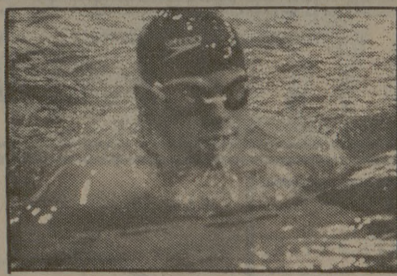




Texans will vote on a variety of amendments Nov. 5

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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Shiite group won't free U.S. hostages

Associated Press

BAALBEK, Lebanon — The leader of a radical Shiite Moslem group says there's no hope of five Americans and four Frenchmen kidnapped in Lebanon being released until Kuwait frees 17 extremists convicted of bombings.

"I wish the demands of the kidnapers could be met and all the Americans freed," said Hussein Musawi, leader of the pro-Iranian Islamic Amal, a splinter group of the main Amal movement.

But he said that Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, the group of Shiite fundamentalists believed to hold the U.S. and French hostages, will not release them until the 17 people held prisoner in Kuwait are freed.

Release of the 17, most of them Shiites, has been Islamic Jihad's main demand since it began kidnaping Westerners in January 1984.

Kuwait refuses to release the men, jailed for bombing the U.S. and French embassies in December 1983.

Islamic Jihad claimed on Oct. 4 that it had killed a sixth American hostage, U.S. diplomat William Buckley, in revenge for Israel's air strike against Palestinian guerrillas

See Hostages, page 14



Photo by ANTHONY CASPER

Iwo Jima?

No, it's not World War II. It's 1985 and nearly time for bonfire. The centerpiece was raised Thursday — right on schedule. The centerpiece is the first step in building the 55-foot bonfire, a symbol of Texas A&M's burning desire to "beat the hell outta t.u."

Reagan announces arms restriction plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan announced Thursday that he is making a new nuclear weapons limitation proposal to the Soviet Union and will request that the current round of negotiations in Geneva be extended to consider it.

In a nationally televised statement, Reagan said the latest Soviet offer "unfortunately fell considerably short" in certain areas. But, he said, there were also positive "seeds" for an agreement, which he had built on with the new offer.

Significantly, he called both sides' proposals "milestones" in the quest for reductions of nuclear weapons. "I believe progress is indeed possible if the Soviet leadership is willing to match our own commitment to a better relationship," Reagan said.

Just before his announcement, Reagan told four Soviet journalists in an interview that he would accept

some of the figures proposed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who called last month for a reduction of about 50 percent in missiles and bombers carrying nuclear warheads.

Reagan said the U.S. offer calls for "deep cuts" in offensive weapons, research on defensive systems and "no cheating." But the president said he would divulge no further details.

"It is my hope that our new proposal would enable both our nations to start moving away from ever-larger arsenals," the president said.

The Soviet proposal, in a letter to Reagan from Gorbachev last month, and the U.S. response are designed to make headway in the slow-moving negotiations before the two leaders meet at the summit in the Swiss city Nov. 19-20.

The new U.S. proposal was also sent directly to Gorbachev and is "part of a process of interaction that we hope will lead somewhere," Sec-

retary of State George P. Shultz said later at a news conference.

But he also stressed U.S. concerns over human rights declined to place halting the nuclear arms race at the top of the agenda.

The Geneva negotiations deal with two types of nuclear weapons — long- and medium-range — as well as space-based defense systems. Soviet strategy has been to insist on concessions from the United States on the "Star Wars" anti-missile defense program before a deal is struck to curb offensive arms.

But Shultz, hinting at a softening in the Soviet position, said "certain aspects of their recent proposals" suggest Moscow might be willing to work out a separate deal to reduce U.S. and Soviet missiles deployed in Europe.

The U.S. proposal, said officials who demanded anonymity, would limit both sides to 6,000 strategic warheads each.

Passenger says FBI told him wife's luggage held bomb

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A San Marcos man questioned by FBI agents investigating an explosion aboard an American Airlines flight said Thursday the agents told him a homemade bomb had been concealed in his wife's luggage.

FBI spokesman Don Baxter in Dallas would not confirm that Austin American-Statesman report, which quoted an unidentified FBI official as saying authorities didn't know who put the device into the bag.

The bag exploded about 8 a.m. Wednesday as American Flight 203 arrived at Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport from Austin. None of the 147 passengers and seven crew was injured in the blast.

Albert Thielman, who works for Miles Pre-Cut Homes in Austin, told the American-Statesman that FBI agents searched his San Marcos home, his office and his cars late Wednesday.

Thielman's wife, Mary, and their three children were on the first leg of a trip to visit relatives in Des Moines, Iowa, when the device exploded in the luggage compartment of the Boeing 727.

Thielman was not arrested or charged and said he consented to the searches conducted Wednesday. "They wanted to go to my house, and that was fine," Thielman said. "They went through my cars and everything in my office and my house.

They said it (the device) was in her stuff."

The newspaper quoted sources as saying the bomb was constructed in two sections, with a 6-volt lantern-type battery, timing device and wiring in a coffee can. The second part of the device, which contained gunpowder and ball-bearings, was packaged in a round, olive-drab metal canister.

Thielman said he dropped his family off at the airport and checked their baggage with a skycap at the curb in front of the terminal. He said his wife and her children caught a connecting flight to Iowa after the explosion.

"When she came off the plane in Iowa there were two uniforms and an FBI agent waiting for her," he said.

He said he had no criminal record except for a misdemeanor charge when he was in college 15 years ago. He would not say if he had decided to hire a lawyer because "I've never been in this situation before."

Byron Sage, agent-in-charge of the FBI's Austin office, said an Austin-area man with family on the plane was questioned but declined to identify him. San Marcos is about 40 miles southwest of Austin.

"No one has been arrested and at this point I don't anticipate any arrests in the near future," Sage said. "Everyone involved in this investigation has been cooperative, no one

has been hiding from us or stonewalling."

Sage said the possibility someone else might have tampered with the luggage "has not been ruled out at all."

James Singer, general manager of the American Airlines office in Austin, said FBI agents have told him they will be questioning airline employees at the airport.

Sage said his agents are widening the investigation to identify everyone who came in contact with the baggage containing the device.

"We've identified who owned the bag, and we are conducting a series of interviews with passengers and members of the immediate family to backtrack and establish an association and access to the baggage area," the agent said.

"It would be unfair to focus any specific blame because we have not identified anyone with the device or how it came to be in that baggage," Sage said.

American Airlines officials at DFW airport said the airline does not believe the bombing was carried out by a terrorist group.

Company spokesman John Hordard said, "American Airlines received no calls or threats prior to the incident, or anyone claiming responsibility for it after the incident."

Visiting royalty

King of Tonga expresses interest in A&M

By JENS B. KOEPKE

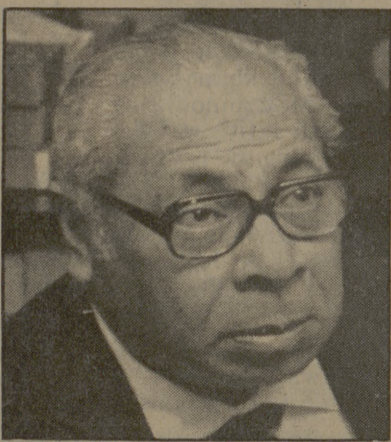
Staff Writer

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, ruler of the Pacific island kingdom of Tonga, visited Texas A&M Thursday, saying he was "interested in seeing what is going on."

The king was invited to the United States by a life-long friend, James Windrum. Windrum served in the British Colonial Service and met the king on a diplomatic visit in the early 40s. Windrum, who now resides in Brenham, suggested that the king visit A&M. The king arrived in Houston and plans to go to Los Angeles before returning to Tonga.

Asked if he were planning to attend the A&M-SMU football game, the king said, "I'll watch it on television. Those football games are so long. . . They take the whole afternoon."

King Tupou IV has ruled since 1965 and is a descendant of King George Tupou I who founded the



King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV

present dynasty in 1845. In 1900 Tonga came under the protection of the British Commonwealth, but retained its independence and autonomy. Then on June 4, 1970, Tonga became a fully independent country.

Tonga is an archipelago of 169 islands, 36 of which are inhabited, lo-

ated directly south of Western Samoa and about 1,000 miles from New Zealand. The islands, which cover 288 square miles, are divided into three groups — Vava'u, Ha'api and Tongatapu — and form a 500-mile-long line. Agriculture makes up almost half of the Tongan economy with coconuts, vanilla beans and bananas as the major cash crops. Pigs and poultry are the major types of livestock, while cattle development is on the rise.

The United States has no diplomatic offices in Tonga, but officers of the American Embassy in Fiji concurrently are accredited to Tonga and make visits periodically. Very little trade exists between the United States and Tonga.

The King said Tonga is interested in expanding its beef and dairy cattle production and beginning to develop modern seafood production.

Responding to questions from representatives of the A&M School of Veterinary Medicine, he said the cattle and swine in Tonga have been relatively free of disease because the islands are isolated.

Academic life less stressful for students in Spain

Editor's note: This is the third in a three-part series on Spain.

By JUNE PANG

Staff Writer

When 39 Texas A&M students took classes at a Spanish university this summer, they found they didn't have to worry about quizzes, tests and homework. At Spanish universities, students feel virtually no pressure until the end of the school year.

The A&M students traveled to Spain with Dr. Bart Lewis and Dr. Antonio Martinez, professors from the modern languages department, as part of the six-week-long "Aggies in Spain" program.

While on the trip, they noticed some differences between American and Spanish universities.

According to Martinez, who attended school in Spain while growing up, the greatest difference between the universities here and in Spain is that American students are pressured to study more than their Spanish counterparts.

"(The Spanish university) is more, in a way, a free university. It puts the responsibility on students themselves."

— Dr. Antonio Martinez, A&M professor of modern languages.

An academic year in Spain runs from October through June. There is no semester system.

During the academic year, there are only about two or three exams. Quizzes, tests and homework assignments are rarely given.

One reason for this is the large class size, Martinez says. A class of 150 to 200 students is the average size of an undergraduate class.

In classes this size, "there is no way you can have the individual care (as in American universities)," says

Martinez, who has taught at both American and Spanish universities.

Another drawback of Spanish universities is that course selections are very limited.

There are very few selective courses in colleges of science as well as liberal arts, Martinez says.

At the beginning of a school year, students are given a program of the courses for the year.

The program tells the students what they are supposed to learn in the course.

Professors give lectures and guide the class through the material. Toward the end of the year, exams are given to test how much students have learned from the class.

"It's more, in a way, a free university," Martinez says.

"It puts the responsibility on students themselves," he says.

William Grimes, a senior history major, says he enjoyed the relaxed, learning atmosphere in Spain.

"Personally, I think this is more effective, because I was not pressured to learn," Grimes says. "I

learned because I wanted to learn."

"If I learn because I have to take the test, I tend to forget what I've learned after the test."

Martinez says he thinks American universities give students more care and less general responsibility.

"Here, students told me in the exam 'You didn't cover the material,'" he says. "I said 'It's in the textbook. You have to be responsible.'"

"They said 'It's not fair.' I said, 'Life is not fair. If you are in an earthquake, and you don't know how to cope, you die.'"

Martinez says Spanish students generally have received a very good secondary school education.

By the time they go to college, they already know how to study by themselves, he says.

But, he adds, "of course, there are many students who don't learn anything from October to June."

In general, universities in other European countries are more like those in Spain, Martinez says.

For instance, in Germany, stu-

"Students here are pressured by concrete exams, which is good but also destructive. In many ways, that narrows the capacity of learning."

— Dr. Antonio Martinez, professor of modern languages.

Students are given a big exam at the end of the semester, he says.

Students have to know everything, he says, and that includes "what a professor has said and what he has not said."

"Students here are given quizzes and tests every two weeks," Martinez says.

"In Europe," he says, "students follow their own interests, they have time to talk to different people and learn different things."

"Students here are pressured by concrete exams, which is good but also destructive."

"In many ways, that narrows the capacity of learning. But they may know certain subjects very well."

"In Europe, students are more interested in general things. Here, they're more (concerned) about their degrees."

Martinez says that when he was a student of history and literature in Spain, he went to listen to a professor of medicine because that professor gave good lectures.

In Spain, there is a bachelor of arts degree. High school graduates go to colleges from five to seven years to get a degree equivalent to a master's here, he says.

In colleges of science, they offer different levels of degrees equivalent to bachelor, master of science and Ph.D.