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Rudder Tower bomb threat termed hoax by UPD official

Iraq will leave captured land

By Ashley A. Bailey
Staff Writer

Wasted time apparently is the only thing to have come from a Rudder Tower bomb threat received Monday.

Lynet Fox, a clerk in the student publications office, received the bomb threat call at about 10 a.m. Monday.

"A man speaking in a low, whispering voice called and said that there was a bomb planted in Rudder Tower," Fox said.

"He was speaking so quietly that I didn't really know what he had said until he'd finished, and it had time to sink in. He gave a location or a room number where the bomb was, but I couldn't hear it."

Fox didn't know whether to take the man seriously, but she felt she had to notify the University Police Department and let them decide that to do about it.

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police, said his department received the call at 10:12 a.m.

"She called us and we sent officers over to Rudder Tower immediately," Wiatt said. "Our officers and some of the Rudder staff searched the bathrooms, elevator shafts, offices and meeting rooms, but a bomb wasn't found. It obviously was just a hoax."

"Some of the department heads decided to evacuate their people and some of the visitors, but we did not insist on or advise an evacuation of the building."

Wiatt said the incident was taken fairly seriously because it was not the type of bomb threat that the UPD usually handles.

"We usually have these hoaxes during mid-term and final exams," Wiatt said. "The threat will normally be made in a room where an exam is scheduled to be given. It's usually done by students who haven't studied enough the night before and are

trying to get out of taking their exams.

"Because this threat did not involve a building on campus where an exam was to be given, we did take it fairly seriously."

Fox said the caller did not give a reason or explanation for the bomb threat.

"He just called, whispered the information to me, then hung up," she said.

Wiatt said that A&M does have standard bomb threat procedures that are followed when a threat is reported. He said the UPD works in cooperation with the building proctor (a representative of the faculty who has control over the building) throughout the process.

The proctor decides whether to evacuate the building. If he decides an evacuation is unnecessary and UPD disagrees, the UPD can override the proctor's decision, Wiatt said.

Twelve bomb threats were received in the 1986-87 school year. Seven bomb threats were received last summer and one was received in April, Wiatt said. However, he said, only two prosecutions have resulted from the threats.

None of the threats have actually produced a bomb, he said.

In the event that a bomb is recovered, the army demolition experts at Fort Hood would be contacted, Wiatt said.

"The experts at Fort Hood could get here pretty quickly by plane so we don't worry about the time aspect that much," he said. "And, the College Station Police Department now has their own specially trained bomb officer so we now have a local one, too."

Wiatt warned that bomb threats are considered a terroristic threat and are a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a \$2,000 fine.

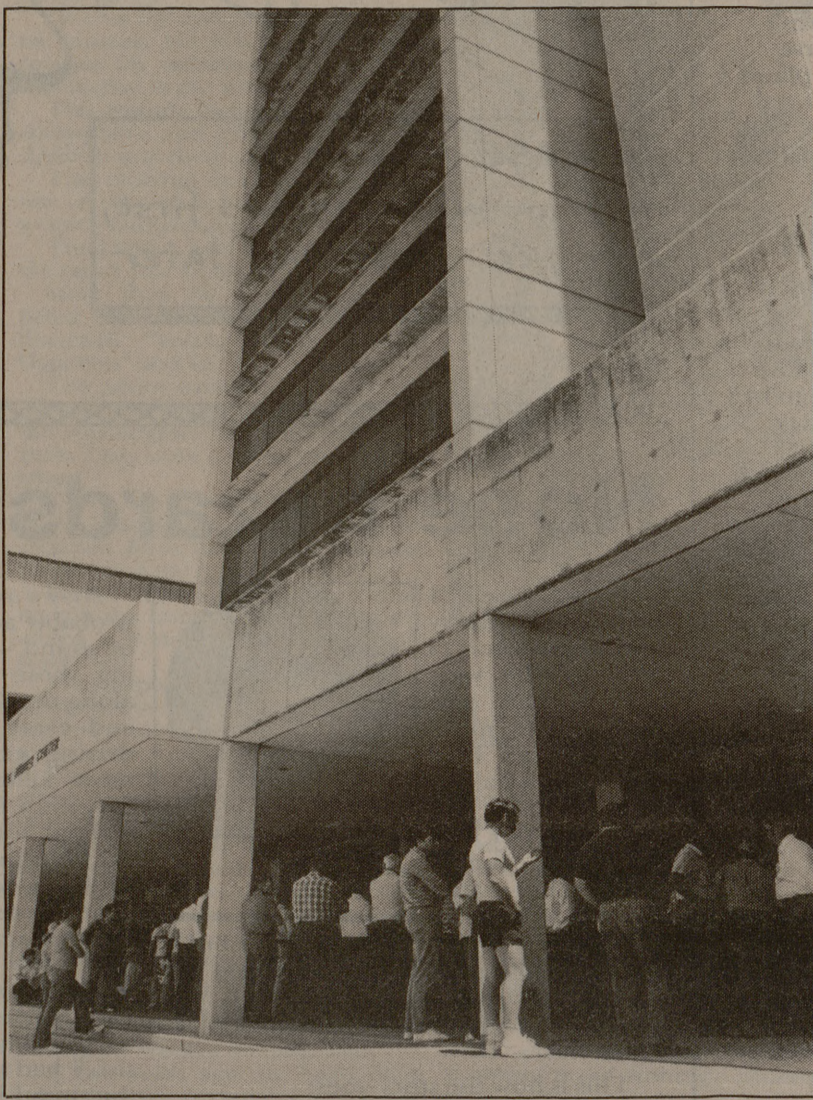


Photo by Jay Janner

People wait to re-enter Rudder Tower Monday after being evacuated at 1:30 p.m. because of a bomb threat.

Agency calls for attention to civil rights

AUSTIN (AP) — The next president needs to pay much attention to enforcing civil rights laws as the war on illegal drugs, an organization of state and local human rights agencies declared Monday.

"We should expect the same level of support and lack of tolerance for discrimination as we do for drugs," said Joyce Tucker, director of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

"Just as there is a search and destroy policy with strong penalties with respect to drug enforcement, the same policy should be enacted to arrest and destroy unlawful discrimination," she told a news conference during the group's annual meeting.

The group includes 151 agencies in the United States and Canada.

Criticizing the Reagan administration for doing too little, Tucker said she had federal funds and more federal enthusiasm for civil rights is needed.

"We have seen the impact that an insensitive and in many ways hostile administration has on the progress of civil rights. Progress is stalling at best, with erosion the most common end result," said Tucker, who is with the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

She said budget cuts and lack of attention at the federal level has left civil rights agencies with growing caseloads, a backlog of charges of discrimination, lack of public confidence and thousands of cases which haven't been handled.

Tucker said the group hasn't evaluated the civil rights records of either Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis or Republican nominee George Bush.

But she urged the next president seek increased funding for civil rights agencies, expand fair housing laws, more closely scrutinize lending agencies and protect past civil rights laws.

"It is (the group's) position that as much positive attention, support and funding given to the 'Say No to Drugs' campaign should be given to promoting and enforcing a 'National No to Discrimination' effort," she said.

Suspect sought in shooting death

AUSTIN (AP) — Police said Monday they were still looking for a man who fled the scene after a father of four was shot to death when he walked to his apartment complex parking lot to investigate gunfire that had awakened him.

Although a man was charged with murder, several witnesses said the shooting may have been accidental. The suspect hadn't been found Monday morning, police spokesman C.F. Adams said.

Richard Diaz, 29, went to the parking lot about 30 feet from his apartment shortly after 4 a.m. Sunday. He was shot in the abdomen by a man who police said was showing neighbors a .38-caliber revolver and

an electric "stunner" gun.

Diaz was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 5:07 a.m., Police Lt. Jerry Slatton said.

"It's sad," police spokesman Kellye Norris said. "He was trying to save someone else who may have gotten shot, and his own life was ended."

Lori Dyson, Diaz's wife, said her husband and the man named in the warrant, a 35-year-old neighbor, always had been friendly to each other. She said she didn't believe the shooting was caused by animosity.

"I just don't understand why it happened and why he (the man being sought) was playing with the guns to begin with," Dyson said.

IRA man murdered at home

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Men dressed as policemen killed an IRA man Monday while Cardinal John O'Connor of New York delivered a sermon a mile away in which he implored Americans not to romanticize Irish violence.

Brendan Davidson, a member of Sinn Fein, the outlawed Irish Republican Army's legal political wing, was shot in the head after answering a knock on his door, police said.

Davidson, 33, belonged to the Sinn Fein, the outlawed Irish Re-

publican Army's legal political wing. An IRA statement issued in Belfast said he was one of its members.

He was shot down 48 hours after an IRA bomb killed a Protestant couple and their 6-year-old son, who had just driven across the border from the Irish Republic.

The IRA took responsibility but said the attack was on the wrong target. Press reports suggested the intended victim may have been a judge who drove past shortly afterward.

O'Connor learned of Davidson's

"I never could understand why people won't get involved, and now Richard does this to keep someone from getting hurt and he ends up getting killed," she said.

One witness, who lives in the apartment complex, said the shooting happened so quickly that nobody immediately realized that Diaz was hit.

The witness, who asked that his name not be used, said Diaz walked into the parking lot and asked what was going on. The suspect quickly turned around, and the revolver discharged, the witness said.

Dyson said her husband awoke when he heard a gunshot and asked her if she had heard it.

death after leaving Belfast to deliver a sermon in Armagh.

He said the killing, and Saturday's bombing, "poignantly brought into focus the stupidity, the irrationality of the cycle of the violence. . . . Where can this conceivably end? How can this conceivably please almighty God?"

Authorities said three men wearing police uniforms killed Davidson and escaped in a red car.

Sinn Fein said it did not believe policemen committed the crime.

Armenians decide to end two month strike

MOSCOW (AP) — Workers dusted off idled machinery, shops reopened and buses rolled Monday as Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh quit a two-month strike that failed to persuade the Kremlin to transfer the region to the control of a neighboring republic.

One resident said Armenians won't give up despite the Soviet leadership's rejection a week ago of their demand to take Nagorno-Karabakh out of the republic of Azerbaijan and annex it to Armenia.

"The decision has done little for us and we will continue this fight to the end, but what is the sense of continuing to strike?" said an engineer for the State Broadcasting Committee in Stepanakert, the main city in the Delaware-sized disputed region.

The decision by Armenians to end the protest strikes marks a victory for the Kremlin in

its drive to end the region's turmoil that erupted in February.

The strike has devastated the local economy. The Tass news agency reported Monday that at one Stepanakert factory, electrical goods worth more than \$7.9 million had not been produced since the work stoppage began May 23. The factory director was quoted as saying employees will work overtime to make up for the lost production that occurred during the strike.

Tass said 78.5 percent of the employees reported to work at Stepanakert's 15 major factories.

But the news agency said it will take time to resume full production at the long-idled plants.

Workers at a Stepanakert silk factory spent

two hours Monday morning cleaning a thick layer of dust from their looms and have other maintenance work to do before production is back to normal, which some feel is no major accomplishment, Tass reported.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the nation's parliament, decided July 18 that Nagorno-Karabakh, whose population of 162,000 is predominantly Armenian and Christian, will remain part of the mostly Moslem Azerbaijani republic to which it has been attached since 1923.

Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh began sporadic strikes and rallies in February to press for annexation with Armenia, contending they suffered discrimination under the Azerbaijanis. Strikes and rallies also erupted in Armenia in support of the demand that the entire country wants.

Tass said buses began running again, food stores and other businesses reopened, and construction workers returned to their jobs Monday in Stepanakert.

"Today people went to work," the broadcast engineer said in a telephone interview. "Transport is operating and we have ended our strikes."

The region's Communist Party officials traveled to the Azerbaijani capital of Baku to discuss with the republic's leaders "efforts at restoring a normal working rhythm and strengthening socialist legality and public order," Tass said.

In the Armenian capital of Yerevan, most workers were reported back on the job after a strike that began July 4 and tapered off after last week's decision.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq said Monday it will withdraw from Iranian territory captured in the past week, prompting hopes of quiet on the long border warfront when peace talks begin at the United Nations in New York.

Announcers interrupted regular state television programs to say the army would withdraw on Tuesday from territory captured in the central border region.

"They will be withdrawn in line with our declared policy that we have no territorial ambitions in Iran," a military communique read by the announcers said.

01802402 In New York, members of the U.N. Security Council began private consultations on an Iranian complaint that Iraq used chemical weapons in a weekend offensive in violation of the 1925 Geneva Convention.

Javier Perez de Cuellar, the U.N. secretary-general, has scheduled separate meetings this week with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, Ali Akhbar Velayati and Tariq Aziz, in an attempt to reach a truce in the 8-year-old war.

"I plan to begin to talking to each separately and I hope this might lead to direct talks," the secretary-general said as he entered U.N. headquarters Monday. Iraq has insisted on direct negotiations with Iran, but the Iraqis have not yet agreed.

Iraq's withdrawal announcement came after Iran said its military units attacked Iraqi forces in southern Iraq early Monday, forcing them to retreat 25 miles and killing or wounding 1,500 men.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic

News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, claimed an Iraqi jet fighter was shot down over the border town Sar-i Pol Zhaab. Iraq said its aircraft flew 261 sorties and all returned safely.

On Sunday, Iraq said it had withdrawn from territory seized in a drive last week toward Ahwaz in southern Iran. Both offensives occurred after Iran announced acceptance of a year-old Security Council truce resolution, and Iran accused Iraq of trying to sabotage peace efforts.

Diplomats and officials in Baghdad described the attacks as an attempt to strengthen Iraq's hand in peace talks.

The Baghdad communique identified towns being evacuated as Qasr-e Shirin, Gilan Gharb, Soummar and Sar-i Pol Zhaab, and said Iraqi soldiers also would leave the villages of Sale Abad, Mir Abad and Golan. It indicated the Iraqis were leaving willingly, not because of Iranian military pressure.

Iraq claimed the Iraqis were driven out.

Neither side's claims could be confirmed independently. Foreign journalists and observers are allowed into war zones only on rare guided tours.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini received visitors on Monday who chanted "Please God keep Khomeini alive!" and "We are all your soldiers! We will obey your orders!" and the 87-year-old revolutionary leader responded by waving his hand, Tehran radio said.

Ambassadors of both nations, interviewed by ABC News, expressed suspicion but willingness to negotiate.

Chemical disposal pollutes Dallas air

DALLAS (AP) — The health effects of millions of pounds of legally discharged hazardous chemicals in Dallas and Fort Worth will be difficult to gauge, experts say.

Local industries reported to state and federal authorities the disposal or discharge of many pollutants, including some that can damage eyes, lungs, skin and digestive organs. Many of the pollutants are also harmful to the atmosphere.

The chemicals ranged from acids to toxic metals, from solvents to suspected carcinogens. In almost every case they are legal, authorized and within state and federal guidelines, the Dallas Morning News reported in a copyright story.

The newspaper reviewed records submitted by more than 60 area industries under the federal "right-to-know" law, enacted in 1986 after the 1984 chemical leak at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India and at a Union Carbide plant in Institute, W. Va. about eight months later.

Water Commission officials estimate an additional 100 reports on Dallas-area companies are among reams of documents in cardboard boxes at the commission's Austin offices. They said it may be weeks before all the reports are processed.

The law "provides us a lot more information about the discharge of toxic substances into the environment — more than we've ever had before," said Ken Kramer, Austin lobbyist for the Lone Star chapter of the Sierra Club.

"It's absolutely incredible, the amount of stuff that's going into the air," said Deborah Sheiman, a resource specialist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, a national environmentalists group. "A lot of people don't realize."

Knowledge of the chemicals' hazards is incomplete and the effects may not manifest themselves in disease for years or decades.

Some of the toxic chemicals are inevitable, said Elizabeth Todd, chief of regulated substances for the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences.

"How much these (specific emissions from individual plants) relate to how much I actually breathe sitting here on the ground is almost impossible to answer," said Todd, who is chairman of a local committee formed to help carry out provisions of the right-to-know law.

Pollutants listed in the reports by area industries include solvents such as acetone, toluene, xylene and ketones; toxic metals, such as lead, zinc and copper; common industrial chemicals such as chlorine and ammonia; and a variety of acids such as hydrochloric, sulfuric and others.

The records were submitted by area chemical plants, defense contractors, food processors, high-tech industries, paint manufacturers, metal plating companies and other manufacturing facilities.

Total reported annual emissions for six of the most widely used chemicals in the examined companies exceeded 670 tons, enough to fill the Goodyear blimp 83 times.