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# Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

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## Beirut airport reopens

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Beirut airport reopened Monday for the first time in five months, but scores of Moslems angry over the fate of some 4,000 kidnapped victims burned tires to block access to the facility and roads linking the divided capital.

Units of a Moslem army brigade managed to reopen the airport road and escorted passengers past shouting and club-waving Moslem protesters, some of them women with pistols tucked into their dresses.

There were no reported injuries. "For two years or more, men, women and children have not slept nights," said Abdel Amir Majdi, a spokesman for Moslem leaders backing the protest. "They want to be reassured about the fate of their relatives."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said rival militiamen have kidnapped some 4,000 people, mostly Moslems, during nine years of civil war. But the militias are known to be holding no more than 300 hostages — meaning thousands of victims have likely been killed.

The Moslem protesters also burned tires and other debris on the four main crossings linking Christian east Beirut with the Moslem west. Thousands of businessmen, bowing to calls for a general strike, closed shops in the western sector.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel promised the hostage issue would be a "top priority" at the weekly Cabinet meeting Wednesday in response to a plea from Dar el Ifta, a coalition of Moslem religious and political leaders.

Unidentified gunmen, meanwhile, kidnapped Libyan charge d'affaires Mohammed Fattouri from a busy street in west Beirut in the second abduction of a Libyan diplomat in two weeks. There was no immediate word on his fate.

Despite the crisis, operations resumed at Beirut's port and international airport for the first time since Feb. 6, when Moslem militiamen took over west Beirut in heavy street fighting with the Christian-led army.

The army reopened the airport, Beirut's port and the crossings on the Green Line as part of a Syrian-backed security plan for the capital aimed at reunifying the divided city. The plan went into effect last Wednesday.



Photo by Peter Rocha

### Bird Bath?

This sprinkler near Kleberg seemed like a good place to cool off to a grackle Monday. The bird may get to frolic in the rain today, since the forecast calls for a 20 percent chance of it, in addition to a high in the low 90s.

## It's final — exemptions for seniors end in 1988

By KARI FLUEGEL

Staff Writer

The last step has been taken toward changing the policy of final exam exemptions for graduating seniors.

Jon R. Bond, chairman of the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs committee, reported to the Faculty Senate Monday that Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver has accepted the senate's recommendation requiring degree candidates to take final exams.

Beginning in May 1988, degree candidates, including graduate students, will be required to take final exams.

Vandiver did make one editorial change in the senate's proposal by deleting the phrase that required degree candidates to take final exams at the prescribed times.

"In my opinion, the editorial change does not alter the recommendation substantially," Bond said. The phrase appeared in the proposal to clarify that a special examination schedule was not suggested.

In a letter from Vandiver to Faculty Senate Speaker Murray H. Milford, Vandiver wrote that the Registrar's office will be investigating details and options of the scheduling commencement ceremonies, Bond said. One such proposed option was beginning the semester two days early, so final exams would begin two days early.

In other business, the Faculty Senate approved curriculum changes in bioengineering, chemistry, the College of Business and mining engineering. Discussion centered around the changes in the bioengineering and mining engineering curricula.

Controversy surrounding the changes challenged Texas A&M's function as an institution of higher education versus vocational training. Some senators said the proposed curriculum narrowed an engineering student's education to that of vocational training.

Despite the discussion, the curriculum for both programs was approved.

Several resolutions also were

passed by the senate. The senate passed a resolution commending John J. McDermott, the first and immediate-past speaker of the Faculty Senate, for his work in organizing the Senate.

Senate members also voted to submit a report prepared by the Senate International Programs Committee to Vandiver for his implementation. The report recommended supporting international activities of Texas A&M faculty members.

The final resolution dealt with early retirement. With the proposed Texas A&M System program, University employees could be eligible for early retirement at age 55 if they meet eligibility requirements in the Teacher Retirement System or the Optional Retirement Program. The faculty member who chooses early retirement would continue to work for the University, but would work less than 50 percent of the time.

The resolution by the faculty senate objected to the termination of the tenure status of faculty members retiring early.

## Mondale prepares acceptance speech

United Press International

Walter Mondale put his vice presidential talent search on hold Monday and began work on a speech accepting the Democratic presidential nomination he won't win until next week.

Mondale, the party's nominee-apparent, worked at his secluded suburban St. Paul, Minn., home with several top aides on the address that will be the climax of the Democratic National Convention next week in San Francisco and set the tone for his run for the White House.

But after several weeks of well-publicized auditions of potential vice presidential candidates, Mondale still was mulling over the key choice of a running mate.

"He is working on his convention speech ... and obviously thinking about who his vice president will be," a campaign spokesman said. The

spokesman said, however, that more interviews with potential running mates are "not in the plans right now."

Rep. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., named national co-chairwoman of the Mondale presidential campaign, predicted Monday the former vice president would name either Sen. Gary Hart or a woman for the second spot.

"I would say it's 50-50," said Mikulski, who withdrew her own name from the sweepstakes to support Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, D-N.Y.

Mondale got some unsolicited advice from Southern Democratic governors meeting in Williamsburg, Va.

Gov. Mark White of Texas recommended all of his favorite sons — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, House Democratic leader Jim Wright and San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros. But Govs. Robert Graham of Florida,

Charles Robb of Virginia and Martha Layne Collins of Kentucky, who is in the running for the job, called for selection of a woman.

Although Mondale has enough pledged delegates to win the nomination, neither of his closest rivals have formally capitulated. Hart was still on the road talking to Democrats and Jesse Jackson was on television talking about sending a signal to black voters.

Jackson, appearing on NBC "Today" program Monday, denied that he was going to call for a black boycott of the election.

"I simply said that those who follow my leadership, they must watch fully for a signal" at the convention, Jackson said of an interview he gave The Washington Post during the weekend. "We're not proceeding under any threat of a boycott."

## Biology text source of disagreement

United Press International

AUSTIN — Fundamentalist Christians and anti-censorship forces clashed Monday over the issue of creationism versus evolution and which theory of human origin should be included in Texas public school textbooks.

The State Textbook Committee opened three days of hearings to receive testimony on elementary science and math books and high school biology texts that will be used in Texas schools for the next eight years.

The biology texts prompted the bulk of debate, particularly in re-

gard to their treatment of man's origins and abortion.

Noted textbook critics Mel and Norma Gabler of Longview, operators of one of the nation's most influential networks of textbook criticism, argued that creationism should be taught on an equal footing with evolution.

Gabler said an attorney general's opinion issued earlier this year supported his argument that Biblical creationism should be taught as one theory of man's origins.

The ruling by Attorney General Jim Mattox struck down a 10-year-old rule that ordered textbook pub-

lishers to identify evolution as only one of several explanations for man's origin.

Mattox's ruling was widely viewed as a setback to creationists, but Gabler referred to it frequently in his argument for greater emphasis on the controversial theory.

"We are asking for a compromise," Gabler said. "I'll guarantee you that teaching only evolution hinders the religious freedom of millions of Americans."

Mike Hudson, Texas coordinator for the anti-censorship group People for the American Way, said the Gablers were trying to use Mattox's

ruling to further their own "narrow religious viewpoint."

The biology texts also were repeatedly criticized for treating abortion as a form of birth control, using explicit male and female anatomical models and for giving too much information about sex.

"These books have no concern for the risks (of birth control), said Clova Wood of Dallas. "It's almost like the only goal is to tell students how to avoid having children."

Wood also objected to explicit male and female anatomical models used in one proposed text, calling the pictures "totally unnecessary"

## Employers offer cash bonuses

By LINDA SANTINOCETO  
Reporter

Cash bonuses are being offered at Texas A&M to industrial distribution students at a time when most graduates are just hoping for a job.

The bonuses, which range from \$1,000 to \$2,000, are offered by both large corporations and small independent firms, says Mike Workman, assistant professor of engineering technology.

"The bonuses are an incentive to get students to accept a position

while at an interview," he said. The companies realize that most students don't have any money when they graduate, so a cash bonus is offered as an incentive for the student to take the job, he said.

The first company Workman recalls offering such bonuses is an electrical supply company on the West Coast. For prospective employers, the bonuses are an effort to get ahead in hiring by getting commitments early in a highly competitive industry, he said.

Some students turn down the cash

because they find more benefits at other firms, he added.

"Most said the cash was nice, but that they based their decision on where they'd be in five to 10 years," he said.

The industrial distribution program at Texas A&M is one of the oldest and largest in the country, graduating about 140 students a year, including both regular semesters and summer sessions.

Workman says since most of the graduates go to work for distributors across the nation selling everything

from oil field equipment to computer components they need a technical background because the products they sell are highly technical.

"Several years ago our graduates were getting seven to eight job offers each," Workman said. "Now they get two to five offers each."

But, he added, not all of the companies are offering cash bonuses.

Workman said the students are receiving several offers because there are more positions than there are graduates.

## In Today's Battalion

### Local

- The pastels of a Texas A&M environmental design professor are being shown at a Houston gallery. See story page 3.
- P.R.I.D.E. program gives Bryan employees recognition for outstanding work. See story page 4.

### State

- Sen. John Tower accepts teaching position at SMU. See story page 3.
- Madison County law authorities say they have no leads in a former prison official's disappearance. See story page 8.

### National

- Reagan says Jackson didn't break the law in getting American prisoners released from Syria and Cuba. See story page 4.

### World

- The Archbishop of Managua leads march protesting government confinement of clergymen accused of rebel ties. See story page 8.