

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## American abducted by gunmen in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — An American who runs a private school in Beirut was kidnapped by four gunmen Tuesday on his way to play golf, and a caller claimed responsibility in the name of the Shiite Moslem group Islamic Jihad.

The kidnapping was the first abduction of an American in Lebanon in 15 months.

The U.S. Embassy identified the victim as Frank Herbert Reed, 53, of Malden, Mass., director of the Lebanese International School in Moslem west Beirut.

Islamic Jihad, which espouses the fundamentalist teachings of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has

said it holds at least three other American hostages.

A spate of politically motivated kidnappings in west Beirut in 1985 prompted most Americans and other Westerners to leave the city. The caller on Tuesday accused Reed of being a CIA spy.

Police said the assailants, toting silencer-equipped pistols and driving in a dark blue Volvo, rammed Reed's chauffeur-driven car onto the sidewalk at 11:15 a.m. near the ruins of a supermarket in west Beirut's Bir Hassan district.

Reed was driving from his home in west Beirut's Manara neighbor-

hood to play golf at the war-scarred course on the city's southern edge.

Two men forced Reed and his Lebanese driver at gunpoint to get into the car. The driver was freed minutes later, a few hundred yards from the headquarters of Syrian intelligence officers in charge of enforcing a security plan to restore law and order in west Beirut.

Until Tuesday, no foreigner had been kidnapped since Syrian troops moved into west Beirut on July 4.

The driver, whose name was not given, went to Reed's home and informed Reed's Syrian wife, Fahima

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## A&M building budget may reach all-time high

By Olivier Uyttebrouck  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M is contemplating \$75.2 million in projects this year, which represents by far the largest construction budget in the school's history.

The two largest projects — a \$22 million biochemistry/biophysics building and a \$15 million computer science/aerospace engineering building will both be funded by bond issues backed by the Available University Fund, says Daniel T. Whitt, assistant vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction.

This year's construction budget dwarfs last year's \$23 million budget but Whitt attributes the difference to chance.

"That's just the normal peaks and valleys in getting projects designed and contracts awarded," Whitt says.

For example, \$30 million worth of projects will be paid for with "local funds," such as dining hall funds and residence hall reserves, Whitt says.

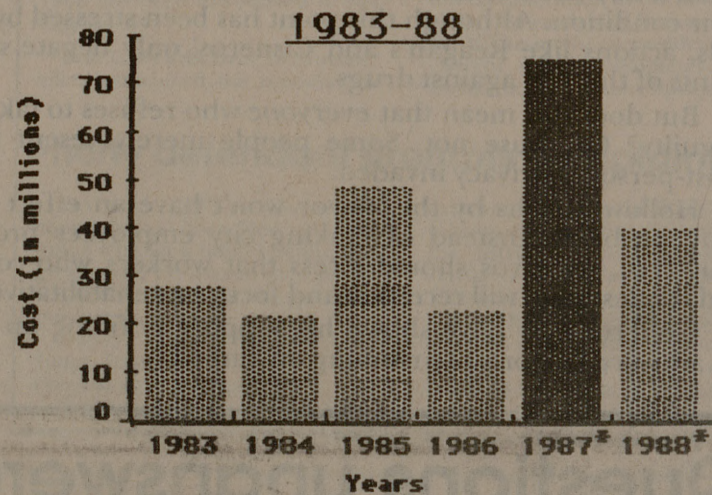
Among these local-fund projects is a \$12 million parking garage to be paid for entirely out of parking fees and fines, he says. The garage will be located on the present site of the physical plant building but the contract will not be awarded until March 1987 at the earliest.

Other local-fund projects include a \$5 million renovation of Duncan Hall, a \$5 million renovation of the Corps dormitories and an \$8 million expansion of campus utilities.

Unlike Permanent University Fund projects, which are the result of long-range, central planning, these local projects are funded as they arise, Whitt says.

By chance, he says, \$30 million worth of these projects came together for the fiscal year 1987, which began Sept. 1.

### Construction Costs



\*Estimated costs

Listed below are A&M's annual construction expenditures since fiscal year 1983:

- 1983 — \$27.96 million
- 1984 — \$22.3 million
- 1985 — \$48.75 million
- 1986 — \$23.09 million
- 1987 (current year) — \$75.2 million
- 1988 (estimate) — \$40 million.

Meanwhile, work proceeds on the problem-ridden Chemistry Building. When the project began in 1984, the building was scheduled for completion by May 1986 but Whitt says November is now the target month of completion, and that even that estimate is optimistic.

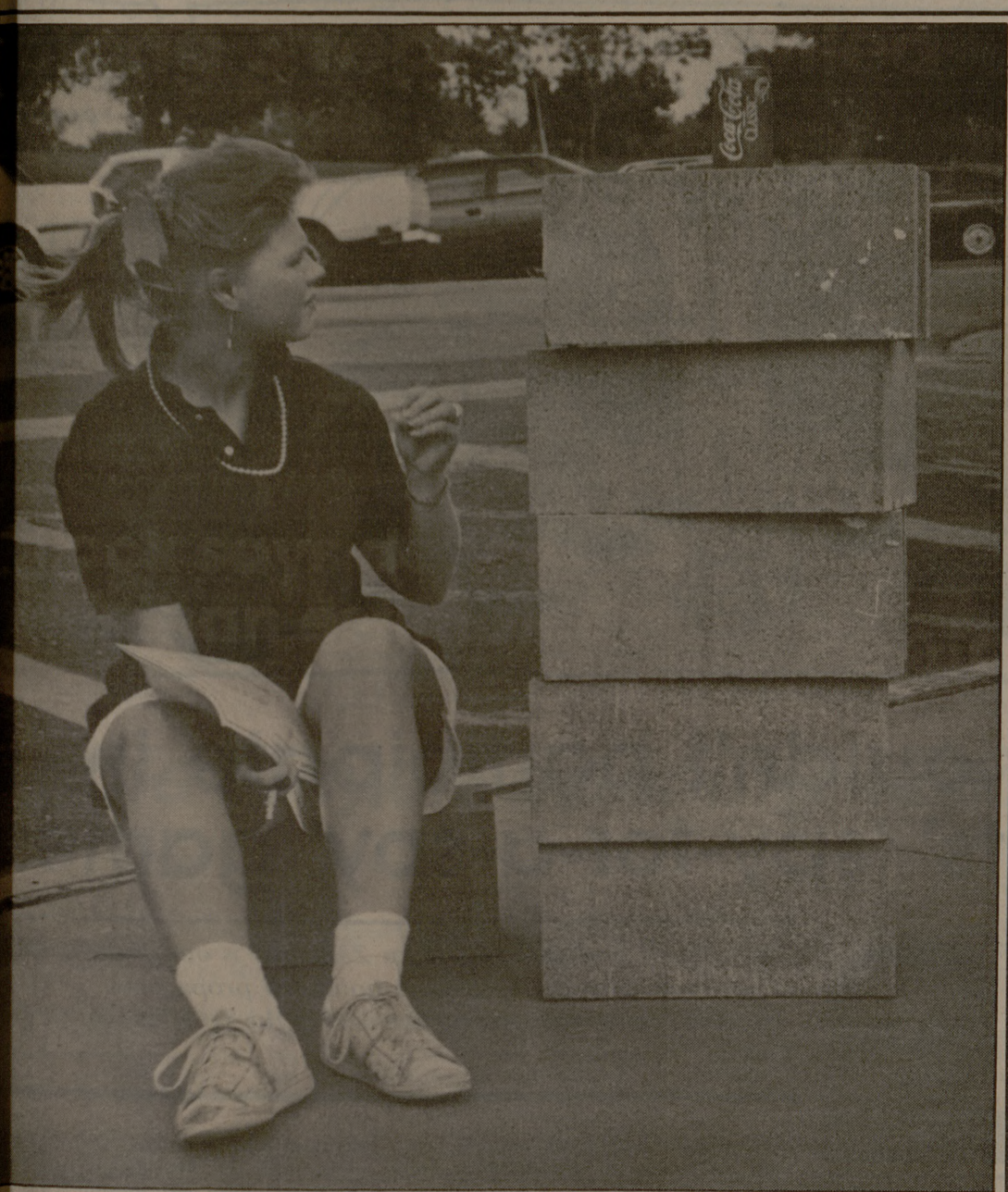
In February, with \$6 million in work remaining on the project, the B.B. Anderson Construction Co. defaulted on its contract with A&M and the Avery Mays Construction

Co. was hired to finish the job, Whitt says.

A&M is still far from raising the \$36 million needed to build the special events center the school hopes to place on the west campus one day, Whitt says.

Houston investor Chester Reed donated a \$13 million parcel of land to A&M in January, the proceeds of which are to be used to fund the special events center, but to date, only a portion of the land has been sold, Whitt says.

The University is prohibited from using money from the Available University Fund for non-educational buildings. And since the center would be used in part to host sporting events, only a portion of the project can be funded by the Available University Fund, he says.



### Block Party

Larissa-Starr Smith, a sophomore general studies major from San Antonio, waits for her friends to

come help her move cinder blocks into her dorm room in Mosher Hall.

Photo by Mike Sanchez

## Chilean left-wing journalist among 3 reportedly killed

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Three men including the editor of a left-wing magazine banned under the new state of siege decree were taken from their homes by armed men and killed, their relatives reported Tuesday.

Police said they had no knowledge of the killings, but the government announced 16 dissidents were killed in the military crackdown Tuesday after the attempted assassination Sunday of President Augusto Pinochet.

One of the slain men was Jose Carrasco, 41, a former political exile who worked for the news magazine *El Navegante*. His relatives said he was

taken from his house early Monday by gunmen claiming to be police.

His body was found Monday night outside a suburban Santiago cemetery. He had been shot in the head.

The other victims were identified by relatives as Gaston Vidarrazuga, a 30-year-old schoolteacher, and Felipe Segundo Rivera, 40, a government-employed machinist.

The relatives said the two had been taken from their homes early Monday and the bodies were found dumped in Santiago, but they had no further information.

The Interior Ministry confirmed

Carrasco's death only, and said it had not ordered his arrest.

Gen. Pinochet Tuesday attended the funeral of bodyguards killed in the attack, then headed to a rally staged in his honor.

Police reported they were holding 16 opposition activists and three French priests picked up under a nationwide state of siege decreed after Sunday's guerrilla ambush on Gen. Pinochet's motorcade.

Two escort cars destroyed in the rocket and grenade attack were put on display outside the presidential palace along Santiago's main boulevard, site of the pro-Pinochet rally.

## Bullock says deficit lower than estimated

AUSTIN (AP) — State Comptroller Bob Bullock said Tuesday that the state's projected budget deficit improved slightly over the past months, but predicted that 1987 would be a darker year for state revenues and the Texas economy.

Two months ago, Bullock projected a \$3.5 billion reduction in all funds for 1986-87 and a \$2.9 billion shortfall in major funds.

On Tuesday, he revised those figures to \$2.8 billion and \$2.3 billion respectively.

"Since our last official estimate, the Legislature, in special session, has made some budget cuts and resolved a number of pending issues which have lowered the July shortfall estimate," Bullock said in a statement.

Gov. Mark White said Tuesday that Texas still needs a temporary sales tax increase even though a new study estimates the projected state budget deficit has eased by \$700 million.

Bullock noted the Legislature had approved not paying cities and transit authorities \$223 million in interest on local sales tax money held by the state treasury.

He said Attorney General Jim Mattox had assured him that the state will not — as anticipated in July — have to refund \$100 million in contested franchise tax payments during 1987.

Also, the Legislature moved the state payday to the first day of the month and eliminated the 3 percent state employee pay raise, reducing state expenditures by another \$273 million.

"The reduction in all funds for 1986-87 will be \$2.8 billion because

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## Tax bills introduced in House

AUSTIN (AP) — New tax bills were filed in the House on Tuesday with no indication from Speaker Gib Lewis or other House leaders that they would get immediate attention.

However, Lewis predicted later in the day that there would be a temporary sales tax hike passed during the special session.

Rep. Stan Schlueter, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which must clear any tax bill for debate, said he probably would wait until the House and Senate reach agreement on appropriations before holding any hearings on tax legislation.

### Challenger disaster leads to diversity

## Pentagon changes space policy

Editor's note: This is the third installment of a four-part series examining the impact of the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger on the space industry. Part three examines the Pentagon's attempt to break its reliance on shuttles by adopting throwaway rockets.

WASHINGTON (AP) — From spy satellites to "Star Wars," the loss of the shuttle Challenger temporarily crippled military space programs. It also wrought an expensive, new approach to space at the Pentagon.

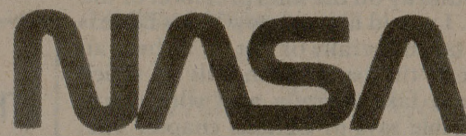
The military must have the shuttle, Air Force Secretary Edward C. Aldridge Jr. says, but placing great reliance on the orbiters was "a major mistake for this country and we're paying the price now."

Gone are the days of a seemingly foolproof shuttle, available to the Pentagon for secret missions along with its more familiar work as a space truck hauling commercial payloads into orbit.

"We cannot afford to rely on a single launch system for launching our very critical satellites," Aldridge said recently. "The Expendable Launch Vehicles (rockets) are going to be the workhorse from now on for DOD."

Ironically, as the Pentagon moves to break its reliance on the shuttle, the military's role in the future of the spaceplane is increasing. Since the Challenger's loss, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has turned over four key jobs to military officers.

The Defense Department is likely to monopolize the first few years of resumed shuttle flights; two of the first three flights have already been set aside for the military. In fact, some administration officials credit the Pentagon with helping to persuade President Reagan to replace the Chal-



lenger while restricting the access of commercial firms to the shuttle in the future.

But the military ramifications of relying solely on the shuttle have been far-reaching:

- To recover, the Pentagon now plans to spend \$2.6 billion over the next five years. Assuming Congress goes along, that money will finance design and production of two new generations of unmanned rockets. Critical satellites will be designed from the ground up to fly on either the shuttle or one of the new rockets.
- By simple good luck, the nation's defense satellite system was healthy when the Challenger exploded Jan. 28, according to Gen. Larry D. Welch, the Air Force's chief of staff.

Nonetheless, every month the shuttles stay grounded, the picture worsens.

The Challenger's loss, and the unrelated grounding of the Titan rocket following two losses over the past year, is producing a backlog of national-security payloads that will take years to overcome.

According to Aldridge, the Pentagon will have 21 payloads "sitting on the ground waiting to fly" in early 1988, when the shuttles are supposed to resume operation. The backlog will grow to as many as 30 satellites before it starts dropping, he adds.

The United States has at least one of the KH-

11 spy satellites still in orbit and functioning, and perhaps at least one more that could be launched with a Titan. By 1988, however, the Pentagon could face a serious problem maintaining the photo reconnaissance that monitors Soviet military movements and arms control compliance.

The shutdown for repair of the shuttles has forced the planned, \$3 billion military spaceport at the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California to be placed in "caretaker status" until 1992, when Challenger's replacement is due to be ready. The mothballing will eliminate up to 1,000 jobs.

Aldridge maintains the United States must eventually activate Vandenberg so that shuttles can place spy satellites in polar orbit, the only one that gives them a vantage point on the entire globe. The safety requirement that shuttles be launched over water rather than land prevents the spaceplanes from putting payloads in polar orbit when launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

President Reagan's Star Wars program, known formally as the Strategic Defense Initiative, has also been hurt. More extensive Star Wars work using the shuttle was scheduled to begin next year.

Col. George Hess, the director of survivability, lethality and key technologies for Star Wars, says the Pentagon is now reviewing its experiments to determine if some can be performed with unmanned rockets. Much of the research, however, can only be performed by men in space. In the long run, assuming shuttle flights resume in 1988, Hess says the research program shouldn't be set back too greatly.

"But everyone is suffering from a lack of shuttle availability," he adds.