

# The Battalion

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## Mideast cholera epidemic worsens with pilgrimage

**United Press International**  
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Arab nations, hit by a severe outbreak of cholera that has killed at least 68 persons, are racing to control the disease before it is spread across the Middle East by the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Syria, where the disease broke out last month and where all of the reported deaths have occurred, announced yesterday that schools, scheduled to open Saturday, would not resume until at least Oct. 1 in an attempt to halt the outbreak.

More than 2,000 cases of cholera have been reported in Syria and the disease has spread to four other Arab nations and to

the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

The first of hundreds of thousands of devout Moslems have already set out overland for Mecca in a pilgrimage that will peak in about two months time.

"If we don't curb the cholera by then, things could get much, much worse," said one Beirut doctor.

"What can you do?" the doctor said. "The disease is spread through human carriers — from contaminated water and food sources — and it's safe to say you'll find all these elements in abundance on the Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca."

Cholera is characterized by acute diarrhea and vomiting and can be fatal if untreated.

Jordan and Lebanon have reported 165 and 11 cases respectively and both nations have banned food imports from neighboring Syria.

Kuwait also has reported one cholera case. Two have been reported on the Israeli-occupied West Bank. And a West German truck driver who recently returned from the Middle East yesterday was reported by health authorities to be "suffering from cholera."

Late last night, Saudi Arabian health of-

ficials reported "several isolated cases" of cholera in the area north of Mecca.

The threat of cholera was not expected to deter pilgrims who, in many cases, have pooled a lifetime's savings to fulfill the supreme duty of the Moslem devout.

So the Arab world is hoping to control the cholera before most of the pilgrims set out.

Jordan has said none of the pilgrims will be allowed to enter Jordanian cities on the way to Mecca and announced it is setting up "health centers" on some desert routes to the holy city.

## Balloon in trouble over ocean

**United Press International**  
BEDFORD, Mass. — A ground crew said today it has regained radio contact with two balloonists over Greenland who are attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

The craft was spotted at 5:45 a.m. EDT by a Navy aircraft about 200 miles southeast of Kadir, Greenland, flying at an altitude of 9,500 feet, members of the ground crew said.

The ground crew had asked airplanes in the area to fly by the balloon carrying Ben Abruzzo, 47, and Maxie Anderson, 44,

both of Albuquerque, N.M., to see if it was in distress. There has never been a successful crossing of the Atlantic by balloon.

"The pilots are in good condition," said Mike Leavitt, a spokesman for Weather Services Corp., at the Bedford weather station tracking the helium-filled balloon. But he said "further flight plans are unavailable at this time."

Before the sighting, the ground crew said they had not been in radio contact with Abruzzo and Anderson since 1 p.m. Sunday.

Leavitt said satellite information showed the balloon was flying in a 100-mile diameter circle about 180 miles southeast of Greenland, "a couple of hours" behind schedule.

The balloon — the Double Eagle — had covered 1,800 miles of its 3,000-mile journey by 3:30 a.m. today, and the silver-and-black craft was scheduled to reach Europe early Tuesday in its quest to be the first to successfully cross the Atlantic.

Leavitt said weather in the craft's path was "supposed to clear up a little today."

The trackers said Sunday the two men should reach Europe somewhere between southern England and southern Norway. They at first had hoped to catch a more southerly arc of air and wind up in France.

Abruzzo and Anderson left Marshfield, Mass. at 8:16 p.m. Friday. Their balloon was stocked with food, emergency survival equipment and air and surface radio equipment.

Their gondola can float if it should be forced down at sea.



### Champ 'Skis' Aggieland

World freestyle ski champion Wayne Wong maneuvered his way across Mount Aggie when he visited Texas A&M last weekend. Won's freestyle demonstration was sponsored by the A&M Ski Club.

Battalion photo by James Yeager

## voter registration questionnaires could affect Prairie View election

**MARY ALICE WOODHAMS**  
Battalion Staff

There's a "catch" for student voters in Prairie View County—particular students who are them to fill out questionnaires when they register to vote, despite warnings from Secretary of State Mark White to the procedure.

The questionnaires ask, among other things, the students' residency. And Wall County Judge Jack Taylor says that if a student registers his car in the county, he is eligible to vote.

"We're just doing exactly what we've always done," Taylor told a reporter last week. "We're just doing the job like it

should be done. If they (students) have any claim at all in the county, we register them."

White told county officials to stop using the questionnaire, and that he would seek an injunction if the request was not followed. The emergency rule, adopted on Sept. 1, states that no questionnaire or additional information may be required of an applicant who has properly completed a voter registration application.

But County Tax-Assessor-Collector Leroy Symm says he gives the questionnaires because he "wants to know who the people in his county are."

Symm told a Battalion reporter last week that if he (the reporter) came down to Waller county, Symm would "slap him with a questionnaire also."

Symm added that some of the questionnaires are received and registered with the county, and some are not.

According to a government attorney,

Symm apparently registers voters for three reasons: they are on county tax rolls, they are personal acquaintances of Symm, or they satisfactorily fill out the questionnaires.

Prairie View Mayor Eristus Sams said at least 2,000 students at the university are being denied their vote as a result of the questionnaire.

"It's enough to make a difference in the election," he told United Press International. "The students are up in arms, wondering why all the other students can vote and they can't."

School officials were unavailable for comment.

County officials say they will provide the Justice Department information within 60 to 90 days regarding the 500 new voters who registered in 1976 and 1977.

And Symm, a part-time watch repairman who says he doesn't like publicity, is being threatened with several lawsuits.

## Illegal parking continues to keep wreckers busy

**By MARGIE SANTAMARIA**

Parking in University Square can be expensive. In spite of the 16 warning signs, non-customers continue to make use of the parking area located next to the stores at the corner of S. College and University.

"I pay people to sit over there to spot. And if they see somebody getting out of their car and walk across to campus, we tow their car off," said Dave Drechsel, part owner of the newly formed D&H Wrecker Service.

A&M Wrecker Service, formerly owned by Sparkey Hardee, previously serviced University Center, but the company was dissolved about three weeks ago.

Drechsel, former manager of A&M Wrecker Services, has now formed D&H Wrecker Service with his silent partner Sparkey Hardee.

When asked if D&H had received any lawsuits for illegal towing, Drechsel replied, "No, and I don't want to go to court. These little nit-picky law suits are ridiculous. It's a waste of their time and they don't win the cases. It's a waste of my time."

The legal files, from the office of the justice of the peace from Precinct 7, show seven lawsuits filed against A&M Wrecker Service for illegal towing in University Square.

In six days D&H has towed away 12 cars from University Square, costing owners \$35 per car. That is \$5 more per car than A&M charged.

Some vehicles involve more time and money for towing, Drechsel said. "If it has a lock-in steering wheel, usually the transmission locks too, so then I'd just have to charge an extra \$7 to drop the drive shaft and then tow it," he said.

Drechsel said the first impulse of some who fail to notice the signs is to report the vehicle stolen.

He added that the College Station Police Department can direct these motorists to 1102 Groesbeck in Bryan, where D&H is located.

## ATT wants high court to kill antitrust case

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The American Telephone and Telegraph Co. wants the Supreme Court to quash the biggest antitrust suit of all time, claiming it might cost more than \$500 million just to prepare a defense against efforts to break up the Bell System.

"This case is out of control and something must be done to restore some semblance of rationality to (it) if it is not to go down . . . as the single most wasteful, futile exercise ever attempted by our legal system," AT and T said in its appeal to the high court.

The court will decide sometime after it resumes session in October whether to accept the case or let stand a lower-court ruling unfavorable to AT and T.

The federal anti-trust suit against the telephone company, the world's biggest privately-owned corporation, dates from 1974. It still is in the preliminary stages as AT and T tries to dispute the Justice Department's right to file such a suit.

The department charges that the company is a monopoly, conspiring to eliminate competition in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

It wants AT and T divested of the Western Electric Co., one of its major subsidiaries in the Bell Telephone System, and removal of some or all of the "Long Lines" operations.

The company and its subsidiaries claim they are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission — not the Justice Department — and therefore are not subject to the Sherman Anti-trust Act.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Waddy, however, ruled in favor of the government's position that, while some aspects of AT&T's activities might fall under FCC jurisdiction, others are subject to court scrutiny.

A U.S. Court of Appeals declined to review Waddy's decision.

Appealing to the Supreme Court, the companies called attention to Attorney General Griffin Bell's comment, in a recent magazine interview, that the case

may be "beyond the capacity of the courts" to handle.

The appeal says the cost of litigation "is certain to be staggering" — including \$335 to \$530 million in expenses and the efforts of about 3,000 persons merely to assemble and analyze documents necessary for trial preparation.

AT and T, which reported assets of \$67 billion at the time the suit was filed, acquired Western Electric, now the foremost developer of telecommunications equipment, in 1882. It now owns or is affiliated with 23 companies that make up the Bell System.

## Tyler law suit attacks alien tuition charges

**United Press International**  
TYLER — A federal judge has issued a temporary injunction preventing the school district from charging tuition for children of illegal aliens, clearing the way for them to begin school today.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice ruled yesterday the school board may not assess the \$1,000 per student fee until he rules on the merits of a suit filed by the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund on behalf of four unnamed illegal alien families.

"Apparently there is some question at this point in Judge Justice's eyes about the state statutes," an attorney for the school system said, referring to provisions of the Texas Education Code which permit the charging of tuition.

School Superintendent Jim Plyler said the 15 children of the plaintiffs and any other illegal aliens would be allowed to enter school today, pending Justice's final ruling in the matter.

The school board planned to meet in emergency session late today to discuss the court order.

## Admiral predicts women soon will sail with Navy

**By ROBIN LINN**

Women will soon be piloting jets off training carriers and serving on support ships, said Rear Admiral Fran McKee Saturday. McKee is the first woman officer selected for flag rank in the Navy.

Laws preventing women from working on Navy ships will soon be changed, she said.

"The law will be modified so that women will be assigned to ships which are not in combat roles, such as store ships and aircraft carriers used only for training."

McKee was in College Station to review the Corps march-in to Kyle Field before the A&M-Kansas football game.

The Admiral is the first woman officer to review the Corps in its 101-year history.

A spokesman for the Naval ROTC

unit on campus said there were plans to show the Admiral Aggie friendliness by taking her to the Lakeview Club Friday night, but schedule changes delayed her arrival until Saturday morning.

McKee said that it is easy for admirals to become bored with briefings. She enjoys getting out and seeing the end product of her job: the administration of the 58 Naval ROTC units and several graduate schools across the nation.

McKee said that since she assumed her new job in 1976, she hasn't had much time for her favorite type of relaxation—driving her silver Corvette.

When McKee was stationed in Rhoda, Spain, she said she entered several road rallies and autocross races "just for the fun of it."

She said the role of women in the military will continue to grow, and

noted that the number of women in the service has tripled in recent years.

She added that the introduction of women to Navy ships will be a slow, planned process.

"We're not rushing into this head first," she said.

The Admiral said that women are presently teaching navigation at the Naval Academy and at Surface Warfare Officer School, a training school required of all officers who operate ships in the fleet.

In a lecture before the game, McKee spoke to Naval ROTC cadets about the importance of spirit, which she said was common on the A&M campus.

"I can't believe anything is more important in this country than spirit," she said. "Successful people I know who can look back and say, 'I made it' had spirit."



(left to right) Col. M. H. Ivins, professor of Naval science, Rear Admiral Fran McKee, Director of Naval Education and Training and

General (Ret.) O. R. Simpson, preparing to review the Corps before the A&M-Kansas game.

Battalion photo by Robin Linn