

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol.82 No.84 USPS 045360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, January 26, 1987



Card Shark

Tory Gattis puts the finishing touches on a card bridge during a contest held this weekend by the

Society of Women Engineers to interest high school students in engineering.

Photo by Lucy Bowen

Iranian group claims it abducted teachers

Military action urged in Beirut kidnapping

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — An anonymous caller Sunday claimed the weekend abduction of three American teachers and an Indian professor in the name of an underground group linked to Iran and threatened to kill them if the United States helps Iraq.

An earlier caller, also claiming to speak for the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, said the educators were grabbed on Saturday to prevent the extradition from West Germany to the United States of Mohammed Ali Hamadi, a Lebanese man sought in a 1985 TWA hijacking.

Twenty-three foreigners now are reported missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon, including eight seized since Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite arrived in Beirut on Jan. 12 on a mission to seek the release of hostages.

The Christian Voice of Lebanon radio station said it received the two calls Sunday, but it was not clear if they were made by the same man.

The calls could not be authenticated. The extremist Shiite Moslem group usually delivers statements to local newspapers or Western news agencies when it wants to publicize a claim, and the Voice of Lebanon has been known to be inaccurate on Moslem-related affairs.

The first caller said the group would kill a hostage if Hamadi, 22, were extradited to the United States, where he is wanted on charges of air piracy and murder in the June 1985 TWA hijacking to Beirut.

In the second call, a man said a hostage would be killed if Hamadi were not released by midnight (5 p.m. EST). It was not clear if the caller referred to an American or to other hostages.

The second call also said the hostages would be killed if the United States provided support for Iraq, at war with Iran since September 1980.

"We ask U.S. President Ronald Reagan not to intervene in the Gulf War and not to provide assistance to the Iraqi authorities," the man said in Lebanese-accented Arabic. "The (American) hostages will be wasted if he fails to do so."

The three Americans kidnapped from Beirut University College on Saturday night by gunmen disguised as police were Alann Steen, 48, a

journalism professor who formerly taught at three northern California colleges; Jesse Turner, an Idaho native, assistant instructor of mathematics and computer sciences; and Robert Polhill, 53, assistant professor of business studies.

The Indian was identified as Mitleshwar Singh, chairman of the business studies division and a legal resident alien of the United States.

Waite, personal emissary of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, remained out of sight Sunday for a sixth day. He was negotiating in secret with Islamic Jihad, captors of two Americans held in Lebanon since 1985 — Terry Anderson, 39, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, and Thomas Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut.

Both Pell and Treasury Secretary James Baker also said they think any Americans remaining in Beirut should leave.

Pell, appearing on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley," said there's not much that Reagan can do to win the release of the three new hostages, who were abducted from the campus of Beirut University College.

"I don't envy the president, the situation he's in now," Pell said.

Baker, a member of the National Security Council, said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," there was no clear reason for the kidnapping.

"We're not sure who took them," he said. "No one has yet claimed responsibility for it."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., in a telephone interview Sunday, agreed with Pell that "we've got a terrible anti-terrorist policy. It's in a shambles."

met them late Saturday after the abductions.

The kidnappers claimed to be police assigned to protect the foreign staff at Beirut University College. They assembled the foreigners in a ground-floor office, picked the four men and forced them at gunpoint into a jeep that sped away.

The university, which has about 3,000 students, announced Sunday that classes would be suspended until further notice.

Anonymous callers claiming to speak for the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth claimed responsibility for kidnapping two people from west Beirut on Friday, saying they were West Germans.

But police said Sunday the two men abducted were Armenian Lebanese who may have been mistaken for foreigners because of their blond hair and fair skin.

The foreigners missing in Lebanon are eight Americans, six Frenchmen, two Britons, two West Germans, one Irishman, one Italian, one South Korean, one Saudi Arabian and one Indian.

A&M student dies in San Antonio hospital

By Sue Krenek
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M student who was seriously injured in a Jan. 17 car accident in Fredericksburg died Friday, hospital and Department of Public Safety officials said Sunday.

Gregory Treibs, 22, a senior biomedical science major from Fredericksburg, was pronounced dead at 3:48 p.m. Friday at St. Luke's Hospital in San Antonio. DPS trooper Raymond Krauss said.

Two other A&M students and a former student were killed in the accident and one student was injured.

Erwin James Montgomery, a sophomore business administration major who was injured in the accident, was released from Hill Country Memorial Hospital Thursday, a hospital spokesman said.

A&M students Kevin Frank Boeck, a senior agricultural economics major, and Mark Werner Eberle, a sophomore business administra-

tion major, were killed in the accident.

The car's driver, Gregory Scott Sultemeier, also was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. Sultemeier last attended A&M in Fall 1984.

Two non-students also were injured in the accident.

Gail Jung remains in stable condition at Hill Country Memorial Hospital in Fredericksburg, a hospital

spokesman said, and Tina Hartman has been released.

DPS reports show that the accident occurred on Jan. 17 when a GMC Jimmy driven by Sultemeier ran off State Highway 16 north of Fredericksburg and struck a tree.

The report said the weather — heavy fog mixed with light rain — contributed to the accident.

Krauss said funeral arrangements will be made through the Schaeffer Funeral Home in Fredericksburg.

Fire school dropped from cleanup list

By Olivier Uytendaele
Senior Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Brayton Fireman Training Field has not made the final list of state Superfund sites and is no longer being considered for cleanup by the Texas Water Commission, state officials have said.

In a related development, five monitoring wells were completed Wednesday in the vicinity of a toxic waste landfill on the fire school grounds, school officials said.

The wells, ranging from 35 feet to 50 feet in depth, will allow water samples to be drawn from soil beneath the landfill, school training specialist Tom Foster said.

Texas Water Commission records note that the landfill consists of 13,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils dredged out of the school's drainage pond system in 1980 after a variety of toxic substances, including such carcinogens as benzene, toluene and PCBs, were found in pond water and bottom sediments.

Now that the wells are in place, however, it isn't certain when, or if, samples will be drawn from the wells and tested. Neither the Texas Water Commission nor the training school has any immediate plans to make use of the new wells.

"There's no sampling schedule — no requirement that we take weekly samples, monthly samples or anything like that," said Milton Radke, associate director for programs of the Texas Engineering Extension Service. "The wells were put in so that if the water commission wants to come down and take samples from them, it can."

"There's been no commitment on the part of either party — the water commission or ours —

to sample on a regular basis. We'll probably pull a sample on an irregular basis."

To fulfill its permit requirements with the Texas Water Commission, the school has to test the water it discharges from its pond system into White Creek, a tributary of the Navasota River. For this purpose, A&M employs Aqua Tech, a Hearne company, to test the school's discharge water.

But Radke says he has no plans to have Aqua Tech test samples from the new monitoring wells.

"We may ask them (Aqua Tech) to do it," he said.

Christy Smith, section chief of the Texas Water Commission's Superfund section said that on the basis of tests the state conducted at the school in October 1985, the school doesn't rate as a hazardous waste site as defined by her office.

"Only heavy metals and ignitable substances are considered hazardous," Smith said. "PCBs are not hazardous waste."

"We did some detailed sampling at the site and did not confirm the presence of hazardous waste from the samples taken previously both by us and A&M."

"If we can't confirm there's hazardous waste at the site, it's not within our legal authority to continue looking at the site."

State records show that no testing was done for PCBs in the soil and water samples taken at the school in October 1985. The October tests were conducted by a Dallas firm contracted by the state.

"If toluene or benzene are found in the groundwater, then the Texas Water Commission has the authority to look at that," Smith said.

A&M landfill gets monitoring wells

Toluene and benzene are two of the other toxic substances the state found in the school's pond water and bottom sediments in 1979.

In July of that year, an equipment failure at the school caused 200 gallons of fuel oil to spill into White Creek, resulting in a large fish kill.

In the investigation that followed, the now-defunct Texas Department of Water Resources found low concentrations of PCBs, benzene and toluene in the waste oils the school was burning in its fire-fighting exercises.

At that time, the school accepted waste oils donated by various Gulf Coast refineries, news stories reported. The stories noted that officials conducting the investigation suggested that the companies may have used the donated oils as a conduit for the illicit disposal of hazardous waste.

The school no longer accepts donated waste oils, Radke said.

As a result of the investigation, 13,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil was dredged out of the school's three drainage ponds and buried on school grounds, Texas Water Commission records show.

The landfill was built according to the specifications of the Texas Department of Water Resources.

Also, 18,000 gallons of oil were siphoned off from one of the school's three drainage ponds and stored in a tank on the school grounds, Texas Water Commission records note. The records show that although A&M hired a Houston firm, Detox, to treat the oil to remove the PCBs, other toxic substances persist in high concentrations in the oil.

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Chinese accuse student of giving data to journalist

PEKING (AP) — Authorities arrested a student accused of giving information to an American reporter in what appeared to be the first move against the press in China's anti-Westernization campaign, the official news media said Sunday.

The official Xinhua News Agency said Lin Jie, a student of Tianjin University, was arrested for "his secret collusion with and providing intelligence to" Lawrence MacDonald, reporter for the French news agency Agence France-Presse.

The report said conclusive evidence was obtained by the Tianjin office of the State Security Bureau, a secretive organization responsible for China's external security.

The French news agency's Peking bureau issued a statement saying, "Agence France-Presse states that it knows nothing about all accusations against Mr. MacDonald and only learned about this from a dispatch from the New China (Xinhua) News Agency."

A U.S. Embassy official also said he had heard nothing about criminal case involving the reporter.

Lin could get up to life in prison if convicted of passing state secrets to an enemy of the state.

MacDonald, 32, from California, was in Hong Kong on Sunday. He has reported extensively on student activism that has led to the massive campaign against "bourgeois liberalization," the trend of favoring Western culture and capitalism over socialism and the Communist Party.

The report did not say if Lin was involved in recent demon-

strations, but the arrest appeared to be a clear-cut warning to Western news organizations and their Chinese sources.

The official press on several occasions has criticized Voice of America, the U.S. government-funded radio station, for its "inflammatory" reporting on student unrest.

The Western press also was charged with egging on Peking University students who this month burned copies of the Peking Daily which contained commentaries highly critical of their democracy movement.

The latest foreign reporter to become involved in an investigation of the State Security Bureau was New York Times correspondent John Burns, who was held for six days on suspicion of intelligence gathering before being deported in July. He was never formally charged.

The official press Sunday also published one of the most scathing articles of the monthlong campaign against Western liberal ideas, saying the Communist Party has serious discipline problems and that some party members had become involved in criminal activities.

The article did not mention names, but appeared aimed at Hu Yaobang, who was ousted as party general secretary Jan. 17, reportedly because he failed to stem the growing trend of Westernization and student unrest.

Hu's downfall has not been explained officially, although reliable sources said he was specifically criticized in a major party directive written by Bo Yibo, vice chairman of the Central Advisory Commission.