

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Waiter saw death of Klinghoffer

GENOA, Italy (AP) — A ship's waiter testified Monday that Leon Klinghoffer was silent as his wheelchair was pushed across the deck of the Achille Lauro to a waiting Palestinian hijacker armed with an automatic rifle.

Two shots were fired, Manuel de Souza said, then he and the cruise liner's hairdresser, Ferruccio Alberti, were ordered to jump the 69-year-old American's body and his wheelchair into the Mediterranean Sea.

The Portuguese waiter told Judge Lino Monteverde he could not identify the man who summoned him from the dining room, where the hostages were held, and ordered him to bring Klinghoffer out.

De Souza pointed out Youssef Magid al-Molqi, who listened from behind the steel bars of his holding cage in the chamber built like a bunker beneath a Genoa courthouse.

The trial indictment describes Molqi, 23, as the leader of the four Palestinians who seized the ship Oct. 7 off Port Said, Egypt, and subjected nearly 400 hostages to two days of terror at sea. It also says Molqi was the man who killed Klinghoffer with two bullets from a Kalashnikov assault rifle, one in the head and one in the chest.

Molqi, who confessed to the killing in pre-trial testimony, claimed in court last week that he did not kill Klinghoffer and that the American was not even aboard the ship.

Monteverde, who is presiding at the trial of 15 men charged in the hijacking, asked the waiter through an interpreter whether the invalid New Yorker said anything as de Souza wheeled him across the deck.

"No," he replied. It was the fourth day of the trial in this northern port city, where the Achille Lauro began its Mediterranean cruise.

Alberti, the hairdresser, said he could not identify the hijacker, adding: "I didn't even look him in the face."

De Souza said he went inside again to clean the blood off his clothes, and Alberti testified that he also left, but was forced to return and wash the blood from the deck.

When the judge asked Alberti whether he could pick the hijacker out from among the five defendants in the room, he shook his head.

## South Africa drops four treason charges

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Prosecutors dropped charges Monday against the last four defendants in a treason case, without explanation.

Sixteen anti-apartheid activists originally were charged in the case, and Monday's action appeared to mark the total collapse of the case.

Michael Imber, Natal attorney general, gave no reason for dropping charges against Thozimile Gqweta, president of the South African Allied Workers Union, and union leaders Sisa Njikani, Sam Kikini and Isaac Ngcobo.

They were accused of high treason for allegedly furthering the African National Congress guerrilla campaign against President P.W. Botha's government.

The treason trial began in October in Pietermaritzburg in Natal province. Charges were dropped in November against the 12 other activists arrested in May 1985, including top leaders of the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid coalition.

The Bureau of Information, the only source of official data under the emergency, said two mines were found Sunday on farm roads in

northern Natal and detonated safely by bomb experts. The African National Congress has claimed responsibility previously for planting mines in farming areas of Transvaal Province, north of Natal, that killed several whites and blacks in recent months.

In Johannesburg, the *Citizen* newspaper said officials feel unrest has diminished under the emergency and it should be continued indefinitely. It attributed the report to government sources it did not name.

Newsweek correspondent Richard Manning was told to leave South

Africa, apparently because of a Newsweek cover story called "South Africa's Civil War." He was the second foreign journalist ordered out under the emergency.

CBS News cameraman Wim de Vos, a Dutch citizen, was expelled last Thursday. Home Minister Stoffel Botha gave no reason for ordering Manning to leave by midnight Thursday, apart from telling him, "I have considered it to be in the public interest to order your removal from the republic." Botha said Newsweek had until 10 a.m. Thursday to appeal.

The emergency has imposed unprecedented restrictions on journalists.

An Anglican priest in a white parish said he faces prosecution if he does not evict blacks who took refuge in his church after their shacks were burned down at the Crossroads squatter camp outside Cape Town.

The Rev. Geoff Quinlan said by telephone from All Saints Church in a Cape Town suburb that he was given a summons for allegedly violating the law that prohibits blacks from living in white areas.

## Reagan's request for Contra speech refused by House

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan asked Monday to address the House on the eve of its vote on his request for aid to Nicaraguan rebels, but House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. denied the request, saying it would be an "unorthodox procedure," virtually unprecedented in peacetime.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan was "deeply disappointed" that he would not be accorded the opportunity to make a final appeal for his \$100 million aid package, scheduled for a House vote Wednesday.

Speakes said White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan had called O'Neill Monday afternoon to ask if the president might deliver a speech to the chamber Tuesday before leaving for a speech in Las Vegas and a week's vacation at his California ranch.

O'Neill offered the president an opportunity to appear before a joint session of Congress, which he said would be more appropriate. The speaker said that in so doing, he was continuing "my practice of supporting any presidential request to address a joint session of the Congress."

"I offered President Reagan the opportunity to do so tomorrow (Tuesday), just as I have done upon every such presidential request..."

"I was told by Mr. Reagan that the White House did not want the president to address a joint session, that the White House wants the president to appear before a regular meeting of the House," the statement added. "In 1969, President Nixon appeared sequentially before both Houses on the eve of the Vietnam War protests to thank members for supporting his conduct on the war."

O'Neill said, "Having the president appear before only one House to lobby for a legislative proposal would be unprecedented. The only justification for such an unorthodox procedure would be if the president would use the occasion to participate in open dialogue with members of the body. A formal address should properly be made before a joint session."

He said that his offer for a joint session remains open.

"On Wednesday, the House votes on Contra aid for the third time this year," he said. "If the House passes Contra aid in any form, the Senate will have to act on the matter. Since future congressional action must occur in both houses, I believe that the proper forum for an address is the traditional joint session."

Presidential addresses to a single house of the Congress are extremely rare. Speakes said his research showed only a half-dozen or so cases in which a president had gone before the House. Most of the cases he cited involved cases in which U.S. troops were in combat.

The House vote on aid to the rebel counter-revolutionaries known as Contras is expected to be very close. Speakes said Monday the White House was still a few votes short of victory.

Speakes said O'Neill, a steadfast opponent of Reagan on the issue, declined the president's request in a telephone conversation with Regan, saying he did not want the issue "politicized."

The spokesman said he did not know whether that word was O'Neill's or Regan's. Comment from the speaker's office was not immediately available.

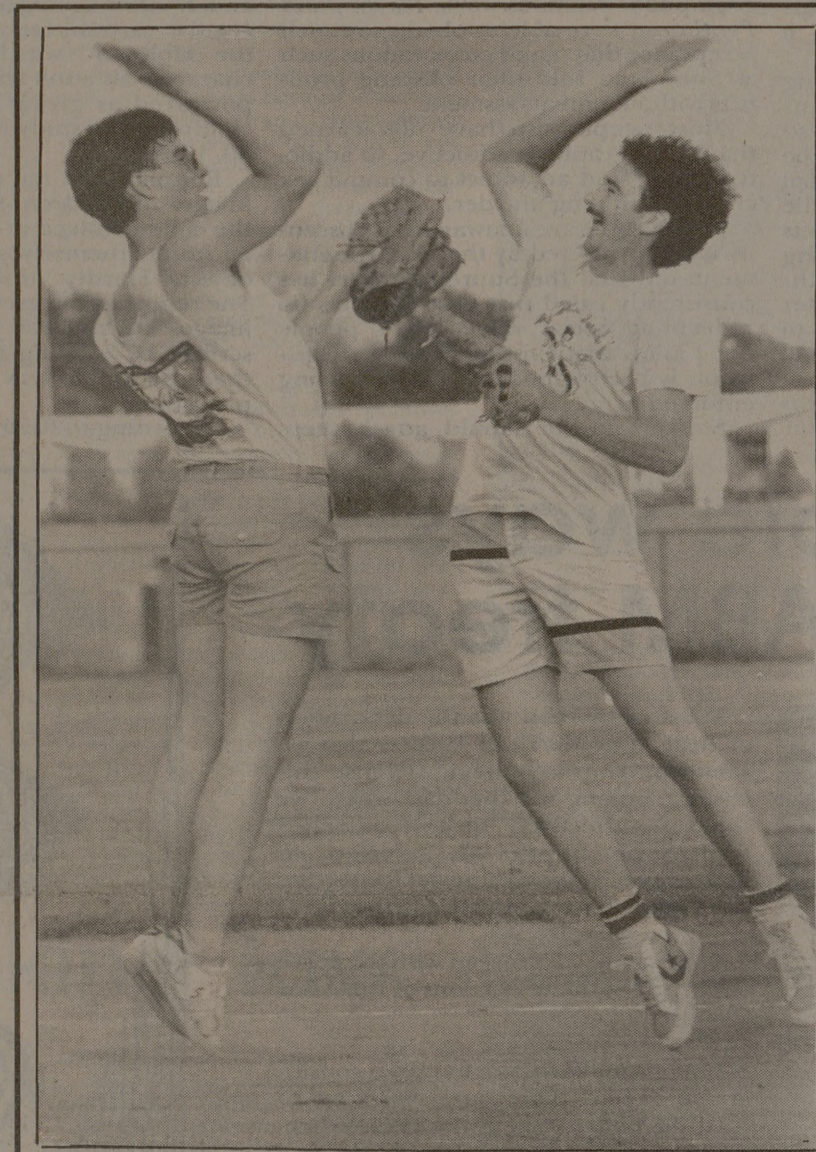


Photo by Tom Ownbey

## High Five

Two intramural co-rec softball players celebrate a victory Monday afternoon. The games scheduled from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. were cancelled because of rain and will be made up on Wednesday.

## Son charged in Kerrville case termed 'loving'

KERRVILLE — A man charged with organized crime as always loving and respectful and money to his divorced mother, the woman testified Monday in his organized crime trial.

Betty Vreeke said her 21-year-old son, Carlton Robert Caldwell, had trouble adjusting to her divorce from his father. But he never under-

went any personality change because of the breakup, she said.

Caldwell, Walter Wesley Ellebracht Sr., 55, and Walter Wesley Ellebracht Jr., 33, are charged with violating the state's organized crime law in the March 1984 death of drifter Anthony Bates.

The state contends the Ellebrachts picked up hitchhikers and took them

to their Hill Country ranch with the promise of work, forcing them to stay against their will.

The prosecution also alleges Bates was tortured to death with an electric cattle prod before his body was doused with gasoline and burned. Charred human bone fragments were found in a burned-out spot on the ranch, witnesses have testified.

Tape recordings of alleged torture sessions have been played during the trial. One witness identified Caldwell's voice as being among those on the tapes.

Vreeke, who testified as a defense witness as the trial's ninth week began, said she and her former husband adopted Caldwell when he was 2 years old. When the youngster was

a teen-ager, she and her husband divorced.

Caldwell entered the Army for 10 months and was discharged "because there was trouble with adjustment," she said. During his military stint, Vreeke said her son sent her \$200 a month so she wouldn't have to work full time.

"It's a tremendous management problem," said McCown, who drew criticism from Justice when he said prison officials have had "only four years" to implement reforms.

"Only four years, I don't much like that sound," Justice said. "That's a long time — four years."

## SDI team briefed on A&M's research capability

By Olivier Uyttebrouck

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The head of the Strategic Defense Initiative program and a team of SDI staffers were briefed in the Texas A&M Board of Regents chamber Friday in what amounted to an appeal for SDI research funds by A&M scientists and administrators.

Sen. Phil Gramm accompanied Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, head of the program, and a team of SDI staffers.

In a press conference prior to the briefing, A&M President Frank E. Vandiver thanked Gramm for bringing Abrahamson to Texas, giving A&M the opportunity to "show our wares."

"I think it is important that universities are involved in this kind of research," Vandiver said.

In the briefing, five A&M research scientists made presentations outlining several aspects of work performed here including space research, molecular electronics, electro-optics, manufacturing systems and accelerator science.

At the press conference, some of



From left, A&M President Frank Vandiver, Sen. Phil Gramm and Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson.

the major grievances critics have with SDI research at universities were addressed by Gramm, Abrahamson, Vandiver and Board of Regents Chairman David Eller.

In response to a question concerning the classified nature of SDI re-

search and the scientist's ability to publish findings, Abrahamson said the great majority of work available for universities is unclassified and should remain so.

Some of the research will be classified, he said, but only with the re-

searching scientist's permission and foreknowledge.

Gramm and Vandiver addressed a number of their remarks to the opposition SDI research faces by a

See SDI, page 6

## Senator challenges critics on fairness of tax plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the eve of a Senate vote on a landmark tax-revision plan, Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III challenged critics who claim the bill shortchanges middle-income Americans.

"It's true that they get less of a tax reduction than lower-income Americans," Baker said Monday. "It's really not true that they get a significantly lower reduction than upper-income Americans."

The dispute over relief for middle-income taxpayers will cost the bill the unanimous vote that leaders of both parties had once predicted. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., announced Monday he will vote no because "this bill gives us some reform, but it also gives us some new unfairness."

Baker, appearing on NBC-TV's "Today" show, noted estimates that people with incomes between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year would get tax cuts averaging 5 percent under the bill, while those above \$200,000 would receive a 4.7 percent cut.

"I think that's not really a valid objection," he said.

The Treasury secretary, who has worked closely with the House and Senate as they wrote their differing tax bills over the last year, said "the president likes the Senate bill pretty well."

"All in all, I think it is a very, very good bill and we like it a lot," Baker said. "We wouldn't mind seeing it passed as is."

That is expected to happen, sometime after 4 p.m. today, when the vote on the overall bill is scheduled. "It's going to be a big, big win — almost unanimous," Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan said.

The Senate was working its way through a stack of minor amendments Monday to clear the way for the final vote.

Senate passage would send the bill to a conference committee, which will work out a compromise between the Senate version and the one passed last December by the House.