

Gov. Bush's DUI arrest resurfaces

Pleaded guilty to charge 25 years ago

WEST ALLIS, Wis. (AP) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush said Thursday he was arrested and pleaded guilty nearly 25 years ago to driving while under the influence of alcohol. "I'm not proud of that," he said.

Confirming reports that surfaced in the media five days before Election Day, the GOP presidential nominee said in a hurriedly arranged news conference, "I've oftentimes said that years ago, I made some mistakes. I occasionally drank too much, and I did on that night. I regret that it happened."

The Sept. 4, 1976, incident was first reported by Fox News, based on a report prepared by a local affiliate in Maine. Bush, who was 30 years old at the time, said he had chosen to keep the incident private, but his hand was forced by the news outlets.

Suggesting that politics may have played a role in the incident surfacing now, Bush said, "I think that's an interesting question. Why now? — (five) days before the election."

"I've got my suspicions," said Bush, not sharing them with a crowd of reporters surrounding him.

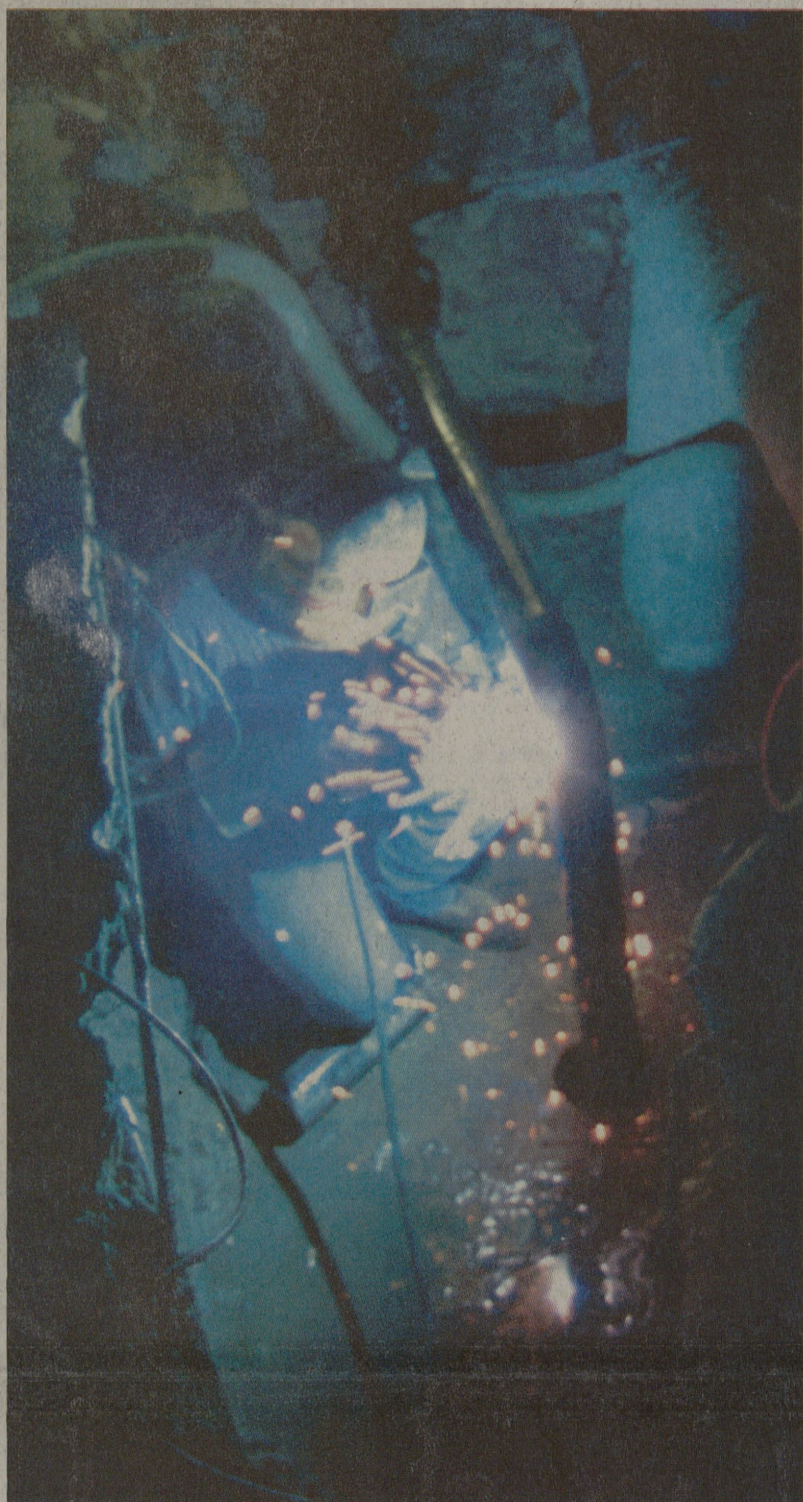
For months, the GOP nominee has refused to answer questions about any "youthful indiscretions," including whether he used illegal drugs in the 1960s and early 1970s. He continued to avoid specifics Thursday night, saying he has "been straightforward with the people, saying that I used to drink too much in the past. I'm straightforward with people saying I don't drink now."

Chris Lehane, spokesman for the Gore campaign, said, "We had absolutely nothing to do with this."

Bush's campaign staff jumped into action after the news broke, tracking down the arresting officer and quickly arranging a rare news conference for the Texas governor — his first in a month.

Aides said Bush was pulled over near his family's Kennebunkport, Maine, summer home after visiting a bar with friends and a family member during the Labor Day weekend.

Welding power



Welder Mike Matchett replaces the domestic hot water line to Hart Hall Thursday evening.

KEVIN BURNS/THE BATTALION

Palestinian-Israeli conflict continues

Car bombing in Jerusalem market kills two, injures 11

JERUSALEM (AP) — A powerful car bomb went off Thursday near a crowded outdoor market in the heart of Jerusalem, killing two bystanders on the day that Israeli and Palestinian leaders were scheduled to announce a truce.

The blast went off around 3 p.m., killing a man and a woman, "apparently Jews," said Israeli Police Commissioner Yehuda Wilk.

Flames burst from the car, which witnesses said moments earlier had been chased by police. Huge black plumes of smoke rose into the sky as wailing ambulances rushed to a narrow side street near the Mahane Yehuda market, which sells food, vegetables and clothing in Jewish west Jerusalem.

Eleven people were injured, paramedics said. Wilk said the assailants parked the car, rigged



Wm. J. Castello, S. Hoffmann/AP

with large quantities of explosives, on a side street near the market. He said heavy police presence apparently deterred the assailants from trying to explode the bomb in the crowded market.

Police said they were checking whether the assailants got away.

Campus organizations help students cope with situation

BY COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

As the death toll continues to rise in the Middle East due to continued Palestinian and Israeli fighting, it is easy to look at the situation from a political perspective. The issue may not seem to hit close to home, but it does for hundreds of Texas A&M Jewish and Muslim students.

Campus organizations such as the Hillel Jewish Student Association and the Muslim Student Association (MSA) are supporting their members during this situation. The Jewish Association and the MSA have placed ad-

vertisements in The Battalion calling for peace and prayer.

"The [Jewish Student Association] is currently formulating some groups that will organize statements on the association's behalf," said Greg Meyer, a fellowship recipient for the National Hillel Jewish Association assigned to help A&M Jewish students. "We also have student committees attempting to organize a peace march."

Meyer said that Rabbi Tarlow, adviser for the Jewish Student Association, has been holding everybody together during this emotional time. "Rabbi Tarlow takes care of everybody," he

University officials praise U.S. mediation in Mid East

BY COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

The mediator role the United States is taking in the Middle East conflict is the appropriate stance, said Dr. Avraham Zilkha, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas-Austin, and Nehemia Geva, a Texas A&M political science professor.

The two spoke at a panel discussion hosted by the Current Issues Awareness (CIA) committee and the Wiley Lecture Series (WLS) about the Middle East.

"The purpose of the program is to inform students about the issues occurring in the Middle

East today," said Rami Hauth, chairwoman for the WLS and a sophomore business major. "We want students to be able to learn about important issues outside of the classroom."

The recent violent uprising between Palestinians and Israelis and their ongoing dispute over control of Israel and the holy sites within its territory was the topic at hand.

The discussion was moderated by Barry Hammond, a WLS and CIA committee member and a sophomore finance major. The evening opened with Zilkha and Geva commenting on the history of Israel and Palestine.

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Planet Northgate to showcase culture

BY ARATI BHATTACHARYA
The Battalion

The road home for Juan Borrego is not down Highway 6, Highway 21 or Highway 35. For Borrego to go home, he has to cross national borders.

"I definitely miss home," said Borrego, a native of Mexico and a sophomore electrical engineering major. "The entire culture is different. I have to go back to Mexico to get real Mexican food and cherish the Tejano music and lifestyle."

His nostalgia will be somewhat satisfied this weekend, when a dash of multicultural flavor and festivities will envelop Northgate in Planet Northgate, sponsored by the International Student Association (ISA).

"We hope to make Planet Northgate a huge Aggie tradition, and this is just the start," said Monica Pena, president of ISA and a senior industrial engineering major. Planet Northgate will have an array of festivities

today and Saturday, targeting all age groups. Booths hosted by various international and cultural organizations will line the Northgate Promenade, selling ethnic food and housing cultural displays and decorative artwork.

Borrego said he plans to attend the event to learn about different cultures, while cherishing his own.

Pena said it is unique to have so many cultures in such a small area.

"The purpose of Planet Northgate is to show everyone what's here and to build awareness," Pena said. "There's going to be stuff for everyone to enjoy."

Six bands — Peruvian flute players, a reggae band

PLANET NORTHGATE

Northgate Promenade area at the corner of Boyette and Church streets

Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Midnight
Saturday, 11 a.m. — Midnight

Variety show on Sunday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Free Admission

Six bands — Peruvian flute players, reggae band from Austin, Arabian gypsy-style music, jazz, Mexican pop and an alternative band

BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

from Austin, Arabian gypsy-style music, jazz, Mexican pop and an alternative band — will entertain crowds this weekend.

Tiago Bittinger, vice president for ISA and a senior

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Third-party candidates continue campaigning

Buchanan focuses on Reform Party funding

BY NOEL FREEMAN
The Battalion

While Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan has accepted almost certain defeat, he and the Reform Party have their sights set on getting federal funding for the Reform Party for the 2004 presidential race.

As the Nov. 7 election draws near, the goal to win at least 5 percent of the popular vote, which will qualify the Reform Party for \$13 million in federal funding for its presidential candidate in 2004, has been adopted by the Buchanan campaign.

Wes Anderson, Buchanan's deputy press secretary, said the party is moving to build a permanent populous third party.

"We want more political choice for the American people," Anderson said. The Nov. 7 election is Buchanan's third try for the presidency after being defeated for the Republican nomination in 1992 and 1996. This is his first bid on the Reform Party ticket, which received \$12.5 million in federal funding following Ross Perot's 9 percent showing in the 1996 election.



AP

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Ralph Nader makes third bid for presidency

BY ARATI BHATTACHARYA
The Battalion

While most voters are making their final choices between the Democratic and Republican parties, a few Americans are placing their bids on a newly emerging political party. Fighting to join the political mainstream, Ralph Nader of the Green Party is the most prominent third-party candidate in the 2000 presidential election. The Nader 2000 campaign says it "strive to clean up and clean out the political decay that has turned our government over to a plutocracy and politicians who take its marching orders."

Holding a different perspective from the two larger parties, Nader and the Green Party take pride in a concentration on environmental issues and consumer rights.

"I want to be president for a very simple reason," Nader said. "Because this country needs a very strong progressive movement that challenges the accepted concentration of power and wealth in the hands of global corporations who dominate our government, our workplace, our environment and many other areas of our political economy."



AP

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Bomb suspects attack, stab guard

NEW YORK (AP) — Two U.S. embassy bombing suspects attacked a guard at a federal lockup, stabbing him in the eye and leaving him in critical condition, authorities said.

A federal law enforcement source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that the guard at the Metropolitan Correctional Center was stabbed in the eye Wednesday with some kind of plastic instrument.

The thrust was believed to be so severe that the man lost his eye and the instrument penetrated the guard's brain, the source said.

The 43-year-old guard, whose name was not released, was taken to Bellevue Hospital where he underwent surgery for more than 12 hours, said Lorrinda Klein, a spokeswoman for the hospital. He remained in critical condition Thursday.

"Our thoughts and our prayers are with the family," said Attorney General Janet Reno, who was asked about the incident at a Thursday news conference in Washington. She said she understood he was expected to recover, but gave no details on his condition.

The suspects were identified as Khalfan Khamis Mohamed and Mamdouh Mahmud Salim, who have both been indicted in connection with the Aug. 7, 1998, bombings at

See ATTACK on Page 2.