

TUESDAY
June 19, 2001
Volume 107 - Issue 157
6 pages

News in Brief
State

Police arrest suspect of Taco Bell holdup

FORT WORTH (AP) — It was late-night run for the border one away.

A man was arrested early Monday morning after he rode a bicycle to a drive-through Taco Bell window, demanding the crew give him all their money and a chalupa.

While he was waiting for the chalupa, an employee called the police.

Officers arrived on the scene on Fort Worth's south side and shot the man in the arm and leg when he pointed that looked like a gun at them, Fort Worth police Lt. Wayne Paul said. The wounds do not appear to be threatening, Paul said.

The man's identity was not released immediately.

Deputy shot while serving 4 warrants

CANADIAN (AP) — A Memphis County sheriff's deputy was shot and killed Monday while trying to serve misdemeanor warrants on a 27-year-old Canadian resident, Sheriff Dean Butcher said.

Deputy Jim Bruce Graham, 44, had just opened the door of his vehicle when he was shot in the upper body Sunday morning outside a house where the man, Christopher Britton, was visiting, Butcher said. Graham died at the scene, Butcher said.

The sheriff's office got the call about the shooting at 9:36 a.m. Britton was caught most seven hours later hiding in the Canadian River.

Butcher said authorities are still trying to determine details of the shooting and have obtained statements from three people.

Line injured in van accident near Tyler

TYLER (AP) — At least nine people were injured when one vehicle smashed broadside into another at the intersection of two farm roads near Tyler.

Investigators said a 1990 minivan driven by Luisa Dequente, 41, of Grand Saline and carrying four children collided about 9:45 p.m. Sunday with a 1999 Chevrolet suburban driven by Darl Lynn Fortor, 41, of Van, Texas, and three passengers.

Texas Department of Public Safety trooper Clint Pirtle said the van was traveling east on Farm Road 858 and ran the stop sign at the highway's intersection with Farm Road 314, hitting the Suburban broadside. The impact forced the minivan off the east side of the road and into an oak tree, Pirtle said.

Student dies in Navasota wreck

Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

Senior finance major Laura Mezger had spent the last several months collecting donations to fund an eagerly anticipated 10-month mission to Russia so she and other members of Campus Crusade for Christ could further the message of Jesus world-wide.

But the crusade that would have left in early September will have one less messenger because Mezger was killed last Wednesday when her car was side-swiped by a pickup truck as she was leaving a car dealership in Navasota.

"She loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," said Luke Mezger, her brother and a senior construction science major at Texas A&M. "That is where she got her joy from, and that is how she gave joy to so many people."

Shannon Madlock, her co-worker at Cable Rep. Advertising in College Station and a senior agricultural development major, said Mezger always wore a smile and never failed to bring a smile to other people's faces.

"Just that day of the accident, our boss came in and asked to meet with her and she just said, 'Oh, OK I'll pencil you in,'" Madlock said. "It was just a little joke, but she always had that kind of attitude that could pick you up

and make you laugh."

Mike Alexander, a friend and manager at Cable Rep. Advertising, said her effect on people and was evident at her funeral as those who knew her were filled with laughter instead of tears.

"Everyone who was told about her death was absolutely torn apart by sadness," he said. "But that only lasted a few minutes. It didn't take long before they smiled as they realized that there was no question that she was OK in heaven, and that they were a better person for having known her."

Sandi Ireland, who was in Mezger's Bible study, said she always took a leadership position in Campus Crusade for Christ and succeeded in making activities fun — whether by staging a "Saturday Night Live"-like cheerleader skit or just putting her arm around a new member to make them feel welcome.

Charlie Brent, partnership coordinator for the A&M Campus Crusade for Christ, said it was that welcoming attitude combined with an adventurous spirit that drove Mezger to want to participate in the trip to Russia.

"She would have gone anywhere around the world," he said. "I think that is where she just felt that God was calling her."

Brent said Mezger would have



SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

Laura Mezger (bottom right) poses for a picture with friends: (clockwise from left) Anna Witfill, Carin Vadala, Tammy Harris, Mezger, Sarah Pope and Beth Beidleman.

helped set up a Campus Crusade for Christ at a college in Samara, Russia. She had already participated in a similar program in Thailand. Alexander said it was her experiences there that convinced him to hire her at Cable Rep. Advertising.

"She came into my office and pointed out on a map where she had been," he said. "She was so excited and personable that you couldn't say no. We

never did do an actual interview."

Mezger, 23, is survived by her parents, Robert and Frances Mezger of Meridian, Texas, and her brothers, Luke and Kyle, who is a recent graduate of Texas A&M.

Funeral services were held Sunday at the First United Methodist Church of Meridian.

Mezger will be honored at the Sept. 4 Silver Taps.

Tub of fun



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Kristin Crosby, a senior sports management major, and Ali Still, a senior kinesiology major, sit in the hot tub at the Student Recreation Center Monday afternoon.

Residence Life experiments with options

Elizabeth Raines
The Battalion

For some students currently attending Texas A&M, on-campus housing their freshman year was a time of stress and frustration.

With the limited on-campus spacing, some freshmen were forced to look elsewhere.

For the past two years, however, the Department of Residence Life had offered on-campus housing to every

"Beginning with the academic year 2002, residence hall space offers will come on a 'first-come, first-serve basis.'"

— Ron Sasse
director of Department of Residence Life

student who requested it, and are preparing for the same in the future.

"Beginning with the academic year 2002, residence hall space offers will be made on a 'first-come, first-serve' basis or sometimes referred to as a rolling method," said Director

of Residence Life Ron Sasse. "This is a change from the current procedure where housing space offers mirror the student admission numbers within each of the categories."

Assistant director for Residence Life Mack Thomas said the increase in the availability of on-campus housing currently has nothing to do with the addition of off-campus residence halls, such as The Callaway House and Traditions, but with the amount of upperclassmen who choose to live on-campus.

He said that 1995 was the peak year for upperclassmen to remain on campus. Since then, the number has declined slightly and leveled off, with 3,600 to 3,700 upperclassmen living on-campus per year. Thomas said this leaves enough housing for approximately 4,700 freshmen.

"The Callaway House is not big enough to have an impact on campus housing," Thomas said. "But [with the new addition] of Traditions and Callaway House together it could make a difference."

Thomas said that it will take about three years before the Department of Residence Life will know the effect of the new off-campus residence halls.

See HOUSING on Page 2.

Garza's appeal denied by Supreme Court

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — President Bush and the U.S. Supreme Court refused Monday to delay the execution of Juan Raul Garza, clearing the way for the murderous Texas drug kingpin to become the second inmate executed by the U.S. government in eight days.

Garza, 44, was convicted of killing one man and ordering the deaths of two others as part of a marijuana smuggling ring he operated from Brownsville, Texas. He was scheduled to die by lethal injection at 8 a.m. EDT Tuesday.

The Supreme Court refused to delay Garza's execution, rejecting claims that the jury

Convicted murderer set to die Tuesday in the second federal execution in Indiana in 8 days

should have been told that the alternative to a death sentence was life in prison with no possibility of release, and that his death sentence would violate two international treaties.

Following the two Supreme Court rulings, President Bush turned down Garza's request for clemency, removing his last hope to avoid execution. Bush was governor of Texas during much of the appeal process in Garza's case.

Garza was moved late Sunday to the isolation cell in the death house at the U.S. Peni-

tentiary, where Timothy McVeigh died by chemical injection last week in the first federal execution since 1963.

The fields outside the prison where hundreds of journalists gathered last week for McVeigh's execution were empty Monday afternoon. Dan Dunne, a U.S. Bureau of Prisons spokesman, said only about 75 reporters had registered for credentials to cover Garza's death. More than 1,000 reporters had credentials for the McVeigh execution.

Death penalty opponents

and some former Justice Department officials questioned whether Garza, a Mexican-American born in the United States, would have been sentenced to death if he were white or had committed his crimes elsewhere.

Six of the 19 men now on federal death row were sentenced in Texas. All are minorities.

"There is a question of whether the way the system is set up produces arbitrary and discriminatory results," said Robert Litt, a former deputy

assistant attorney general in the Clinton Justice Department. "I think somebody ought to get some answers and understand what's going on."

A Justice Department study released last year that found wide racial and geographical disparities in the use of the federal death penalty. Because of that study, then-President Clinton delayed Garza's December execution date, saying, "In this area, there is no room for error."

A Justice Department review released earlier this month found no evidence of bias in federal death penalty

See GARZA on Page 2.

INSIDE

Aggielife

- **Raided:** A look at Lara Croft: Tomb Raider

Opinion

- **Radio Edit:** FCC oversteps rights by fining radio station

Battalion News Radio:
57 p.m. KAMU 90.9

www.thebatt.com

on
its
more
hs
Pa. (AP) —
ing \$2 billion
ston, the new
Storm Alliance
in southeast
acked out thre
ers and chas
ees.
were linked
nsylvania, as
unday, pushi
ed on Alliso
ndfall in Tex
seen anything
entire life. No
on the news,
h said as she
through twi
er debris left
en Pennsylv
of its banks. S
Ken Edward
om chest-de
ast their hom
olding onto
firefighters.
ered off Sund
which got up
e storm mon
ersey and Ne
England and
New Jersey
inches of r
on Saturday
esidents from
e Green app
sham, 16 mi
Philadelphia. C
e complex
ral gas explos
the rising w
ghters from
anything. We
ives," Genev
was scared b
nd her husba
bled into a fir
from a secon
after the flo
rom their fir
t.
four bodies w
complex's m
aged buildi
e occurred, s
nd Police Ch
tt.
that everythi
the flood imi
l. "It appears
age caused a
e, which caus
ne deaths app
deaths."
people were
r, he said.
from Page
a little bit of
ht side and I
sion."
ee (0-5) took
nd Nelson Cr
the eighth fo
the Rangers
quality pitchi
while the Ast
rml. Texas us
th inning, cap
guez's 20th ho
to beat Hous
starter Darre
every Astro
seman Craig B
ered twice to
th Astro ru
his record to
arter Scott El
cord go to +
rew a crowd
ing the attend
the previous t