

New former students' leader optimistic about coming year

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A&M gets help from friends to share SWC championship

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Texas A&M The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

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Texas' birthday celebrated

Over 20,000 gather along the Brazos

Associated Press

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS — More than 20,000 people jammed into a tiny 150-acre park along the banks of the Brazos River where 150 years ago Sunday 59 men assembled and adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Gov. Mark White said, "Here in 1836, the signers of the Texas declaration were of the same moral stature and bold frame of mind as signers of the American Declaration of Independence."

"When they encountered tyranny in a new territory, revolution was their natural response," White said. "Texas was shaped by heroism and sacrifice of people who refused to be conquered."

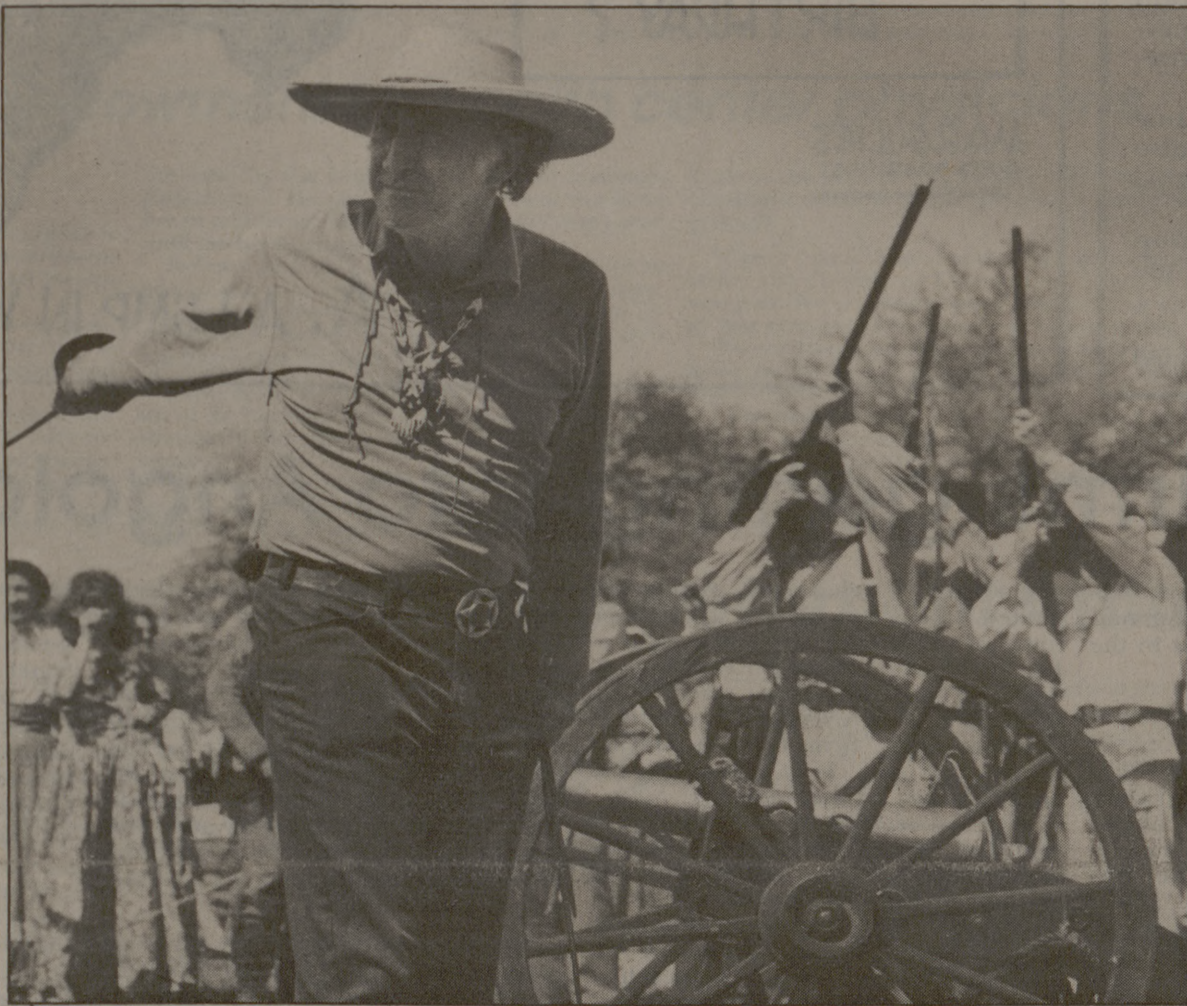
The crowd was the biggest ever for the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Park, about 85 miles northwest of Houston, officials said.

The signing in 1836 came four days before the fall of the Alamo, but Texas forces inflicted a major setback only weeks later at San Jacinto, where practically the entire Mexican force was killed, wounded or taken prisoner. A treaty was signed shortly thereafter and Texas became a republic.

Normally, on Texas Independence Day, 3,000 to 4,000 people show up. On this Sesquicentennial Sunday, the Star of the Republic Museum was so crowded that people were lined up outside and had to enter in shifts.

"It's a real zoo out here," said Ellen Murry, curator of education at the museum.

President Reagan sent a telegram that was read by Assistant



A group reenacts a volley of musket fire as led by Gen. Sam Houston (C. Lewis) at a Texas Sesquicentennial celebration in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park.

Photo by MICHAEL SANCHEZ

U.S. Postmaster General William T. Johnstone.

"From the very beginning, Texas has held a unique and vital place in the American experience," Reagan said.

"The Lone Star State has figured prominently in the events

and developments that were key to our modern nationhood," he said. "Its rich ethnic heritage makes it the land of opportunity, individual achievement and artistic expression, reflecting every aspect of the American way of life in one great state."

White said the Texas battle for independence closely paralleled the American experience some 60 years earlier.

He compared Bunker Hill, Saratoga and Valley Forge of the

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Assassin shoots, kills Palestinian mayor in Israel

Associated Press

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank — A moderate Palestinian recently appointed by Israel as mayor of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, was fatally shot Sunday 30 yards from City Hall as he walked to work, authorities said.

The assassin was said to have escaped into a crowded market.

The killing of Mayor Zafer al-Masri was condemned by both moderate Arabs and Israelis as a setback to Middle East peace efforts.

Two Syrian-backed Palestinian factions that reject a negotiated settlement with Israel — the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, under George Habash, and the Fatah-Revolutionary Council, under Abu Nidal — claimed responsibility for al-Masri's death.

Al-Masri, 44, known for his pro-Jordanian views, was the only Arab so far to accept Israeli appointment as a mayor in the West Bank, which Israel captured from Jordan during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.

He took over from an Israeli military officer as head of Nablus, a city of 100,000 people, on Dec. 19 with the tacit support of Jordan's King Hussein and of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Al-Masri was shot at 8 a.m. as he approached the front door of City Hall. He died a short time later in a hospital.

An Israeli army officer, who insisted on anonymity, said al-Masri was shot twice in the chest and once in the thigh with a 7.65 mm pistol. The army first said he was shot in the back.

Soldiers set up roadblocks at entrances to Nablus and rounded up Arab youths for questioning. One

group of 20 Arabs was seen being held at gunpoint before reporters were ordered from the area.

Authorities did not report any arrests.

Deputy Mayor Hafez Tukan will be named interim mayor, city council member Ezzat Alul said.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was quoted in a Cabinet communique as saying, "The murder will not deter the Israeli government from proposing to the residents of the territories (that they) administer their own affairs."

The U.S. consul-general in east Jerusalem, Morris Draper, called the killing "mindless brutality."

Elias Freij, the Palestinian mayor of Bethlehem, told The Associated Press the shooting was "a serious criminal act which can only have an adverse effect on the peace process."

Freij is the only elected Palestinian mayor on the West Bank who has not been dismissed by Israel, which last held elections in the occupied territory in 1976.

Israeli military officers replaced the dismissed mayors. Freij said the killing "will eliminate altogether" Peres' plan to name Arab mayors in three other cities in hopes of satisfying Palestinian demands for control over local affairs.

Al-Masri also was president of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce. He said he viewed his mayoral job as a temporary one until Israeli authorities allowed elections.

He once said of peace negotiations, "I don't want to be mixed up in any of that. I just want to serve my people."

Samuel Goren, a Defense Ministry official in charge of West Bank affairs, said on Israeli television that al-Masri was warned of possible attacks but refused protection.

Analyst says Gramm-Rudman will increase costs of GSLs

By FRANK SMITH
Staff Writer

The Gramm-Rudman law will increase the cost of guaranteed student loans for students needing them while slightly lowering the yields for banks that make them, state financial aid officials say.

The law will affect only those GSLs made from March 1 to Sept. 30, of this year. But the federal deficit exceeds \$144 billion in fiscal 1987, and if the Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of future Gramm-Rudman cutbacks, the law's student loan provisions will be extended until October 1987, said Tom Melecki, a research analyst for the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp.

Gramm-Rudman contains two provisions relating specifically to the GSL program.

The first mandates that the federal subsidy paid to GSL lenders be reduced by 0.4 percent during the first year after the loans are made. The other provision raises the loan origination fee charged to student borrowers from 5 percent to 5.5 percent of each loan's principal amount.

Al Bormann, assistant director of financial aid at Texas A&M, said the federal subsidy reduction doesn't appear to be driving major lending institutions in the state away from the GSL program.

An open lender, Bormann said, is a financial institution that will accept a loan application regardless of whether a student and/or his parent has a previous account with the institution.

Joe L. McCormick, executive director of the TGSLC, predicted the subsidy reduc-

tion would have little or no impact on the willingness of the 700 Texas banks, credit unions and savings and loans now participating in the program to keep making loans to students.

Melecki said the federal subsidy in question, also called the special interest allowance, is calculated by taking the difference between the interest rate on a loan and the sum of the average interest rate of 91-day treasury bills and 3.5 percent.

For instance, Melecki said, if the interest rate on a loan was 8 percent, and if treasury bills were selling for 7.5 percent, the special allowance would equal 3 percent (7.5 plus 3.5 minus 8).

"The lender is going to realize a yield on that return of 11 percent per year," Melecki said. "Eight percent of it's going to be in in-

terest and 3 percent of it's going to be in special allowance."

However, he said, Gramm-Rudman's 0.4 percent reduction in special allowance will mean the special allowance will be the difference between the loan's interest rate and the sum of the average interest on treasury bills and 3.1 percent.

So, using the same example, a lender getting an 11 percent return on a \$2,500 loan is making \$275. On the other hand, a 0.4 percent reduction in special allowance reduces the lender's return during the first year to 10.6 percent of the loan's principal — which in this case equals \$265. So in this example the federal government saves \$10 in special allowance on the loan.

Bormann said that for fiscal year 1985, which ended last Sept. 30, a total of 8,397

A&M students were on guaranteed student loans totaling \$13,333,096 — meaning the average amount of a GSL for an A&M student was about \$1,588 during that period.

Melecki said more than \$12 million of the GSL money borrowed by A&M students during fiscal 1985 was guaranteed by TGSLC.

The second Gramm-Rudman provision pertaining to GSLs increases the loan origination fee charge to student borrowers from 5 percent to 5.5 percent.

Using fiscal 1985 figures for A&M, a 0.5 percent increase in the loan origination fee would translate into an average increase in the cost of the loan of approximately \$8 (\$1,588 x .055 minus \$1,588 x .05).

Source: Moving bases from Philippines costly

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon estimates relocation of the two huge U.S. military bases in the Philippines would cost upwards of \$8 billion and put American military forces a long distance from potential hot spots, sources say.

A classified report containing the estimate is to be sent to Congress Monday, less than a week after the fall of Ferdinand Marcos and the installation of Corazon Aquino as president of the longtime U.S. ally.

The Philippines is home to Subic Bay Naval Station and Clark Air Base, the largest American bases outside the United States. The leases on those bases run out in 1991 and Aquino has

refused to say whether she will let them stay.

The Pentagon report says if those two bases are lost, the most stable potential spots to relocate would be Guam and Tinian islands, according to the sources, who spoke only on the condition they not be identified.

Both islands are under the control of the United States and are already home to U.S. military installations.

"There are other places you could move the U.S. bases to, like Japan or Australia, but you have the same potential problem there as in the Philippines — you don't know if we'll be welcome down the road," explained one source.

484 Philippine prisoners released

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Corazon Aquino abolished the government's power to detain people without charge Sunday, a practice her ousted predecessor used in an attempt to quell a growing communist insurgency.

She told more than 1 million cheering Filipinos at an outdoor rally that the practice was "not warranted" and had helped rather than hindered the guerrillas.

Aquino also said Sunday that all but four of 484 political prisoners incarcerated under Marcos "have been released or are in the process of being released," and the remaining ones will have their cases reviewed this week.

The four include the suspected former leader of the outlawed Com-

munist Party of the Philippines and three others accused of roles in the insurgency.

Aquino has ruled out any attempt to extradite Ferdinand E. Marcos, forced into exile last Wednesday in a nearly bloodless "people power" revolution, for any illegal acts committed during his 20 years as president.

But she said on Sunday that did not mean that those who committed serious crimes during his regime would escape punishment.

"We are gathering evidence and will set up the government structure that will try those who have committed grave crimes against the people, like human rights abuses and stealing," Aquino said.

Aquino ran against Marcos in a Feb. 7 presidential election. The National Assembly, dominated by Mar-

cos' New Society Movement party, declared him winner Feb. 15, although foreign observers cited massive ballot fraud.

The public gathering Sunday in bayside Rizal park was the largest since the 1983 funeral of Aquino's slain husband, Benigno Aquino.

Aquino was considered Marcos' strongest opponent for the presidency when he was shot and killed Aug. 21, 1983, at Manila airport. Aquino has repeatedly called Marcos her "No. 1 suspect" in the shooting.

Sunday's rally began with a "thanksgiving" Mass celebrated by Cardinal Jaime Sin, Roman Catholic archbishop of Manila, who joined Aquino in warning that Marcos' flight to Hawaii did not end the threat to democracy.

"There are those who want to slide back into the old and corrupt ways, those who plan to regroup the forces of the dictatorship," Sin told the crowd, estimated by police at over 1 million.

Aquino said the situation, "while stable, is not totally under control yet. There are still holdout pockets of military and civilian loyalists. There are still the loyalists who have not surrendered."

The first proclamation of Aquino's government restored the writ of habeas corpus, which Marcos suspended in 1981 when he ended eight years of martial law and restored some rights.

The suspension of habeas corpus enabled Marcos to hold people without charges indefinitely.