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Just horsin' around

Polo has had a checkered career at Texas A&M University. First played on campus about 60 years ago, it died out when the military horses were taken away in 1943. See page 7.



More protests expected in Iran

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — Shouting "victory is close" thousands of Moslem demonstrators spilled into Tehran's streets today to turn a centuries-old religious holiday into a mass protest against the shah.

When the overnight curfew ended at dawn, the demonstrators began to emerge from side streets and marched toward downtown Tehran where millions gathered Sunday in a highly successful and non-violent march.

Young girls in ankle-length black veils and youths with dust in their hair — a sign of deep mourning — carried flowing triangular flags in green, the Islamic color, in red for the Moslem martyrs and in black for general mourning for ancient Shiite saints and anti-shah demonstrators killed in recent clashes with the army.

"Victory is close," many shouted. "We have Allah's blessings."

Today's activities include self-flagellation rites climaxing Mohrram Shiite Islam's holiest time of mourning.

A Tehran clergy spokesman said tens of thousands of devotees would gather at the downtown residence of Ayatollah Sayed Mahmoud Taleghani. "No one knows what will happen after the protest," he said.

The self-flagellation rites, although allowed by the military in a last-minute reversal, "have been overshadowed by people's preoccupation with the political fight," the spokesman said, referring to the year-old campaign to topple Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

The violence resulting from that cam-

paign has meant hundreds of deaths and paralysis of the economy and Iran's vital oil industry.

Sunday was the first full-scale public denunciation of the United States and Iran's other western allies, carrying a harrowing spell of anti-foreign feeling that triggered the evacuation of Americans, Europeans and other foreigners this week.

"Criminal Americans get lost," read one banner in English. "The American president should understand from this demonstration that he is the most hated of all," said one slogan.

Placards said, "U.S. imperialists pull out of Iran."

The well-organized procession lasted eight hours. Thousands of volunteers wearing white armbands controlled the flow of traffic greatly thinned as the entire city shut down.

Troops maintained a low profile and only a few kept vigil on rooftops of some buildings. Army helicopters buzzed over the heads of the demonstrators, who responded by shaking their fists into the sky.

Military authorities blocked all access to the shah's palace and the capital's post northern quarter, which houses most foreign residents, as a precaution against a repetition of November attacks on foreigners and international hotels.

The peacefulness of Sunday's march was a relief to many, but as one political observer said, "The point is this peaceful march contributes nothing to ending the civil strife. If anything it gave the opposition the chance to prove its organization."



Evacuees weary, but safe in U.S.

United Press International
McGUIRE AFB, N.J. — Looking weary from nearly 14 hours of air travel, the largest group of American military dependents evacuated from Iran because of the country's recent unrest arrived back in the United States Sunday.

The 183 people — mostly women and children — stepped from a chartered commercial TWA 707 jet onto the windswept runway of McGuire Air Force Base at 12:55 p.m.

Clutching personal belongings they rushed for the shelter of the passenger lounge to escape bitter 25 mph winds.

There, speaking to reporters, most said they did not actually witness much of last week's rioting in the capital city of Tehran, but heard gunshots and the chants of Moslems at prayer on the city's rooftops when the daily 9 p.m. curfew began.

Mike Burkhalter, the 16-year-old son of a U.S. Army sergeant who moved to Iran two years ago from El Paso, Tex., said dislike for Americans could be seen in "very many ways."

"We... got a note under our door which gave us 30 days to get out or they'd kill us," he said. "Another time a soldier tried to arrest me for spitting on the street."

For Julie Feugate's 4-year-old son, Bobby the evacuation was nothing new.

Bobby, an orphan from Bac Lieu in South Vietnam was one of the lucky children who escaped from the wreck of a C-5 military transport jet that crashed shortly after takeoff from Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport as the North Vietnamese closed in on the city in April 1975.

Bobby, who was six months old at the time, "doesn't remember it. He's doing real well right now," said Mrs. Feugate, who is from Ozark, Mo.

She said her two daughters ages six and seven were "getting very concerned, but I don't think it bothered Bobby as much."

The group arrived from Athens where they had been delivered Friday by one of five C-141 military transport jets that had been shuttling Americans out of Tehran.

One by one, as they cleared customs, the dependents picked up their luggage and boarded buses to take them to spend the holidays with friends and relatives around the country. Most wished that husbands and fathers could have been there with them.

Air Force officials said the 183 made up the largest group of military families to return to the United States so far.

Saturday night 70 other dependents arrived at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Three more jet loads were expected at McGuire Sunday night, officials said.

Charter flight offered to Aggies bowl-bound

By CLAY WEBER
Battalion Reporter
Thanks to the Aggie Club, Texas A&M University football fans desiring to travel to Birmingham for the Hall of Fame Bowl might find their planning a little easier.

The Aggies will meet Iowa State University in the bowl game Wednesday, Dec. 20. The Aggie Club has chartered a Braniff Airways flight leaving at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, from Houston Intercontinental Airport.

About 1,130 seats are available on the flight. The round-trip air fare is \$180 first class and \$150 tourist. The trip is open to all Aggie fans and reservations may be made at the Aggie Club office near G. Rolfe White Coliseum. The return flight leaves at 8 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21.

Fans who need motel accommodations in Birmingham may call the Birmingham Convention and Visitors Center. The number is (205) 252-9825. Rooms will be available for fans at the Ramada Inn Medical Center, where the Texas Aggie Band will stay. The Association of Former Students will have an information table set up Dec. 18-20 at the Sheraton Downtown, where the team will be staying. A hospitality room will be open in the Sheraton Mountain Brook for Aggie Fans 1-6 p.m. Dec. 19-20.

A party honoring the Aggies and Iowa State will be Tuesday night in the Birmingham Civic Center.

Tickets for the party, \$10 each, are available from the Association of Former Students, the Aggie Club or at the information tables of each organization in Birmingham.

Tickets for the game will be mailed Wednesday. Fans may call the Aggie Club for prices.



The Battalion is 100 years old this month, and the birthday party is at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Readers are invited to The Battalion offices in Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, to see how the newspaper is produced.

The Battalion also will feature a special page in Tuesday's edition about the campus newspaper's past and present. Articles trace The Batt's history and describe its current computerized condition. Stories in other sections of the Tuesday paper will come from long-yellowed pages of The Battalion.

Wednesday's edition is the last scheduled for this semester, so Tuesday will be the last day of production for staffers. The next issues of The Battalion will appear on Jan. 3 and 10.

Full five-day production will resume Monday, Jan. 15, with the beginning of spring semester classes.



Night light at Texas A&M

With Aggieland weather turning colder, condensation forms over the utilities plant and forms what appear to be low hanging clouds. The smokestack in the picture is a piece of Aggie lore. Close observers can see

the "hidden college" of Texas A&M. When Texas A&M became a university in 1967, the "college" was painted over, but it is still faintly visible.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Governor orders investigation

United Press International
ELLISVILLE, Miss. — An angry Gov. Cliff Finch ordering his own investigation into the deaths of 15 women at a state-operated school for the mentally retarded Sunday to "get to the bottom of this tragedy."

"This is not going to happen again," said Finch, who toured the burned-out dormitory at Ellisville State School Saturday.

The governor said he had ordered top Highway Patrol investigators to enter the case and "get a report back immediately."

Dr. Paul Cotten, the school's administrator, said state fire marshals had not yet determined the cause of the fire. The blaze was confined to a closet area of the dormitory but the victims died from inhaling heavy smoke that engulfed the building.

As the investigators examined the death scene, patients and staff workers at the school went ahead with their annual Christmas program Sunday. Cotten said about 50 patients and an estimated 300-400 staff members and visitors took part in the program which lasted several hours.

"I think you have to always consider the living," Cotten said. "They were looking forward to giving the Christmas program and the other activities so there was no reason not to. I think you can show respect by continuing to live."

Cotten said three of the 15 women killed in the pre-dawn fire would be buried on the school grounds Tuesday. A memorial service for all 15 victims is planned for 2 p.m. Tuesday.

He said many of the patients at the school which houses many mentally retarded persons were unaware of or unable to comprehend the tragedy, some believing those who were killed had simply

"gone home for a visit."

Cotten said there was no way to determine if smoke detection devices and fire alarms could have prevented the tragedy at the dormitory which was scheduled for renovation early next year.

He said plans included the installation of fire and smoke detectors as part of a 900,000 repair program for several buildings on the sprawling 2,500-acre campus.

I have been trying to improve the safety standards of the dormitory and the other buildings," he said. "We feel we have done well. We were doing the best we could. I have no way of determining if the patients could have been saved with the detectors or alarms."

The blaze was discovered by a nurses' aide at the mental health facility about 2 a.m. Saturday. All of the victims of the fire died from smoke inhalation and another 15 patients were hospitalized at nearby Laurel for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Praise but no pact at Nobel ceremony

United Press International
OSLO, Norway — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and an emissary of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat Sunday collected Nobel Peace Prizes — the most controversial ever awarded — for trying to end three decades of Middle East conflict.

But it was President Carter both men praised as the architect of peace in the Middle East — an unfulfilled goal that linked the Egyptian president and kept him away from the ceremonies scarred by thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators.

Begin, who was hosting a luncheon today before flying home for funeral services for former Prime Minister Golda Meir, said in his acceptance speech he will sign the Camp David peace treaty as it exists.

"Such a treaty can serve as the first indispensable step toward a comprehensive peace in our region" the Israeli premier said.

Sadat, in his remarks read by assistant Saeed Ahmed Marei, said "a moment of truth" has arrived in the negotiations and warned the accords as they now stand would "crumble at the first blow" unless they provide for the security of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territory.

It had been hoped the two nations, who have fought four wars since Israel's birth in 1948, could sign a pact in Oslo. But the dispute over Palestinian security has stalled the talks and so angered Sadat he remained in Cairo to confer Sunday with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated against the decision to jointly

award Begin and Sadat the \$163,000 prize. Police arrested 10 persons who daubed their faces with red paint and chained themselves across a road leading to the Akerhus Castle that overlooks the icy Oslo fjord.

Several thousand demonstrators marched in torchlight processions through Oslo and nearby Bergen, the largest protests ever massed against Nobel winners.

Sadat and Begin's speeches warmly praised Carter's efforts to bring about a settlement.

"A man of the highest integrity," Sadat called him.

Begin said Carter "unforgettably invested unsparring efforts untiring energy and great devotion in the peace-making process."

Carter was not eligible for the 1978 prize because he was not nominated before the Feb. 1 deadline. Begin and Sadat were nominated after the Egyptian president visited Jerusalem last year and Begin reciprocated with a visit to Ismailia.

Other Nobel laureates — dominated by Americans — were presented their diplomas in Stockholm, Sweden by King Carl Gustaf at a glittering ceremony.

The included Isaac Bashevis Singer, the American Yiddish-language author for literature; Americans Daniel Nathans and Hamilton O. Smith of Johns Hopkins University and Swiss Dr. Werner Arber for the trio's discoveries in genetic medicine.

Others were economics laureate Herbert A. Simon of Carnegie-Mellon University; Soviet physics winner Piotr Kapitsa and Americans Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson of Bell Laboratories; and British chemistry winner Peter Mitchell.

New women's housing to be ready by fall '79

By HARVEY LAAS
Battalion Reporter
Construction has begun on the new women's residence hall across Houston Street from Sbsia Dining Hall.

The dormitory will be built as two buildings and house 508 people, said Ron E. Sasse, associate director of student affairs.

The building is of modular construction with individual rooms manufactured in San Antonio by H.B. Zachry Co. The modules will be shipped to the campus, where they will be placed in a steel superstructure like building blocks.

Each building will have a study lounge on the second, third and fourth floors, and the first floor will have a television room, Sasse said. Each building will also have a room with laundry facilities and vending machines, he said.

The dormitory is supposed to be completed for the fall semester. Sasse said, "It seems to be on schedule."

He said the renovation of Leggett Hall will be finished for the fall semester. It will house 192 women.

Howard L. Vestal, vice president for business affairs, said the only other dormitory the University is planning is a women's athletic dormitory. He said it will house 120 women and be built across from Sbsia next to the new women's dorm.

Vestal said a housing feasibility study is being conducted at this time to determine if more residence halls are needed and if funds can be raised to construct them.

Because no state money can be used to build dormitories, Vestal said revenue bonds for construction must be paid by the rent students pay.

"Funding will be critical," Vestal said, because the University must have sufficient money to support the bonds.