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Tennessee resident
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Construction starts
on new building here
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Aggies beat TCU
in double overtime
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Homerun No. 1

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Tony Metoyer (15), is greeted after hitting a homerun Wednesday against St. Mary's at Olsen Field. The homerun was in the

sixth inning of the first game and sparked a six run rally. The Aggies swept the double header, 9-1, 7-0. See story page 13.

Reagan vows to continue Beirut policy

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Wednesday the United States is "not bugging out" of Beirut by putting the Marines on ships off the coast and vowed to follow his Lebanon policy as long as there is a chance for peace.

Reagan briskly and optimistically defended his Middle East stance, saying the dramatic shift of the U.S. troops, announced two weeks ago, would not lead to the "disastrous" results that he had warned Democratic critics would come from "cutting and running."

The president scoffed at a suggestion that Secretary of State George Shultz should resign and declared, "He and our (Middle East) ambassadors ... have been doing a splendid job and we're going to continue as long as there is a chance."

As for where U.S. policy will go from here, Reagan said, "As long as there's a chance for a peaceful solution, we're going to try and see if there's any contribution we can make to achieving that."

Reagan opened his first news conference of the election year with a statement laying out a domestic agenda of three top items — new anti-crime laws, prayer in schools, and cutting the swollen budget deficit. But he was questioned for nearly 15 minutes about Lebanon.

Asked if his Middle East policy has proved a failure, the president said, "No, I don't think we have lost as yet." But he added, "I know that things don't look bright."

Reagan, who had complained that Democrats demanding withdrawal of

the Marines because of the mounting U.S. death toll were inviting "disastrous consequences" around the world, denied his decision to move the troops off shore would have that effect.

The Marines are now being removed from the Beirut airport base where 241 Americans died in the Oct. 23 bombing to 6th Fleet ships in the Mediterranean.

"We're not bugging out," he declared. "We're just going to a little more defensible position."

Reagan said they might be moved back to Beirut "if they could improve the possibility of carrying off their mission ... Yes, that would be a reason for sending them in."

In a nearly five-minute answer that began, "It's time to review a little history," Reagan detailed the developments that led to his September 1982 decision to send more than 1,000 Marines to Lebanon as part of a multinational peace-keeping force.

After reciting the long-standing enmity between Syria, Lebanon and Israel, and the chaotic situation in Beirut under Israeli siege in the summer of 1982, Reagan said he decided to send in the U.S. troops on "a stabilizing mission."

"We wanted to prevent war between Syria and Israel," as well as bring peace to Lebanon, he said.

"I have no regret of the fact we went in there with the idea of trying to bring peace to that troubled country," he said.

Lebanese wait to take camp

United Press International

BEIRUT — Lebanese soldiers who had refused to fight Moslem rebels moved into position Wednesday to take over the camp of withdrawing U.S. Marines as factional warfare took Beirut and the overlooking mountains.

President Amin Gemayel, his palace only 3 miles from the battle for the last mountain post held by loyal fighters, was reported to be bargaining to cancel the Lebanese-Israeli accord in return for Syrian concessions.

Against a background of unceasing political crisis and fighting, the Marines continued a slow withdrawal from their base at Beirut airport.

Small groups of Marines packed and were lifted by helicopter to the 6th Fleet ships waiting offshore, the bulk of the 1,200 combat troops remained at their positions.

At the Marines' heavily fortified northernmost outpost, the Americans watched Lebanese army troops return to positions they abandoned when they refused to fight the rebel uprising Feb. 8.

"It looks like they're ready to take over the area when we leave," said Lt. John Latorre. "This is the first time we've seen any big activity at their headquarters in two weeks."

Shiite Moslem militia leader Nabih Berri said Tuesday the army's 6th Brigade, which had stayed in its west Beirut barracks since the rebels seized control of west Beirut two weeks ago, would start patrolling streets and take control of the route to the airport on Thursday.

With the sound of the fighting in the background, most of Lebanon's religious leaders assembled for the first time since the civil war started in 1975 and appealed for a cease-fire.

The meeting brought together the local leaders of the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam plus heads of 11 Christian sects. Only the Druze Moslems were unrepresented.

The session took place in the Christian neighborhood called Ashrafieh, near the scene of fighting along the "green line" dividing Moslem west Beirut from the Christian eastern half of the city.

The cease-fire appeal had no immediate effect.

At dusk, Lebanese army spokesman Maj. Maroun Awad said from the defense headquarters near Gemayel's palace that "the Defense Ministry area and the nearby regions are under heavy bombardment from the mountains."

The battle centered on the army post of Souk Al Gharb, the army's last stronghold in the mountains and the major obstacle to a Druze ad-

vance that would threaten the presidential palace, the Defense Ministry and a number of embassy residences, including that of U.S. ambassador Reginald Bartholomew.

Inside the divided capital, ambulances shuttled dead and wounded to hospitals amid exchanges between the Moslem rebels and the Lebanese army and their pro-government Christian militia allies.

With the fighting continuing and U.S. forces following the British and Italians out of Beirut, Saudi mediator Rafik Hariri arrived in Beirut from talks with officials in Damascus.

The newspaper said Gemayel has agreed to please Syria by canceling the May 17 accord but first wants the formation of a national unity Cabinet or resumption of the peace talks begun in Geneva last November.

Bubble boy dies after experimental cure attempt

United Press International

HOUSTON — David — the handsome, intelligent "bubble" boy who for two weeks ago lived all of his 12 years in germ-free plastic isolators — died Wednesday of heart failure after an experimental attempt to cure him failed.

Baylor College of Medicine spokeswoman Susannah Griffin said David, who had lived longer than any other person suffering from Severe Combined Immune Deficiency syndrome, died at 8 p.m. after experiencing an irregular heartbeat as fluid began accumulating around his heart.

He had been placed on a respirator Wednesday morning as his condi-

tion deteriorated following an Oct. 21 bone marrow transplant and complications that forced his removal from his isolator Feb. 7, Griffin said.

"He had been mentally alert up until going on the respirator. He had to be sedated to ease his breathing," Griffin said.

She said last rites were performed earlier Wednesday for David, whose family name was kept secret to protect his privacy. His parents, who had been taking turns staying with him, were at the hospital. They went into seclusion.

"It's a sad occasion for them," Griffin said. "It's been a very demanding situation. They've lived

with this for a long time. It's been very difficult.

"I was sad. It was very upsetting. We had all hoped he could be cured. He grew up here. We are very sad," Griffin said.

David was placed in a sterile plastic bubble moments after his birth because doctors anticipated his immune deficiency after a brother died of SCID at age 7 months.

He lived in bubbles at Texas Children's Hospital and at home until two weeks ago, when he was removed so doctors could treat vomiting, diarrhea and fever after the bone marrow transplant intended to give him the immunity he lacked.

His mother touched him with un-

loved hands, kissed him, for the first time in his life when he came out of the bubble Feb. 7, Griffin said.

The bone marrow normally produces most of the body's anti-infection tools.

On Oct. 21, in a gamble to cure him in which he personally concurred, doctors injected nearly two ounces of bone marrow from his 15-year-old sister, Katherine. The marrow was intended to migrate to his bones to fight disease.

The operation was delayed for years because there was no matching donor. Doctors performed it after a new technique developed for cleansing unmatched marrow.

Doctors said at the time his re-

moval from the bubble environment was final and he could never go back, but they initially expressed optimism he would recover.

David, however, developed his first illness ever, the vomiting, fever and diarrhea. The symptoms were attributed to graft vs. host disease, common in bone marrow transplant cases. In graft vs. host disease, a reverse immune reaction occurs in which the marrow cells reject and attack the host body.

He also developed a stomach ulcer and other intestinal bleeding. He was receiving blood transfusions, steroids for inflammation and other drugs aimed at controlling his symptoms.

Fluid accumulated in his lungs and

around his heart, which experts said sometimes accompanies both graft vs. host disease and heart failure. At death, he was receiving acyclovir, a drug approved for herpes and other virus infections. He also had been receiving antibiotics and steroids.

David's chief physician, Dr. William T. Shearer, said he would not know if David had an infection — or the exact causes of death — until an autopsy could be performed. Doctors were not sure if the fluid that developed in David's lungs and around his heart was the result of his transplant.

David was born into sterile isolation Sept. 21, 1971 after doctors prepared because his brother had died at 7 months of SCID.

Glenn to shut down Maine campaign; focus on the New Hampshire primary

United Press International

CONCORD, N.H. — Sen. John Glenn shut down his campaign operation in Maine Wednesday to concentrate on the Feb. 28 New Hampshire primary as the second tier of Democratic candidates girded to battle dominant Walter Mondale.

The facade of party unity began to unravel in the final week of the campaign for the country's first primary, as Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina hinted he might not support Mondale if he is the Democratic nominee for president.

"There's no education in the secret kick of a mule," Hollings told a meeting of realtors in Concord. He backed Jimmy Carter and

Mondale in 1980, but: "We are about to run an instant replay of 1980. There is no way to sell Fritz Mondale toe-to-toe with Ronald Reagan."

Republicans, who have little to do right now since President Reagan has no real primary opponents, added a little mischief to the state's politics Wednesday with a plan to push a write-in campaign for Reagan in the Democratic primary.

The Fund for a Conservative Majority announced an advertising campaign to convince registered Democrats to embarrass Mondale by giving Reagan a large write-in vote.

Mondale, with a commanding lead in the polls, and Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado, whose campaign gained

new life with a surprise second-place finish in Monday's Iowa caucuses, were back in Washington Monday.

They plan to return before the League of Women Voters debate at St. Anselm's College near Manchester late Thursday.

All six of the other major Democratic candidates campaigned under bright skies around the populated southern areas as the Granite State's run of unusually balmy, snowless weather continued.

New Hampshire voters were bombarded with phone calls and radio and television advertisements as the campaign entered its final week. It is difficult to find music on local radio stations, where evening time is domi-

nated by talk shows featuring presidential candidates.

Glenn, his back to the wall after his disastrous fifth-place finish in Iowa, sought to regain momentum with attacks on Reagan during a swing through Nashua, a prosperous industrial town on the state's southern border. During a stop at a high-technology defense contractor, he called Reagan's cuts in research "stupid."

In Augusta, Maine, however, Glenn's state campaign coordinator, John Diamond, announced the senator has shut down his campaign organization and will ignore the March 4 Maine party caucus in favor of a greater effort in New Hampshire.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• As part of Black History Month, the MSC is displaying Ugandan artwork. See story page 3.

State

• A Dallas businessman says he was tortured in a Saudi Arabian prison for eight months. See story page 7.
• State Senator Kent Caperton says he'll endorse Neely Lewis for the district 14 race. See story page 6.
• Texas remains the #1 state in the U.S. for oil production. See story page 9.