

THE BATTALION

Serving the Texas A&M University community

Vol. 74 No. 31
14 Pages

Monday, October 13, 1980
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

The Weather

Yesterday

High 86
Low 60
Humidity 75%
Rain 0.0 inches

Today

High 88
Low 55
Humidity 90%
Chance of rain none

Rescuers search for living Algerian earthquake death toll over 20,000

United Press International
AL-ASNAM, Algeria — Rescuers pushed away rubble with bulldozers and bare hands today in a hunt for survivors in the earthquake-flattened city of Al-Asnam, but government officials said the death toll already has passed 20,000.

"We still do not know the scale of this disaster," a doctor of the Algerian Red Crescent, the equivalent of the Red Cross, said of the killer quake that reduced the town to rubble in about 30 seconds Friday.

About two dozen people, including a 2-month-old baby, were plucked alive from the ruins of the city Sunday, but several hundred other victims dug out with bulldozers and earthmovers were already dead, bringing the total of corpses already recovered to more than 5,000.

Interior Ministry aides said more than three times that number were still under collapsed buildings, and rescue teams in isolated villages in a 60-mile swath of destruction reported the number of homeless would reach more than 140,000.

At an emergency Cabinet meeting Sunday, President Bendjedid Chadli ordered additional generators and floodlight equipment to the ravaged city, and 200 more ambulances were thrown into the evacuation effort to get still uncounted thousands of injured to undamaged hospitals.

"We lack organization, not medical supplies, for the moment," the Red Crescent doctor said, acknowledging delays in treatment at hastily thrown up aid stations in schoolyards.

The quake rivals the worst to ever hit North Africa — a 1716 tremor that is believed to have killed 20,000.

The 2-month-old baby was plucked in a miraculous rescue from the wreckage of a four-story building where already about a dozen corpses had been found.

A rescue worker wriggled under tons of fallen concrete, following the infant's cries. Emerging with it in apparent good health, he ran with it in his arms to a waiting ambulance. Its mother was apparently dead.

Bodies already uncovered were hurriedly buried as soon as they were identified in make-shift morgues. Chadli ordered that the second priority after saving those trapped was to avoid risks of epidemics.

As a 17-nation international effort gained momentum in Algeria, field hospitals arrived from West Germany and Yugoslavia that would add 1,200 beds to those available in the disaster area. France sent an additional 80 doctors and paramedics. The United States sent disaster experts and satellite communications gear.

A continuing flow of thousands of refugees streamed from towns and villages in the stricken area, spurred by continuing aftershocks that brought fears of another damaging quake.

The shocks endangered rescue crews digging through the treacherous debris, and officials tried to keep the refugees off the only two open roads, already clogged by relief convoys and wailing ambulances.



Staff photo by Dillard Stone

Lay-ho... heave!

Senior redpot Kyle Gish lets out a growl as he helps move one of the first bonfire logs to arrive at Duncan Intramural Field. Sunday was the first day of cutting for the 1980 bonfire, and flatbed trucks loaded with logs arrived at the field early in the morning.

Iraq pushes for control of waterway on border

United Press International
BASRA, Iraq — Iraq said today its troops battled their way to the outskirts of Abadan and were massing to enter Iran's crucial oil refining city in a major push to gain mastery of the Shaat al-Arab waterway.

As the war stretched into its fourth week today, the Iranian Foreign Ministry confirmed that Iran would take part in a United Nations debate on Tehran's dispute with Iraq, raising hopes of a limited cease-fire to free foreign shipping trapped in the strategic waters.

But there were no signs of a settlement to the 22-day conflict, and Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr told the Soviet envoy in Tehran that Iran would not stop

fighting until Iraq halts its "aggression and intervention in Iran's internal affairs."

To strengthen Iran's war effort, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini set up a Supreme Defense Council in a decree that consolidates Bani-Sadr's control over Iran's armed forces and increases his power overall against hard-line Moslem militants.

Iraq's long-awaited push against Abadan began Saturday with its forces throwing pontoon bridges across the Karun River and pushing tanks and troops across the waterway, 10 miles north of Abadan.

Iraq announced Sunday its forces were "maintaining their advance with confidence and high morale" and the troops were "getting ready to enter Abadan."

But Iraqi troops met stiff resistance at Khurranshahr on the north bank of the Karun River and trucked up reinforcements in an attempt to silence the Iranian holdouts.

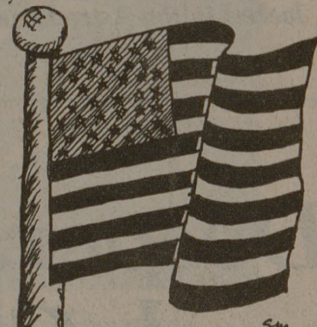
The port area of Khurranshahr has been in Iraqi control for several days, but Iranian troops armed with mortars and automatic rifles and backed by artillery to the south have resisted a complete Iraqi takeover.

Iraqi troops fired mortars into Khurranshahr in close-range fighting while artillery pounded Abadan. Palls of smoke hung over the two cities.

An Iraqi military communique said 43 Iranian soldiers were killed in the fighting and 10 tanks destroyed, while eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and one tank lost.

Banks close for holiday

Area banks, federal offices and post offices are closed today for Columbus Day.



Also called "Discovery Day," Columbus Day is celebrated every year on the second Tuesday in October. The holiday commemorates the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492.

City offices in Bryan and College Station will be open for business as usual.

Bergland to speak today

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland, will speak at Texas A&M University today on the topic: "Carter's Promise to America — More Than Just Amis."

Theater. Admission is free. Before his confirmation to the president's cabinet, Bergland represented Minnesota's seventh district in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was a member of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee.

Carter, Reagan change campaign tactics

United Press International
President Carter's campaign will devote more attention to what its chairman calls "flip-flops" on issues, while Reagan's campaign shifts its aim to Reagan's suburbs in this third week before election Day.

Robert Strauss met with Carter campaign coordinators from 25 states in Washington, then told reporters, "Their biggest complaint is that we have not done good a job as we need to do to let people know how he (Reagan) has absolutely flipped on an issue after issue after issue. 'We've got to do a better job on that,' he said. 'We've let him get by with it.'"

Stuart Spencer, top Reagan campaign strategist, said America's suburbs "are going to be the battleground" in the final weeks before Nov. 4, and vice presidential

nominee George Bush will be called upon to help win them.

"The big thing in the next three weeks is to elevate George Bush in the campaign and give him more resources in certain regions and states where there are ticket splitters," Spencer said.

Both major candidates geared for heavy campaign weeks. Carter was to spend today at the Columbus Day parade in New York, then go on to Illinois and St. Louis before returning to the White House. Reagan was spending today campaigning in the Los Angeles suburbs before heading east again.

John Anderson, on CBS' "Face the Nation" Sunday, said he believes Carter is "out of it," and that the voters will choose between Reagan and himself in the polling booths. He has, he said, a good chance of winning.

A number of new surveys and polls had conflicting results.

NBC's third weekly news electoral vote survey showed a narrowing lead for Reagan with 190 votes in 23 states to Carter's 144 votes in 13 states and the District of Columbia. Fourteen states were too close to call.

Last week, Reagan led in 25 states with 233 votes, while Carter led in 13 states and D.C. with 143 votes.

The shifts included Texas and New Jersey moving from leaning Republican to toss-up, a net loss for Reagan of 43 votes. Maine moved from toss-up to leaning Democratic, and Delaware moved from leaning Democratic to toss-up, a net gain of one for Carter.

A United Press International weekend survey, meanwhile, showed Reagan with

more than enough electoral votes to win. If the voting were held now, Reagan would carry 34 states with 365 electoral votes, it said, while Carter would carry 10 states and the District of Columbia with 121 electoral votes. Six states with 52 electoral votes were rated toss-ups.

Reagan in UPI's survey a month ago had 30 states and 323 electoral votes to Carter's 15 and the district with 128 electoral votes. Five states with 87 votes were rated as toss-ups.

The St. Louis Post Dispatch and the Arkansas Gazette, meanwhile, endorsed Carter over the weekend, while the Birmingham, Ala., News and Ohio's Columbus Dispatch and Cincinnati Enquirer went for Reagan.

Here were the findings in other weekend polls:

— Carter ahead in the New York Daily News straw poll, with 39 percent of likely voters to Reagan's 32 percent in New York state.

— Carter narrowly ahead in the Chicago Tribune polls, with 33.9 percent to Reagan's 29 percent in Illinois.

— Reagan ahead in Iowa, with 44 percent to Carter's 32 percent in Iowa, according to the Des Moines Sunday Register.

— Reagan ahead in nine of the 11 Midwestern states, according to U.S. News and World Report magazine, with Carter leading only in Minnesota, and with Michigan too close to call.

Texans to vote on bank laws

United Press International
AUSTIN — A proposed constitutional amendment authorizing banks to place unmanned teller machines in shopping centers and supermarkets would shorten downtown bank lines and allow Texans to do the bulk of their banking in their home neighborhoods, supporters of the proposal contend.

The Texas constitution currently bans branch banking, and the unmanned teller machines have been considered branch banks, so the only ones in use currently are located on the main bank premises.

Annual drive kicks off today 2,000 pints of blood sought

By VENITA McCELLON

The Aggie Blood Drive starts today, with hopes of bringing in more than 2,000 pints of that good ol' Aggie blood. "We're shooting for as much as we can get," said Chris Langford, Aggie Blood Drive Committee member. "But we'll be happy with anything over 2,000."

The blood drive is sponsored annually by Alpha Phi Omega, mega Phi Alpha and Student Government.

Kent Caperton, Democratic candidate for the state Senate from this district, will help kick off the drive today. Caperton is scheduled to arrive at 12:15 p.m. at the bloodmobile at Sbisla Dining Hall to give blood, said Langford.

Texas A&M University Head Football Coach Tom Wilson is scheduled to give blood Tuesday morning, though the location is not yet determined.

The main facility, located in 212-224 Memorial Student Center, will be open Tuesday-Thursday from noon until 9 p.m., and handle a capacity of 500 pints a day. Two bloodmobiles will be

located at Sbisla and the Commons, each open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Thursday. The bloodmobiles have a daily capacity of 100 pints.

The hours at the three locations will allow for the donation of 2,300 pints.

Although pre-registration for the drive ended Friday, Langford said that any student who meets the requirements can still give, even if he hasn't pre-registered.

Requirements for giving blood include that the donor must weigh over 110 pounds, must not have given blood within the past 56 days, should eat a good meal four hours before giving, must not have been ill in the past few weeks, must not be on medication of any kind and must not have lived outside the country for an extended period of time in the past three years.

The first Aggie Blood Drive was held in 1959, when 392 pints were collected. Since that time over 20,000 pints have been collected, making Texas A&M the largest donor of blood to the Wadley Central Blood Bank, which handles the blood drive.

Dallas millionaire backs hunt of divers hoping to recover Pinta

United Press International
KEY WEST, Fla. — Two divers backed by a Texas millionaire hope to prove they've found a treasure worth far more than the \$1 million they've invested in the three ships Christopher Columbus used in his Odyssey to the New World.

Olin Frick and John Gasque said next month they and a crew of 23 divers and archeologists would return to recover the remains of the ship, which they found while searching for sunken treasure. They said Dallas millionaire William R. Reilly is backing the venture financially.

The treasure hunters told the Miami Herald Sunday a 500-year-old tax report recently found in Spain suggests the sunken wreck could be the Pinta, one of the three ships to take part in Columbus' first expedition to the New World in 1492.

The ship, resting in 30 feet of water, was discovered in 1977 by Frick and Gasque while searching off the Caicos Bank for ships to salvage.

In documenting the wreck, Frick and Gasque have relied on two experts, Mendel Peterson, former director of underwater archeology for the Smithsonian Institute, and Dr. Eugene Lyon, a Florida historian who specializes in research at Spain's Archives of the Indies in Seville.

Peterson said he has "found nothing which would contradict" the treasure hunters' theory that the sunken ship is the Pinta. He said a heavy iron cannon, a lighter swivel gun and a single lead cannon ball removed from the wreck are consistent with the period.

"Nothing is precisely datable, but nothing I saw could not have been in use at

that time," Peterson said.

"We plan to go over the wreck very, very carefully," Gasque said. "We will recover everything that we can find — right down to the last ballast stone — and bring it back with us."

"Like all archeological work, we may not be able to come up with absolute proof that it is the Pinta, but if we find nothing to contradict it, we think the weight of the evidence will be awfully convincing," Gasque said.

Even if the ship is not the Pinta, but it is established that it actually sank around the turn of the 16th Century, it would qualify as the oldest shipwreck ever found in the Western Hemisphere.

So far, the oldest shipwreck found in the Americas is part of a Spanish fleet that sank off Padre Island on the Texas Coast in 1553.

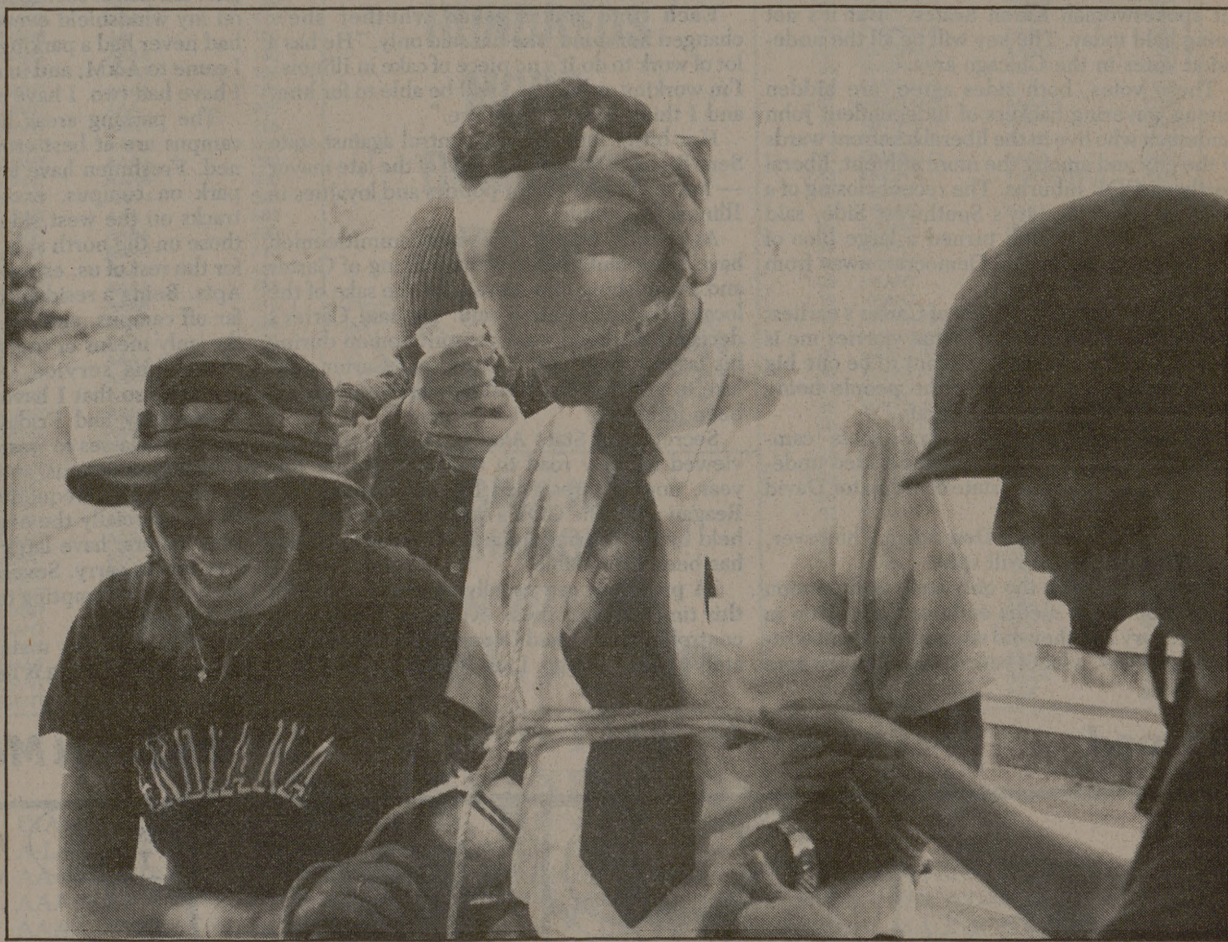


Photo by Ed Martinez

Terrorism in Aggieland?

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, is "kidnapped" by members of MSC Great Issues Committee Friday. Committee chairman Katy Campana and member Tommy Attaway escort Koldus from his office.

The event was staged to promote the committee's Tuesday night presentation by journalist Jay Mallin, "International Terrorism: The Weapon of the Future." Program admission is 50 cents for students, \$1 for others.