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Taxi drivers report seeing Waite in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Two taxi drivers said they saw missing hostage negotiator Terry Waite walking in a southern Beirut suburb Thursday with an escort of about 10 gunmen and four turbaned Shiite Moslem sheiks.

Waite, the 6-foot-7 Anglican Church envoy, was last seen by reporters Jan. 20 when he left the Riviera Hotel in west Beirut to meet the kidnappers of two Americans. Since then, Waite has not contacted the church or his family.

The taxi drivers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press they saw Waite walking with his escorts in a street close to the Lebanese capital's airport highway at about 3 p.m. Thursday.

"I saw him smiling and waving his hand to onlookers as he walked. He

wore a gray raincoat," said one witness. "I stopped my taxicab to watch, but the escorts waved me away, shouting: 'Don't stop. Drive on.' I did."

Waite wore a raincoat when he was last seen by reporters.

Another taxi driver said he saw Waite at the same time in the same procession, smiling and waving his right arm to onlookers on the left side of the street.

Both drivers work in the neighborhood of the Riviera Hotel, where Waite stayed between his arrival in Lebanon on Jan. 12 and the time he dropped from sight Jan. 20.

Waite came to Beirut to try to win the freedom of foreign hostages. A total of 26 foreigners, including eight Americans, are missing and presumed kidnapped in Lebanon.

Many are believed held by Shiite Moslem captors.

The taxi drivers said that before Waite's disappearance, they frequently had seen him walking on the

In West Germany, the mass-circulation newspaper *Bild* quoted unidentified "Beirut security circles" as saying Waite was shot and critically wounded after he tried to escape

Beirut scoffed at the newspaper report.

"It's absolute fantasy," said one militia official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

Also Thursday, police and military officials in Beirut renewed their denial of any U.S. military action anywhere in Lebanon, following rumors that U.S. Marines were landing to attack Shiite guerrillas.

"We have had no report of any such attack anywhere in Lebanon, yet," a police official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The rumors were sparked by the presence of a flotilla of U.S. warships off Lebanon. Some Lebanese politicians and news media said the warships were ordered into the area to put pressure on groups holding foreign hostages. Two of

those groups have threatened to kill their captives in response to an attack.

In Washington, sources speaking on condition of anonymity said no attack on Lebanon was planned.

The Reagan administration announced the aircraft carrier USS Kennedy would begin a port call in Israel on Friday and that four of the Kennedy's escort warships had been ordered to sail for home.

The Washington sources said one of two Marine amphibious groups now in the Mediterranean soon also would be allowed to head home.

"We're dropping back a bit because our presence there is being blown out of proportion with rumors of invasions," one U.S. official said.

"I saw him smiling and waving his hand to onlookers . . . I stopped my taxicab to watch, but the escorts waved me away, shouting: 'Don't stop. Drive on.' I did."

— Beirut taxi driver

beach or traveling in a motorcade. "I haven't the slightest doubt about his identity," one driver said. "I know him and I saw him this afternoon."

There have been a spate of conflicting reports about Waite.

from captivity in Lebanon. The newspaper, in a report prepared for its Friday editions, did not say when the alleged shooting occurred or provide other details.

Shiite and Druse militia officials in

Clements' budget reportedly targets higher education

By Olivier Uytendaele
Senior Staff Writer

Describing Governor Bill Clements budget as "sketchy," Bill Presnal, Texas A&M vice chancellor of state affairs, said Thursday that several substantial higher education budget cuts have been proposed, each of which would require special legislation.

The proposal calls for a \$140.2 million withdrawal from the Permanent University Fund to be budgeted for university research, Presnal said.

But he doesn't know if this would be a one- or two-year appropriation.

The budget also calls for a \$49.2 million cut in "special items" appropriations, but doesn't specify what those special items are, Presnal said.

The budget also would eliminate \$35 million the Legislature agreed to pay to Texas universities for overestimates in the revenue universities would receive in tuition and other income, he said.

A&M's share of this payment is around \$6 million, he said, explaining the payment as follows:

During the last regular session, the Legislature calculated the

higher education budget based on the overestimate of revenues.

In September, during the second special session, the Legislature agreed to repay universities an amount between \$32 million and \$42 million for the miscalculation.

Under the governor's budget however, this payment would be eliminated.

Presnal said he has requested a more detailed version of the proposed budget.

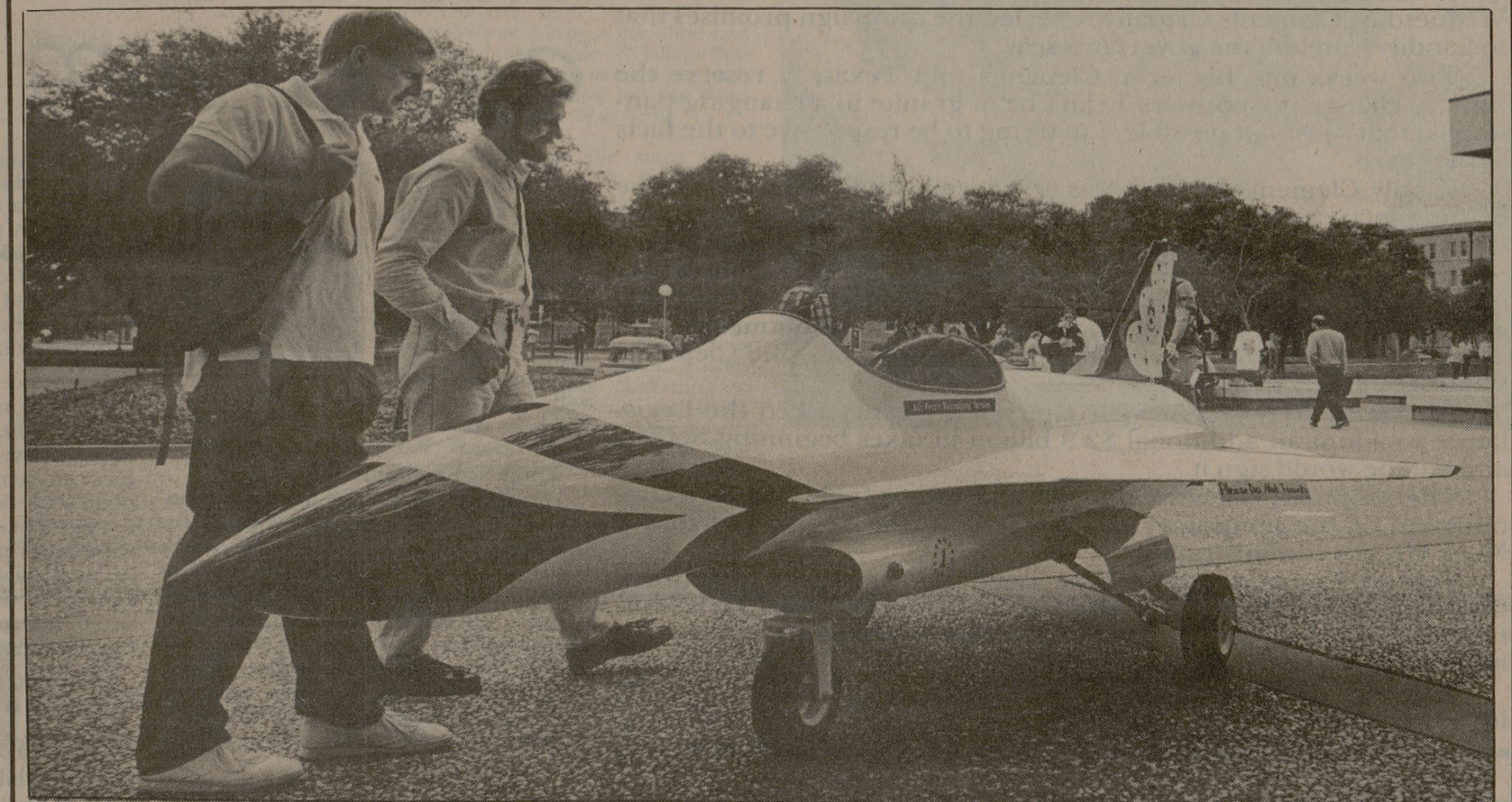
The University had no immediate plans for responding to Clements' proposal to draw money from the PUF, he said.

"It's not that we don't take it seriously, but it's not brand new either," he said.

"This is the same issue that came up during the special session," Presnal said.

In August, House Speaker Gib Lewis proposed drawing \$1.1 billion from the PUF and the Permanent School Fund but the bill died in the House Appropriations Committee.

Presnal said the proposed cut couldn't be put into effect by passage of an overall appropriations bill. Instead, a separate bill would have to be proposed for each measure.



Mid-jet

Larry Batton, left, and Jeff Seippel take a look at a 1/4-scale model of an F-16 that was parked near Rudder Fountain Thursday afternoon.

The model is part of an exhibit which was brought to campus by the Air Force Orientation Group from Dayton, Ohio.

Photo by Bill Hughes

'Immigration hotline' experiment allows Social Security card check

By Melanie Perkins
Staff Writer

In an effort to aid potential employers and prospective employees, the Social Security Administration has launched an "immigration hotline," which, if successful in Texas, may be expanded nationwide.

A six-month test of the hotline began Jan. 20 and is aimed at employers in the Dallas, El Paso and Corpus Christi areas. The program allows

employers to receive telephone verification of the authenticity of Social Security cards.

"For the new immigration law to function properly, employers must be able to hire with confidence and workers must be able to seek jobs without fear of discrimination," said Sen. Phil Gramm, D-Texas, in a recent news release.

The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act — the most sweep-

ing immigration law in years — contains two primary issues. First, amnesty will be granted to illegal aliens who came to the United States before 1982 and have lived here continuously since then. Second, civil and criminal penalties will be imposed on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

Under the latter provision, the

See Hotline, page 14

Two bills before Legislature seek to regulate abortions

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

Two bills currently pending in the Texas Legislature seek to regulate abortions in this state.

Called viability and consent bills, they are actually two identical bills — one in both the House and the Senate.

The viability portion would make it illegal for a doctor to perform an abortion if the fetus is "viable," or capable of life outside the womb.

The consent portion would require teenagers 17 years old or younger to obtain written parental permission before having an abortion.

Chris Elliot, a legislative aid to Sen. Ted Lyons, who sponsored the bill in the Senate, said the bill considers viability to occur after 24 weeks, which is in the second trimester. Currently, he said, there is no legislation at all in Texas as to how late in her pregnancy a woman can legally have an abortion.

Diane Vount, director of the Houston Women's Clinic, said their clinic performs no abortions beyond the 16th week of pregnancy.

"The risk increases every week that a woman waits," Vount said, "and not all doctors will do abortions beyond that point."

No abortion clinic contacted offered abortions any later than the 26th week.

Elliot said, "Generally doctors consider 24 weeks to be the point at which a baby has a reasonable chance to live on its own."

In both sections of the bill, the doctors who perform the abortion — not women who have it — are responsible for the action, he said, which would be considered a Class A misdemeanor, with a maximum two-year prison term.

Lyons, D-Rockwall, also sponsored a bill that passed last year which required licensing for abortion clinics

and set up certain standards they must meet to retain a license.

Elliot said, "We think this bill has the best chance to succeed of any abortion bill thus far. In a Democratically-controlled Legislature there are now abortion bills in both the House and Senate sponsored by Democrats."

The House bill was sponsored by Rep. Mike Milsap, D-Fort Worth.

The bill must meet certain guidelines set down by the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision, which determines just how

much the abortion industry can be regulated.

Much state regulation is allowed in the third trimester, while less regulation is permitted in the second.

"We're acting under the assumption that any baby of sufficient development to live outside the womb has the right to do so," Elliot said.

In its current form, the consent portion of the bill leaves open the option of judicial consent, which would allow a minor to receive the

See Abortions, page 14

Sandstone Center for Psychiatry to give B-CS more than 100 jobs

By Robert Morris
Staff Writer

When it opens its doors in early 1988, the Sandstone Center for Psychiatry, a general care psychiatric facility, will have a strong economic impact on the Bryan-College Station area.

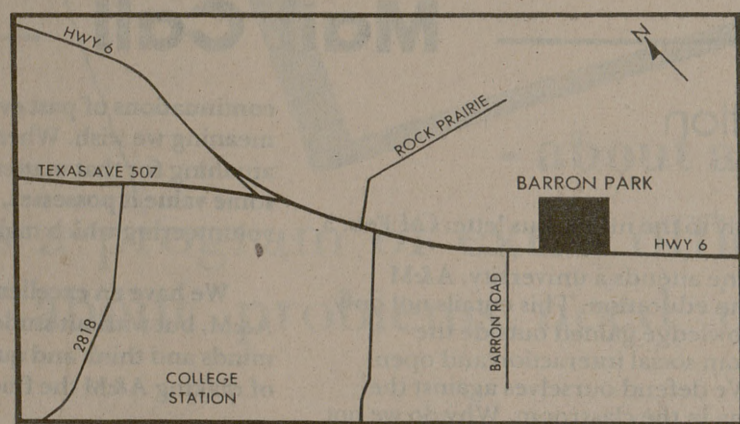
"When completed, the new hospital will create over 100 jobs in the area and have an annual payroll of \$2.7 million," the new hospital's administrator Ginn Black said.

"We're talking about a work force with an average salary above \$20,000 per year," he said. "It will include nurses, psychologists, accountants, social workers, occupational therapists, and jobs of that nature."

"It's a very high average salary compared to an industrial manufacturing plant."

The 72-bed facility will provide "comprehensive, state-of-the-art" treatment facilities for mental and emotional illnesses to the immediate and surrounding communities.

Substance abuse services, both



Future location of Sandstone Center for Psychiatry

alcohol and drug related, will also be provided to adults and teenagers, Black said.

"Sandstone is being built by a group of people here in town who feel that there is a need for an up-to-date and modern psychiatric hospital," he said. "We have identified the need, gotten organized, and decided to pro-

vide a facility for the community that it has needed for quite some time."

"We have found that people are having to drive out of town to Houston or Austin to find good facilities, he said.

The group has a great deal of
See Center, page 14