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Up, Up And Away

Photo by Anthony S. Casper

More than 2000 red, white and blue balloons were released during halftime at the Texas A&M-Southern Mississippi game Saturday to mark A&M's month-long observance of the Sesquicentennial. Other Sesquicentennial events include a seminar on the Spanish Heritage of Texas Oct. 10-11 and "Texas A&M Salutes Sesquicentennial," a musical presentation with the Singing Cadets and the A&M Symphonic Band Oct. 24.

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Fighting in Beirut leaves 62 dead

Takeover attempt quelled by militia

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Christian militia hardliners crushed a comeback attempt by an ousted, pro-Syrian commander Sunday in 24 hours of street battles in Christian east Beirut, which police said killed 62 people and wounded 198.

Fighting began at dawn Saturday when about 600 supporters of Elie Hobeika, former commander of the Lebanese Forces Christian militia, stormed across the Green Line dividing east Beirut from the Moslem western sector.

"The last pocket of resistance was mopped up at daybreak, when 12 infiltrators from Elie Hobeika's supporters surrendered," said a communique issued by the Lebanese Forces, the nation's largest Christian militia.

Police confirmed that loyalists of Lebanese Forces commander Samir Geagea defeated the pro-Hobeika attackers.

There was no word on the whereabouts of Hobeika.

Hobeika was ousted from the command of the Lebanese Forces by Geagea's hardliners Jan. 15 for signing a Syrian-sponsored peace pact with Moslem militia leaders.

President Amin Gemayel, himself a Maronite Catholic, was among the Christians who felt the accord's power-sharing provisions conceded too much to the Moslems.

One report Sunday said Hobeika was in Chtura, the Bekaa Valley town which houses command headquarters of 25,000 Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League.

The report, however, was not confirmed. The collapse of Hobeika's thrust consol-

idated Geagea's position as the strongman of Lebanon's 1.8 million Christians.

Pro-Geagea militiamen in armored personnel carriers and jeeps mounted with 106mm recoilless rifles on Sunday patrolled all four residential districts where street fighting raged all day Saturday.

Hundreds of residents were trapped in basements and bomb shelters by the fighting. They finally ventured out cautiously to take stock of losses, which police estimated at about \$10 million.

Broken power cables dangled across streets littered with broken glass in the sprawling district of Ashrafiyeh, where the heaviest fighting took place.

Dozens of cars were reduced to piles of charred, twisted metal.

The army's 10th Brigade, predominantly Christian, replaced Christian militiamen along the east Beirut side of the Green Line.

The army stepped in Saturday to help beat back the pro-Hobeika attackers.

The regulars then took over Geagea's Green Line positions in an attempt to avert an outbreak of all-out civil war after Hobeika's defeat, according to police.

They said three soldiers were killed and five wounded.

Hobeika supporters lost 25 lives and suffered 42 wounded.

Geagea's militia saw 27 killed and 56 wounded.

Seven other people were killed and 95 wounded in shelling duels across the Green Line.

Sporadic mortar exchanges persisted Sunday, but no fresh casualties were reported.

Pentagon reports U.S. not prepared to deal with terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite streams of rhetoric and multi-million dollar budgets, the United States has no effective strategy to cope with the increasing threat of terrorism and guerrilla warfare, according to a Pentagon study.

The report says the U.S. effort to protect its interests around the world is hampered by bureaucratic infighting and the inability of U.S. leaders and agencies "to comprehend the nature of this type of conflict."

The report was prepared over the past year by a joint team from the Army and Air Force. There are no plans to publicly release the document, although a copy was made available to the Associated Press.

While the authors were military, the report also looked at such civilian agencies as the State Department and the CIA.

The report said it is intended as a "start point" for the U.S. government to understand the problem and wasn't designed "to recommend those few relevant 'fixes' that would settle this bothersome problem once and for all. As such, the project is not a blueprint but a dialogue."

Israeli expert: Terrorist leader Abu Nidal on the move

(AP) — Terrorist leader Abu Nidal, feeling the U.S. heat, has decamped from his Libyan headquarters and begun shuttling secretly among Arab capitals, an Israeli expert says of the notorious Palestinian fugitive.

Yossi Melman also writes that Israeli intelligence officials suspect Abu Nidal, blamed by some for the recent Pan Am hijacking in Pakistan and the Istanbul synagogue massacre, has ties to East European secret services.

"Abu Nidal's organization is the only one which is able to maintain a secret infrastructure in Eastern Europe," Melman says in his new book "The Master Terrorist."

The 215-page study, published by Adama Books of New York, is the most thorough summation yet of the deadly career of the 49-year-

old Abu Nidal, born Sabry al-Banna. And it makes clear that his group, formally called Fatah-Revolutionary Council, is by far today's single greatest Palestinian terrorist threat.

Israeli intelligence specialists blame Abu Nidal for more than 100 terror attacks and 200 deaths over 13 years, Melman reports.

Major recent attacks include last year's bombings of British and Jordanian airline offices, a cafe in Rome, hotels in Greece and the gun-and-grenade slaughter of 16 people at Rome and Vienna airports last Dec. 27.

Israeli and other specialists suggest Abu Nidal also may have plotted two shocking attacks earlier this month — the Pan Am jetliner hijacking at Karachi airport, in which 20 people died, and

the massacre of 21 Jewish worshipers at a synagogue in Istanbul, Turkey.

In his book, Melman, who is diplomatic correspondent of the Israeli newspaper *Davar*, relies heavily on official Israeli sources. But much of his detailed knowledge of the terror group derives from his own coverage of the London trial of three alleged Abu Nidal agents convicted in the near-fatal shooting of the Israeli ambassador to Britain in 1982.

Melman, citing Israeli and Western intelligence sources, says the Abu Nidal group has no more than 150-200 active members, drawn from two main sources: Palestinian students in Europe and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

But there is no overall policy, the report says, warning that "a comprehensive civil-military strategy must be developed to defend our interests threatened by the series of low-intensity conflicts around the globe."

"It must be crafted in comprehensive terms, not focused on a single conflict or on a single department," it said. "It must integrate all the national resources at our disposal, military and non-military, lethal and non-lethal."

Many recent U.S. efforts have been hampered by failures, the study noted. Examples cited were the October 1983 deaths of 241 U.S. servicemen from a suicide terrorist attack in Lebanon, inter-service rivalries that marred the 1983 invasion of Grenada, and the disastrous 1980 mission to rescue American hostages held in Iran.

"Our current defense posture reflects our inability to understand the form and substance of this direct challenge to our interests," the report said.

Two A&M researchers to begin experiments for NASA space station

By James Florez
Reporter

NASA's space station got one step closer to becoming a reality when two Texas A&M researchers started conducting preliminary experiments in October to measure the effects of weightlessness on the station's power source.

On Oct. 2 and Oct. 3 Dr. Frederick Best, an assistant professor of nuclear engineering, and Leo Kachnik, a graduate research assistant from Fort Worth, will take a flight into zero-gravity to observe the effects of the weightlessness of space on the circulation of liquids and vapors.

Best said the research will aid in designing thermal energy power systems to be used by the space station NASA hopes to have in orbit by the mid-1990s.

"The project itself is in support of the space station," Best said. "That is, the new power systems required by the space station need thermal energy more characteristic of regular commercial power plants as opposed to the solid state technology we currently fly on spacecraft."

As the space station is expanded, more power will be needed, Best said. As on earth, the power will probably come from a boiler system fired by a

fuel source — either solar or nuclear — producing vapor (steam) that runs turbines that generate electricity.

While there is a long history of zero-gravity research, Best said most of it has dealt with the effects of weightlessness on solid structures and biological activities.

"The first zero-gravity experiment of this type (thermal energy) was flown by NASA in 1962," Best said, "but the program lost funding because there were no projected demands for 'big power' in space."

"Now that we have the manufacturing of the space station on line there is a resurgence of interest in high-power systems for space," Best said. "In order to build up the necessary information, we must now fly experiments in zero-gravity."

Best said an experiment package has been constructed that uses high-speed photography (2,500 frames per second) and a computer-controlled data collection system to record how vapor-liquid mixtures react in the weightlessness of space.

"All of this technology relies on the circulation of vapors and liquids," Best said. "On Earth, liq-

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Ruling could have long-term impact

Host sued in alcohol-related death

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A suit filed in the traffic death of a 17-year-old boy who became drunk at a party contends the blame should be placed on the teen-ager who sold the liquor to him.

Michael Morrison, a tort specialist at the Baylor University School of Law, says the case could have a long-term impact in this generally uncharted territory of Texas civil law.

The suit, filed in state district court by the family of the late David L. Hasty, alleges David Vallandingham, 18, is responsible for the death of Hasty, 17, and the serious injuries of Richard W. Goins, 18.

The driver, David Brent Adams, 18, of Dove Creek, was killed. His family is not involved in the suit.

Hasty, Goins and Adams became intoxicated at Vallandingham's party Aug. 15, 1985, the suit contends. Vallandingham was convicted in Tom Green County Court-at-Law in March of selling alcohol at the party without a permit.

The civil suit and evidence at Vallandingham's criminal trial say he sold advance tickets, collected an admission fee at the gate and sold vodka-laced punch at the party attended by many other minors.

As the three boys drove home on a rural road, their pickup truck veered off the road and flipped, killing Hasty and injuring Goins, the suit alleges.

The accident and resulting injuries and death were the direct result of Vallandingham's unlawful serv-

ing of alcoholic beverages, the suit contends.

Vallandingham declined to comment on the suit.

Morrison said Texas courts traditionally have held that a person becomes intoxicated because he drank too much, not because alcohol was provided to him.

The legal questions to be addressed are whether a party host is negligent for not protecting someone who is intoxicated, whether it is

reasonable to provide alcohol to minors, and whether the accident was caused by the host's negligence, Morrison told the *San Angelo Standard-Times*.

The youths' status as minors may not have much impact on the case or on Texas law, Morrison said.

The case could have more long-term impact if the lawyers place full responsibility on the host instead of spreading the blame both to the host

and to the victims' ages, Morrison said.

Historically, Morrison said, appellate courts have been hesitant to trace liability to individuals, believing party-host liability is a social issue better handled by the Legislature.

Plaintiff's attorney Ralph Dreyer said the principle issue to decide is whether Vallandingham, as the seller of the alcohol, should have protected the patrons of his party.

Case against anti-abortion center to begin

FORT WORTH (AP) — A suit is scheduled to be heard today against an anti-abortion center that uses graphic films and offers of financial assistance to convince abortion-seeking women to carry their babies to full-term.

The Texas attorney general's office argues that the Pregnancy Problem Center is violating deceptive trade laws by misleading women about what the clinic does. If the center continues to disguise its true intentions, the state says it will seek to close it.

The center's anti-abortion operators counter that because they do not charge for their services, they should not be subject to state laws governing commerce.

Both pro-choice and pro-life advocates say the case could affect the futures of such centers across the country.

Center operators say they are competing with abortion clinics for customers. Citing a success rate of 77 percent, or nearly 1,000 babies saved in two years, they say they are fully convinced that the end justifies the means.

"I understand that under other circumstances, it would be improper to go as close to the line as we go... avoiding telling people we're pro-life," said Chuck Pelletier, who opened the center in June 1984 after meeting pro-life advocate Robert J. Pearson. "The bottom line is we're in competition with the death chambers for the same lives."

Inside the clinic, women seeking information on abortions instead are shown graphic films of abortions, given impassioned counseling and offered financial assistance.

Three women, who said they were misled into going to the clinic and then were battered emotionally, filed suit in March 1985 against Mother and Unborn Baby Care of North Texas Inc, which operates a Pregnancy Problem Center.

During a court hearing in April 1985, a woman testifying under the name Elizabeth Collins said a pro-life counselor called her a murderer after she told her that she had had a previous abortion.

The case scheduled for trial today is an outgrowth of the women's action.

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you buy it at the fall of the hammer the product belongs to you," he explains. "It no longer just about anything on a commission basis, his commission usually runs about 20 percent. One of Buchanan's newer