believed to have been taken in the robberies.

Among albums recorded by the 5th Ward rapper are the 1991 *Ghetto Dope* debut. The most recent release is *Realize the Real*.

Student charged with planting dummy bombs

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A school junior has been charged in connection with the planting of five dummy bombs in the campus of his South Texas school.



Authorities said Jason Jansky is responsible for the Oct. 20 bomb hoax that caused a day of chaos in the 920-student District School District.

Jansky, a new student at Wiley High School, was booked on a total of 12 misdemeanor charges but released Saturday on bond.

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