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## 7 injured in Houston explosion

DEER PARK (AP) — A fire and two explosions rocked a barge in the Houston Ship Channel early Tuesday, injuring seven men and forcing officials to close a mile-long stretch of the waterway. One man blown off a tanker was reported missing.

The fire began at 4 a.m. after the first explosion and burned through the afternoon, U.S. Coast Guard officials said. They said they were letting the fire burn itself out.

Barge Hollywood 3003 was carrying methyl tertiary butyl ether, a gasoline additive that creates an intense flame, Coast Guard Ensign Lia Debetencourt said.

Fire broke out while the product was being transferred to another barge, said Stephen Miles, president of Intercontinental Terminals Co. The other barge did not catch fire, he said.

"The fire is no longer progressing, but it's still burning," said Coast Guard spokesman Richard Nichols. "It's under control, but it's not extinguished."

Nichols said the fire was contained on the barge and surrounding water. The barge was partially submerged in the water, he said.

Witnesses said the explosions occurred just before 4 a.m. and then at 5 a.m. during the fire. The cause of the initial explosion had not been determined.

Several hatches blew off tanks on the barge later in the morning probably because of heat from the blaze, Coast Guard spokesman Mark Kennedy said. The barge has 10 tanks.

Ships surrounded the burning barge, spewing water, and a circling helicopter looked for the missing man who authorities said was knocked off a nearby Panamanian tanker.

Another worker on the vessel jumped into the water when the fire started and was rescued uninjured, officials said.

A crew member injured on the burning barge was in guarded condition Tuesday at Hermann Hospital in Houston, said spokeswoman Susan Edwards. Paul Simpson, 22, suffered burns over 75 percent of his body, said a hospital clerk who declined to give her name.

Four firefighters from Intercontinental Terminals who helped fight the blaze also were injured, Debetencourt said. They suffered first- and second-degree burns and were in satisfactory condition at Humana Hospital Southmore, hospital spokesman Walter Leleux said.

The Coast Guard closed the stretch of the channel for safety precautions, Debetencourt said. At least one boat was moved out of the area, she said.



Photo by Mark Gee

## Picture Perfect

Mark Johnson, a senior philosophy major from College Station, hangs a picture Tuesday for the "Spanish Heritage in Texas" exhibit. The exhibit will be open for public viewing Friday through Oct. 28 in the Rudder Exhibit Hall.

## Yell practice conflict prompts complaints

### Plan in works to end Corps-civilian friction

By Jo Ann Able  
Staff Writer

A plan is in the works to prevent further conflicts between the Corps and civilians running across Kyle Field at midnight yell practice, Dr. Malon Southerland, interim commandant of the Corps of Cadets, said Tuesday.

He said he's working with the yell leaders and the Corps to address complaints stemming from Corps actions during Friday's yell practice.

Several people received minor injuries in a scuffle that broke out when they tried to run across the field and cadets tried to stop them.

"It's just simply something that's gotten out of hand," Southerland said. "People have decided for whatever reasons that it's a game to charge out on the field, and once that happens, other individuals think it's their responsibility to stop them, and it gives each party a reason to have a wrestling match."

Andy Vann, a junior English major, said he was among about 15 people, including about six girls, who tried to cross the field. He said he was tackled by two cadets.

"Two C.T.'s jumped on top of me and started hitting me in the head with their helmets and started punching me," Vann said. "I never fought back. I never said a single thing."

Vann said one cadet tried unsuccessfully to carry him off the field. He said he then stood up and tried to walk off the field.

"One of them grabbed my feet and the other one grabbed the up-

per part of my body," he said, "and they ran me off the field and one of them kept hitting me in the head with his helmet, over and over again."

Vann said one of the girls in the group was told by cadets, "Get off the field, you slut."

A few of the girls were tackled and one was hit with a helmet, Vann said.

"The main reason I did it (ran on the field) is I wanted to see how far the Corps would go to keep up a tradition," Vann said. "As far as I'm concerned, tradition is a fine part of this institution, but the fanaticism I saw out there and the violence that resulted is scary."

Jeff Newberry, a sophomore English major, said he also ran onto the field.

"We knew what we were getting into, and we knew senseless violence was going to be the reaction," Newberry said.

He said the purpose of his actions was to get a reaction from the crowd and make them question the violence that he knew would result.

"We certainly weren't the most intelligent rebels in the world," Newberry said.

Newberry said he was tackled by at least five cadets who beat him in the head, kicked him in the gut and called him names.

He said he suffered bruises, turf burns, a few lumps on his head and had his shirt torn off.

Another participant in the run, David Kohel, a junior biochemistry major, said he regrets that his ac-

tions are being viewed as provoking the Corps.

"People need to use more spontaneity and imagination," Kohel said. "Sometimes tradition limits our perspective of what we do, and I think a lot of times people are oblivious to alternative actions."

"I ran out on the field and had quite a few people condone the C.T.'s violence."

He said he was tackled, had his shirt ripped off and was hit in the mouth.

He said he doesn't believe anyone expected the outcome to be as violent as it actually was.

"I don't want to make it sound like we went out there to cause violence," Kohel said.

Marty Holmes, head yell leader, said there wouldn't be a problem if everyone was "true to each other as Aggies can be" like it says in "The Spirit of Aggieland."

"First of all, we wouldn't be beating up on them like that," Holmes said. "And at the same time they (civilians) wouldn't be trying to run out there."

"When they run out there, they know what's fixing to happen. It's not like they're innocent bystanders or something. They're egging it on themselves."

Southerland said students need to be aware they shouldn't go out on the field, but if it does happen, the cadets shouldn't overreact.

Southerland said, "It's just something that cannot be allowed to continue because somebody's going to get hurt."

## Air crashes may be linked to covert CIA mission

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. congressman on Tuesday called for a House probe into two air crashes that occurred within the past week in Texas and Nicaragua to determine if they were part of a covert CIA operation aimed at toppling the Sandinista government.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, charged that a civilian cargo plane that crashed at a Texas military base was on a secret CIA mission carrying weapons to American-backed rebels in Nicaragua.

A smaller plane that reportedly crashed inside Nicaragua near the Honduran border was also on a CIA-backed mission, Gonzalez said at a late afternoon news conference.

In letters to Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, and Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Gonzalez asked for an investigation into whether the CIA was linked with the crashes.

"Under the authorization granted to the CIA in 1947 there is nothing to allow them to operate as a paramilitary operation," Gonzalez said.

He also said pilots were being hired to fly aircraft for civilian aviation companies contracted by the CIA to carry out missions in support of covert operations based in Honduras for the Nicaraguan Contra rebel forces.

Those civilian air transport companies are not being regulated by the federal government nor by the military, which results in many aircraft being flown that are not airworthy, Gonzalez said.

"You have these aircraft operating in a twilight zone, that not only continue to menace the military bases, but the citizens and communities living in the vicinity," Gonzalez said.

In a related development, Gonzalez said that the CIA is offering \$25,000 to Spanish-speaking Texans for a year's duty in Central America through the Texas Employment

Commission and the Veteran's Service Officer.

"It's all tied together," he said.

In San Antonio, the Texas Employment Commission, through its veteran service officer, is attempting to recruit 1,000 Chicanos, Spanish-speaking, for unaccompanied tours for one year in Central America," Gonzalez said at a news conference.

"(They want people) who have a background of experience in small arms and communications," he said.

Asked if he was saying mercenaries are being recruited, he earlier replied, "That's what it amounts to."

Gene Brieger, supervisor of placement field services for the TEC in San Antonio, said Tuesday that the agency received an order from Central Texas College in Killeen and is trying to fill it.

He said in a government contract, compa-

nies are required to list jobs with state employment agencies.

"They're required by federal orders to place orders with us," Brieger said. "Receiving this is not any big deal."

He said the order asks for 1,000 people to be trained in different subjects for jobs in Central and South America.

The pay is \$25,000 per year for one year, including food and lodging, Brieger said.

"Obviously (Gonzalez) has information we don't have," Brieger said.

He said he did not know where the college got its order.

Alvin Orenstein, deputy chancellor at Central Texas College in Killeen, did not return phone calls to the AP on Tuesday.

The plane that crashed early Saturday at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio was owned by Southern Air Transport, a Miami-based company which Gonzalez said has a history of CIA involvement.

## Officials say American downed in plane crash is military adviser

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — An American who survived when Sandinista soldiers shot down a cargo plane said Tuesday he is an aviation specialist who boarded the C-123 in El Salvador, and was captured in the jungle a day after the plane crashed.

Nicaraguan officials claim that Eugene Hasenfus, 45, of Marinette, Wis., is an American military adviser serving in El Salvador and the transport shot down Sunday in southern Nicaragua was carrying weapons and ammunition to U.S.-backed Contra rebels fighting the leftist Sandinistas.

Sandinista army Lt. Col. Roberto Calderon said in Managua that Hasenfus and two Americans who died on the plane carried identification associating them with the U.S. mili-

tary advisory group in El Salvador.

However, officials in Washington denied any connection between Hasenfus and the U.S. government. A Contra official in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, also denied that it had anything to do with the plane.

Hasenfus was allowed to speak to local journalists briefly in San Carlos, a port on Lake Nicaragua near the crash site. He said the plane began its journey in Miami, picked him up in El Salvador, then took a Nicaraguan aboard in Honduras and entered Nicaraguan air space from Costa Rica at a site known as La Noca on the San Juan River.

Hasenfus said the Nicaraguan was one of three men killed in the crash.

Nicaraguan army officers who accompanied Hasenfus said the other two men killed were Americans they

identified as Wallace Blaine Sawyer Jr. and Bill Cooper. Their hometowns were not available.

Calderon, chief of the military district where the plane was shot down, quoted Hasenfus as saying Sunday's flight had been his fourth Contra supply flight since July.

Calderon said Hasenfus' job in the flight was to kick bundles of supplies out of the plane. The C-123 is an older-model aircraft that was used widely during the Vietnam War.

Calderon said Hasenfus carried a card issued by the Salvadoran air force, authorizing him to enter restricted areas of Ilopango Air Force Base in southern El Salvador.

Calderon claimed documents found in the downed transport plane and on the victims' bodies identified Cooper and Sawyer as

members of the U.S. military advisory group in El Salvador.

Another captured document had been issued to Cooper by a company called Southern Air Transport, Calderon said. That company, which reportedly has flown supplies to the Contras, said Tuesday it knew nothing about Hasenfus or the flight.

Sandinista officials said the plane was shot down with a Soviet-made surface-to-air missile at a spot 35 miles north of Costa Rica and 91 miles southeast of Managua.

The Defense Ministry said the downed plane carried 50,000 rounds of ammunition for Soviet-made AK-47 rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, dozens of automatic rifles, jungle boots and other military supplies.

## Runoffs will be held on all freshman offices

By Rodney Rafter  
Staff Writer

Tuesday's freshman elections attracted 1,090 voters to the polls and elected eight student senators but left all five class offices unresolved.

According to election returns reported Tuesday night by election co-commissioners D.B. Thomas and Derek Blakeley, no candidate for any office received the majority vote necessary to secure a victory.

Run-off elections will be held Monday between the two candidates receiving the most votes for each office.

The presidential run-off will be between Mike Lister and Dan Gattis. Lister, a business major from Dallas, netted 19.7 percent of the votes while Gattis, an agri-

cultural economics major from Friendswood, drew 11.5 percent.

The run-off for vice president will be between Rachel Powitzk, who emerged from Tuesday's election with 27.6 percent of the votes, and Michael Aspina, who tallied 15.6 percent.

In the run-off for treasurer, Jennifer Saute will face David Gribble. Saute accumulated 31.9 percent of the votes and Gribble piled 21.6 percent.

The race for secretary will be between Sharon Brunner, who received 33.1 percent of the votes, and Jeff Brennan, who got 27.1 percent.

The run-off for social secretary will be between Kathleen Brode and Clay Harris. Brode finished Tuesday's election with 39.2 percent of the vote while Harris attracted 18.4 percent.

## County jail expands but more space needed

By Olivier Uytendaele  
Staff Writer

Most businesses in downtown Bryan have seen better days, but one place in town has more customers than it can handle — the Brazos County Jail.

Business is booming at the jail. So much so that the county has more than doubled its jail capacity with \$4 million in new construction and renovations in the past two years, says Lt. Ron Huddleston, jail administra-

tor for the Brazos County Sheriff's Department. Even so, about 30 inmates still are sleeping on the floors, he says.

Billy E. Beard, Brazos County commissioner, says county commissioners are finalizing plans to build a minimum security jail about a mile west of Bryan as a more lasting solution to the overcrowding problem. It could house 96 inmates, he said.

If the jail is built as Beard has planned it, the \$500,000 facility will be situated on a 32-acre tract of land

along Still Creek, and inmates will raise animals and cultivate gardens and a hay field on the land, he says.

But for at least the next year, the sheriff's department will have to make do with the present jail located on the second floor of the Brazos County Courthouse.

Huddleston says when the 112-inmate addition to the old jail was finished last year, all of the 70 or 80 inmates were moved into it, so

renovations could begin on the 50-year-old portion of the jail.

But in the past year, he says, the inmate population has risen to 135. And on weekends, when judges and bail-bondsmen are hard to come by, the population swells to about 150, he says.

Renovations of the old jail should be finished in the next 30 days, creating room for 60 additional inmates, he says. But even this relief may be short-lived and the county

may soon have to start paying to have its inmates jailed in other counties, at a cost of about \$50 per day, per person, he says.

Huddleston cites two reasons for the growing inmate population: A growing number of arrests and a decline in the number of suspended sentences and probation sentences.

With more room in the jail, judges are more inclined to sentence criminals to jail terms and give them

longer sentences rather than release them on probation, Huddleston says. Today, about 35 inmates are "doing time" in the county jail — serving sentences a year or longer — about four times the number a year ago, he says.

The cost of feeding the growing inmate population is expected to be about one-third more for 1986 than for 1985, rising from about \$100,000 to \$150,000, Huddleston estimates.