

Reactions to 'Something about Amelia' come in from across nation, B-CS

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Local senior citizens find fun and games

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Cold snap causes campus damage

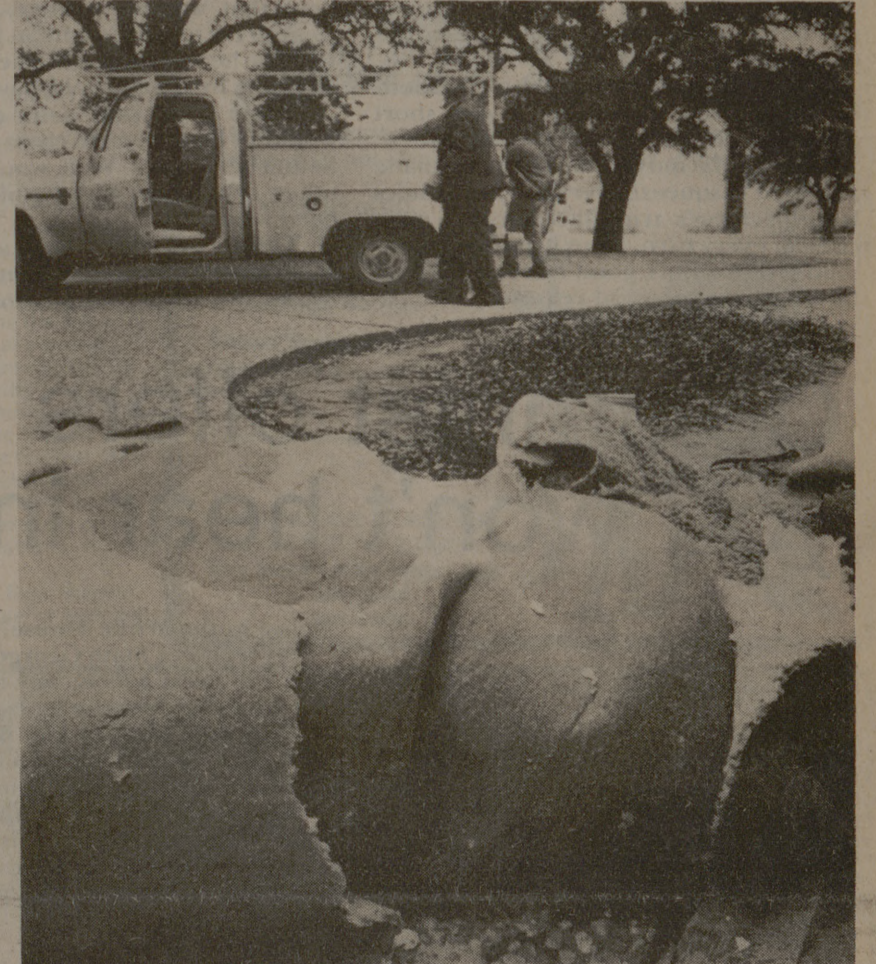
by Ronnie Crocker

Battalion Staff
The recent prolonged freezing spell, which sent temperatures plunging into the low teens during the worst freeze to hit this area in many years, caused at least \$160,000 worth of damage to dormitories and on-campus buildings, including the Medical Sciences Building. Damage was reported in at least six dormitories, including Leggett, Haas and at least one Corps dorm. Walton and Hart halls were the hardest hit. The full extent of the damage won't be known until all the on-campus students have arrived. Water damage in many buildings and dormitories on campus, caused by broken pipes, will cost between \$40,000 and \$80,000 to repair, physical plant director Joe Estill said. The \$60,000 to \$80,000 figure doesn't include the damage done to the Medical Science Building. Ron Sasse, associate director for student affairs, said that the University is not legally responsible or liable for damage to students' belongings. Students need to have insurance to be reimbursed for damage to their personal property.

However, Sasse said that his office is trying to find a way to help the students concerned. He said he felt a "moral responsibility," but admitted he didn't know what could be done. Many students and faculty members are beginning to realize the extent of the damage as they return for the spring semester. Freshman Carol Cook's arrival at Texas A&M about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday was an unpleasant experience, to say the least. She entered her dorm room to find ruined furniture, shoes, pictures and a possibly damaged refrigerator and television set. For her roommate, Jamie Piehl, a junior health and physical education major from Woodboro, it was less of a surprise because she had been notified Jan. 5 that their first floor room in Underwood Hall had been flooded when a water pipe broke in the recent hard freeze. But Cook, an aerospace engineering major from Uvalde, was completely surprised. As she looked around the mildewed room at the warped wood of the beds and desks and at the black mold growing on her mattress, she said, "I don't want to move my stuff in." Piehl said she had to have a maintenance man open the drawers under her bed with a crowbar. Cook and Piehl weren't the only ones affected by water damage. Three other rooms in Underwood also were damaged by the gushing water flowing out of the cracks in the pipes that had burst, and frozen water pipes burst in at least 35 other buildings on campus. Estill said the water wasn't turned off anywhere over the holidays except in the Halbouty Geosciences Building because there is no electricity in that building. He also said that leaving faucets dripping will not prevent water from freezing in the pipes in buildings as it does in houses. It only will prevent a freeze at the faucet itself. Estill said he had about 90 percent of his people working over the holidays cleaning up the mess caused by the broken pipes. Custodians were vacuuming water out of rooms in Ramp A of Walton Hall Tuesday. Outside were piles of rolled up carpet and carpet padding. Frank Nicolas, manager of the married student apartments, said that there were a few broken water pipes but very little apartment and personal damage there.

Michael A. White, administrative planning analyst for the College of Medicine, said there were several breaks of both hot and cold water lines, mostly in the north face of the building. In that building, which has been open since July, there are pumps that are designed to send hot water through a coil to heat the water pipes when temperatures dip below the freezing mark. White said a possible reason for the broken pipes is that the pumps may have been wired backward and didn't circulate the water. In two other cases, the switch plate for the pumps were put on backward, meaning that the pump wasn't on even though the switch was in the "on" position. White estimated that it will cost \$100,000 to cover damages done to ceilings, carpets and equipment in the building. White added that "several tens of thousands of dollars" worth of equipment will have to be checked for damages. At Prairie View A&M University the damage was extensive enough to delay the beginning of the spring semester. Hot and cold water is scheduled to be returned to the campus Jan. 14.

Physical Plant workers get ready to leave after cleaning out most of the damaged material from A-ramp in Walton Hall. The carpet was ruined when freezing temperatures caused water pipes to burst.



Dean Saito, Battalion staff

Guerrillas stage two attacks on French forces in Beirut

United Press International
BEIRUT — Guerrillas staged two attacks against French peace-keeping forces Tuesday, soon after Syrian-backed rebels dashed hopes for a Lebanese peace plan by demanding concessions from the Beirut government. There were two simultaneous attacks, said French spokesman Col. Philippe DeLongeaux. There were no casualties, unlike attacks in the previous two days that killed a French paratrooper and a U.S. marine. DeLongeaux said a guard post at the heavily fortified French Embassy, near the ruins of the former Ameron Embassy, was attacked with light arms. U.S. Marines on guard around the building dove for cover. There were reports of new U.S. casualties. At the same time, two rocket-propelled grenades were fired at a position that French troops share with the Lebanese army about a mile from the French Embassy. Earlier, the Lebanese army and Syrian-backed Druze Moslem rebels exchanged mortar and machine-gun fire around the key crossroads of Khalde, on the coastal highway just south of the U.S. Marine base at Beirut Airport. The attacks came after the rebels dashed hopes for a peace plan to halt fighting around Beirut by issuing a statement demanding sweeping changes in the Lebanese army and the cancellation of the U.S.-mediated May 17 Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement. The rebel statement, issued by the office of Druze leader Walid Jumblatt in Damascus, followed a meeting of the Syrian-sponsored National Salvation Front, which opposes the government of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. It said the opposition figures "agreed to the necessity of finding a comprehensive political solution to keep the Arab identity of Lebanon, its unity and liberty." It said they would counter Christian Phalange Party control of the government through "the scrapping of the May 17 agreement, reforming the

army structure to make it into a national army acceptable to all Lebanese before giving it security missions." The army is also under Phalange control. The refusal to let the army undertake "security missions" was a clear rejection of the government's attempts to arrange a limited peace plan covering an area from Beirut to Israeli lines about 20 miles to the south. The government's plan was to be a first step toward extending its authority throughout Lebanon, with the ultimate goal of restoring a sovereign nation. On Monday, the foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia adjourned in the Saudi capital without any progress toward restoring peace to the largely occupied nation. The ministers are to resume their discussions in Morocco Jan. 16, but Syria made clear it objects to the agreement with Israel under which Lebanon offered economic and military concessions for an Israeli promise to withdraw.

Syria's official radio said that "the May 17 accord remains the major stumbling block foiling attempts to unify Lebanon." "The Americans and the Israelis are in the same trench," Damascus radio said. "Because of that, the Lebanese should not yield to American pressure aimed at persuading them to keep the May 17 accord." Israel, backed by the United States, insists on implementation of the agreement and withdrawal of Syrian troops, while Syria refuses to pull its troops out until the accord is canceled. Lebanon's Moslem Prime Minister, Chefik Wazzan, said the Saudi meeting "did not secure all the solutions we had been waiting for," but was a step toward resuming a conference of warring Lebanese factions that first met in November in Geneva. But Pierre Gemayel, father of President Amin Gemayel, and the head of the Christian Phalange Party, said there was no progress in the meeting.

Registration begins

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The following is a schedule of important dates for this semester:
Wednesday, Jan. 11 — Delayed registration begins, Drop/Add begins.
Friday, Jan. 13 — Delayed registration ends.
Saturday, Jan. 14 (noon) — Last day for students who registered during delayed registration to pay fees.
Monday, Jan. 16 — Spring Semester Classes begin, Late Registration begins, Last day for students to pay fees.
Friday, Jan. 20 — Last day to enroll in the University for spring semester, Last day for adding new courses, Late registration ends.
NOTE: Card packets for late registration of students who were enrolled in Texas A&M during the Fall 1983 semester, can be obtained at the student's major department. Transfer students' and readmitted graduate students' card packets are with their deans. Graduate students' card packets are with their major departments. Fees will be collected at the Rudder Exhibit Hall from Monday, Jan. 9 to Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 14 from 8 a.m. until noon. After Jan. 17, all fees will be collected at the Fiscal Department in the Coke Building. Any student who registers or pays fees after the first class day of the spring semester, Jan. 16, will be assessed a late fee of \$10.

Gramm: Federal budget could cure deficit woes

by Karen Wallace

Battalion Staff
U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm, candidate for the Senate seat being vacated by Sen. John Tower, said Tuesday the best way to deal with the deficit in the United States is to budget federal government spending. "We should put the federal government on a budget like everybody else," he said at the College Station Apartment Association banquet at the Aggie Inn. Gramm said that a balanced budget could be achieved in five years if the federal government was put on a budget that would control spending on some programs and eliminate other programs. This would be difficult because some of the federal programs are too important to be cut, he said. "You can't cut Medicare, and because of the recent Soviet threats you can't cut defense," he said. "Other areas must be cut." Although it would be difficult to decide what to cut and how much to spend on each program, budgeting federal spending in this manner is the best solution, Gramm said. There are two ways to deal with the deficit, he said.



U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm

"We could stay with the programs that are working and go back to controlling the government spending like it calls for, or we could raise the taxes," he said. This decision will be made in the 1984 election, Gramm said.

"If we froze the federal spending at the current level, in 3 years we would have a balanced budget without cutting a single program. But of course, that's impossible." Gramm said that in 1981, a 3-year program to put control on federal spending was implemented. However, because the program was implemented in the midst of the recession, it was not as successful as it could have been, he said. Still, Gramm said the control on federal spending revitalized the economy, giving 4 million people jobs and promising a sound economy in 1984, Gramm said. Gramm said controlling government spending would also bring down mortgage rates. "We can bring the mortgage rates down if we deal with the deficit problem," Gramm said. Gramm said that when he bought his first house in College Station, he had a loan at 6 percent interest. His second house had a loan at 7 and one-quarter percent, he said. "The old interest rates could come back if the deficit problem is dealt with by controlling federal spending," he said.

Tower says Middle East needs Marines' support

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Tower and Sen. John Warner, R-Va., just back from the Mideast, said Tuesday withdrawing the Marines from Lebanon — or even setting a six-month deadline — would be "disastrous." At a joint news conference, Tower, R-Texas, and Warner called for more economic and military aid for Lebanon and rejected suggestions the Marines be redeployed to higher ground in Beirut or to U.S. ships for improved security. Tower said he had "reservations and concerns" about the American role in Lebanon before the trip, but those were eliminated after speaking to Middle East officials. "Based on our meetings with officials in the region, it is absolutely clear that a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon without substantial evidence of diplomatic success, would have a disastrous effect upon continued U.S. influence throughout the vitally important Middle East and perhaps elsewhere," a joint statement by the senators said. "It is important that the superpower of the West not appear to suffer a defeat at the hands of the Syrians and,

indirectly, the Soviet Union," Tower told reporters. Tower and Warner met with President Reagan at the White House for 30 minutes to report on their seven-day, five-nation tour of the Middle East that ended Monday. The two GOP senators met with government and military officials in Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. "The first question the president asked was, 'What is the morale of the Marines?'" Warner said. "We assured the president that morale is high," Warner said. "The Marines would be the last in the world to say we ought to turn tail and run," Tower said. "We impressed upon the president we have to deal with Syria on very strong terms diplomatically" to achieve peace in the area, Warner said. In their prepared statement, the senators said, "Middle East leaders believe that Syria's position of influence in the region will be greatly enhanced by a precipitous withdrawal of U.S. Marines, as she will be perceived to have successfully resisted the United States, while moderate Arab states friendly to the United States will be weakened. "There is no real difference be-

tween setting a time limit of six months on the U.S. military presence in Lebanon and an immediate withdrawal; in their view, the effects will be the same," the statement said. "With regard to the situation of U.S. Marines in Lebanon, the commander of the U.S. multinational force contingent appears to be making maximum effort to further reduce the vulnerability of U.S. personnel. "It is our view that none of the options being considered for the redeployment on land of U.S. peace-keeping forces would result in a significant enhancement of the security of U.S. personnel over their current deployment; to the contrary, such repositioning may actually increase the vulnerability of U.S. personnel," the statement said. Tower told reporters some U.S. military officers believe the Marines should not have been sent to Lebanon in the first place, but "now that they are there, realize the political consequences of a withdrawal would be disastrous." Tower would not estimate the amount of aid that would be needed, saying only that "it's not really a whole lot."