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Looks fishy to me

photo by Debbie Schard

Aaron Gary, front, explains the fine art of fishbowl supervision and maintenance to Evans Tucker. The two boys are a few of the many children in the area who attend French's Schools, Inc.

Reagan calls for meeting

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, expressing "profound concern" to the Israeli government, Wednesday ordered an emergency meeting of the special situation group to assess the new Israeli attacks on Beirut.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes told reporters Reagan was briefed on the heavy fighting "late last night and again at 6:15 a.m." EDT by national security affairs adviser William Clark. Speakes said the meeting of the crisis group, chaired by Vice Presi-

dent George Bush was called "to review, assess and make recommendations to the president." "Our position is that the most recent action cannot be helpful to the peace process," Speakes said. "It makes it virtually impossible to conduct diplomatic efforts." "We have expressed our profound concern to the government of Israel and expect further communications with the government of Israel." Israeli tanks today rolled into west Beirut for the first time. The assault further tightened the noose around some 6,000 trapped Palestine Libera-

tion Organization forces and shattered the war's ninth cease-fire, arranged earlier this week by presidential envoy Philip Habib. The Israeli move came just two days after Reagan told Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir it was "absolutely imperative" that the bloodshed in Beirut be halted. Among those attending the emergency session on the Lebanon crisis were Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Vessey,

UN censures Israel; PLO offers deal

United Press International Israeli and Palestinian gunners traded sporadic artillery and rocket fire at daybreak today, shaking Palestinian-controlled west Beirut before it could recover from an avalanche of air raids, artillery and gunboat fire. The U.N. Security Council, with the United States casting a surprise abstention, censured Israel for attacking west Beirut, where no section escaped shellfire Wednesday in the fiercest combat in two months of war. The Palestinian Liberation Organization, apparently humbled by the Israelis' awesome military onslaught, submitted a new compromise proposal for evacuating its guerrillas from Lebanon, a PLO source said. President Reagan sent a personal letter to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin threatening a possible cut-off of military aid if the assaults continued, ABC News said Wednesday.

nine hospitals were hit during Wednesday's savage shelling attack that is believed to have killed or wounded some 300 people. The military command said 18 soldiers died in Wednesday's fighting in Beirut and another was killed in an ambush of a truck east of Beirut. The command announced earlier 64 Israelis were wounded in the combined armor and infantry thrusts, backed by artillery and aerial bombardments. The Israeli attack, which shattered the ninth cease-fire of the Lebanon invasion, began shortly after midnight Wednesday and continued without letup through the day. As tanks rolled across the so-called green-line separating west Beirut from the Israeli-controlled eastern sector, shellfire rained down on the city, where 500,000 civilians still live. Begin said Wednesday it was "out of the question" for any PLO guerrilla to remain in Lebanon. Well-informed sources within the PLO said Chairman Yasser Arafat had agreed to modify his conditions for evacuation of the 6,000 PLO guerrillas in Beirut. Dropping his demand that a multinational peace-keeping force be in place before a PLO pullout, Arafat said the guerrillas were prepared to leave during a simultaneous deployment of the force. It was not clear if that proposal, relayed to U.S. mediator Philip Habib, would be acceptable to Israel, which had demanded the PLO get out of Beirut before any third-party forces are admitted. The outgunned guerrillas, scissored between twin flanks of the Israeli assault force, also dropped another key demand — that the guerrillas be allowed to stop for an indefinite period in eastern Lebanon en route to Syria.

Research firm warns danger

Anti-satellite weapons tested

WASHINGTON — An independent research organization warns testing of an American satellite killer now under development would step up the arms race and increase the risk of a war in space. The American anti-satellite weapon has not yet been tested but Pentagon officials have said tests are expected to begin soon. Researcher Daniel Deudney said in a report published Wednesday by the Worldwatch Institute, a non-profit group which receives money from private foundations and United

Nations' organizations, that the Soviet Union already has tested extensively a satellite killer. He said the Soviet system uses a satellite that is maneuvered close to a target and then is detonated. The American anti-satellite system uses small two-stage missiles launched from a high-flying jet fighter. From the standpoint of arms control and crisis management, Deudney said the American system will be far more destabilizing because it could strike anywhere with little warning, while the Soviet killer satellites can be tracked as they are launched and maneuvered in orbit. Deudney said the current Soviet anti-satellite weapon is of minimum threat to the United States because most of America's satellites are higher than the Soviet satellite killer can reach. But he said the American system could reach a high percentage of Soviet satellites. "More than just a catch-up effort, the U.S. system is a technological advance into a whole new plateau of danger," the Worldwatch paper said. It said time is running out to control these new space weapons. Deudney said the testing of the American system is "the realistic point of no return" because once tested, the anti-satellite weapons could be deployed anywhere and would present an "arms control verification nightmare." "If unchecked by appropriate arms control measures, this technology could largely cancel out the peaceful benefits of space while opening up an expensive and volatile new dimension to the arms race," he said in the report.

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Senate approves budget amendment

WASHINGTON — The Senate, which less than two months ago passed a budget with a record amount of red ink, Wednesday approved a proposed constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget. The vote was 69-31, two more than the two-thirds vote necessary to approve a constitutional amendment. To become part of the Constitution, two-thirds of the House, 290 members, must approve it and it must be ratified by at least 38 states. The House has not acted on the amendment yet, because opponents have kept it bottled up in committee. Without House action by mid-October, when the 97th Congress plans to adjourn, the amendment will die and the Senate passage will have been for naught. A discharge petition seeking to send the amendment immediately to the House floor for a vote Tuesday had only 184 of the 218 signatures necessary to become effective. The constitutional amendment is strongly supported by President Reagan, who also endorsed the 1983 budget resolution with its estimated deficit of at least \$115 billion. That resolution was approved by Congress less than two months ago. Even if approved by Congress this year, supporters do not expect the amendment to become effective until at least 1987. The amendment passed after the Senate, on a 73-27 vote, rejected a move by assistant Democratic leader Alan Cranston of California to replace it with one allowing deficit spending for Social Security and veterans benefits. The amendment carries with it a rider which would require a three-fifths vote by Congress to raise the national debt ceiling — an addition some believe further jeopardizes its chances in the House.

New insurance rates to be explained

by Rebeca Zimmermann
Battalion Staff
Texas A&M University faculty and staff members will have a chance to learn about the increase in group insurance rates Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. and Aug. 18 at 8 p.m. in Room 701 Rudder. Increases in Texas A&M University System group insurance rates will take effect Sept. 1. H. Ray Smith, director of personnel at Texas A&M, told Academic Council members Tuesday the rate increases are necessary because of large increases in the number of insurance claims made. Smith said the amount of money paid out in insurance claims in the last two years has surpassed the money amount taken in from premium payments. In 1980-81, \$6,884,523 in premiums were received by the insurance plan; \$8,136,754 were paid in claims. Based on projections from Sept. 1, 1981 through June 30, premiums paid will be \$10,871,369 and

claims paid to beneficiaries will be \$13,445,039. The new insurance plan will include three different coverage plans: deluxe, basic and economy coverage. The current insurance plan has a standard and an economy rate. Monthly rates are based on the number of dependents an employee of the Texas A&M System claims on the insurance policy. Under both current plans, the state contributes \$48 toward each employee's insurance plan regardless of how many dependents are claimed by the employee. The current standard plan for an employee, which includes a \$100 deductible and the Prescription Card Service (PCS), costs \$48 per month. PCS allows an employee to get prescription drugs for \$1; insurance pays the rest of the drug's cost. The cost for an employee with one dependent is \$86.79, and \$110.81 per month for an employee with two or more dependents. A retiree of the System now pays \$48 per month on the standard plan. A retiree with one dependent pays \$83.50 per month, and a retiree with two or more dependents pays \$103.54 per month. An employee on the present economy plan, which includes a \$300 deductible and PCS, pays \$39.48. An employee with one dependent pays \$66.07 per month, and an employee with two or more dependents pays \$83.55 per month. This plan is not available to retirees. Under the new insurance plans, the state will pay \$58 of the total cost. The new deluxe medical insurance plan will feature a \$100 deductible and includes PCS. For an employee, monthly payments on the deluxe plan will be \$88.94. An employee with one dependent will pay \$185.71 per month, and an employee with two or more dependents will pay \$242.26. A retiree of the System on the deluxe plan will pay \$83.03 per

month. A retiree with one dependent will pay \$174.97, and a retiree with two or more dependents will pay \$228.69. The basic plan to take effect Sept. 1 has a \$200 deductible and includes PCS. An employee on the basic plan will pay \$58 per month. The plan costs \$159.81 per month for an employee with one dependent, and an employee with two or more dependents will pay \$198.44 per month. Cost for a System retiree on the new basic plan will be \$58 per month. The plan costs \$150.35 for a retiree with one dependent and \$187.05 for a retiree with two or more dependents. "We realize lower paid people won't be able to afford these plans," Smith said, "so we offer the economy plan." He said the economy plan is insurance for a serious illness or injury, not for ordinary medical expenses. The economy plan has a \$500 deductible; it doesn't include PCS.

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The economy plan will cost an employee \$44.25 per month. An employee with one dependent will pay \$120.61 per month, and an employee with two or more dependents will pay \$149.58 per month. The economy plan costs a retiree of the System \$43.85 per month. A retiree with one dependent will pay \$113.11, and a retiree with two or more dependents will pay \$140.63 per month. Smith said many people in the state want the legislature to increase the amount it pays on state employees' insurance benefits to 78 one year and 94 the next. "We are trying to get the state contribution up," Smith said. The System received bids for group insurance plans from six companies; the contract was awarded to Southwestern Life Insurance Co. If employees are now on the standard insurance plan, they will automatically be enrolled in the new deluxe plan unless the personnel department is notified, Smith said.

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forecast

Partly cloudy with highs near 100; low in the upper-70s.