

Texas A&M The Battalion



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly cloudy with a slight chance
of showers in the early afternoon.

HIGH: 90s

LOW: 70s

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College Station, Texas

Tuesday, August 1, 1989

Kidnappers say they hanged American colonel

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Kidnappers said they hanged Lt. Col. William R. Higgins on Monday to retaliate for Israel's abduction of a Moslem cleric, and holders of other hostages threatened to kill another American.

Higgins' pro-Iranian captors, who call themselves the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, released a 30-second videotape of very poor quality showing a man hanging from a gallows. There was no indication when it was made and no body had been reported found by midnight Monday.

Rope bound the bare feet and hands of the man said to be the Marine colonel who commanded a group of U.N. truce observers in south Lebanon when he was seized Feb. 17, 1988.

The new threat was from the Revolutionary Justice Organization, which said it would kill Joseph James Cicippio unless Israel freed Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid by 6 p.m. (10 a.m. CDT) Tuesday. It was handwritten in Arabic and delivered to the newspaper *An-Nahar* with a photograph of Cicippio smiling.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli army said Obeid had confessed personal involvement in "planning and guiding and aiding" the abduction

Bush condemns reported hanging as 'brutal murder'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush condemned the reported hanging Monday of Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins and hurried back to Washington where he met with advisers about possible responses to "this brutal murder" by pro-Iranian kidnappers.

"It is a most troubling and disturbing matter that has shocked the American people right to the core," Bush declared. "There is no way that I can properly express the outrage that I feel."

While Bush cautioned publicly that he had no confirmation Higgins had in fact been hanged, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said the president told congressional leaders Monday night that "it's about a 98 percent probability that it happened."

Bush monitored reports through the afternoon after returning from Chicago, then met into the evening in the Cabinet room with top advisers, including Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and other Cabinet members, before briefing the congressional leaders.

of Higgins and had revealed the names of his captors.

President Bush, facing his first foreign policy crisis, cut short a trip to Chicago and summoned his na-

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman David Boren, D-Okla., said after that meeting that Bush was considering several options but he declined to identify them.

"I don't think anything has been ruled out at this point," Boren said.

During his earlier meeting with advisers, Bush "received a briefing on the status of our knowledge of the situation," Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said in a statement. "This was primarily an informational meeting at which all aspects of the case involving Col. Higgins and the other hostages were discussed."

Higgins' reported killing triggered an instant debate in Congress over Israel's role in the events. Israeli commandos kidnapped a Shiite Moslem cleric last week, and the announcement of Higgins' hanging said he was killed in retaliation.

"Perhaps a little more responsibility on behalf of the Israelis would be refreshing," Senate GOP Leader Bob Dole said. But Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., countered that blaming Israel

had no confirmation Higgins had in fact been hanged. "There is no way that I can properly express the outrage that I feel," he said.

He did not comment on an Israeli proposal to trade Obeid and other Shiite prisoners for Israeli and Western hostages in Lebanon, but had said after Obeid's abduction, "I don't think kidnapping and violence helps

would be "turning the world on its head."

At the White House, officials carefully avoided direct criticism of Israel, but Fitzwater said, "It is fair to say that many people do share the senator's concerns." He would not elaborate.

There are nine Americans in captivity in the Middle East, including Terry Anderson, Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press.

Bush said, "Somehow there has got to be a return to decency and honor, even in matters of this nature." He commented briefly on the White House lawn after returning from Chicago where he had addressed the National Governors' Association.

He also said he had spoken by telephone with Higgins' wife, "a wonderfully stoic individual who is going through sheer hell."

He had been scheduled to proceed from Chicago to Las Vegas for a speech to the Disabled American Veterans, and then on to Oklahoma City for a Tuesday address to the Fraternal Order of Police convention.

the cause of peace."

State Department officials in Washington, speaking privately, said they found reports that the man in the videotape was Higgins to be credible, but could not say whether it was made Monday or earlier. There have been reports Higgins was killed last year.

A typewritten statement in Arabic said Higgins, 44, was hanged at 3 p.m. (7 a.m. CDT). It and the tape were delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut an hour later.

Cicippio, 58, of Valley Forge, Pa., was acting comptroller at the American University of Beirut when he was kidnapped from the campus Sept. 12, 1986.

In the picture delivered Monday, he wore a brown and pink wool sweater over a blue pullover, indicating it may have been taken in cooler weather.

"The organization announces its quick resolve to execute the death sentence against the American-Israeli spy Joseph Cicippio if the struggling sheik is not released by 6 p.m. Tuesday," the statement said. "Then the deadline will be set for the execution, which will be broadcast on all screens in the world."

A&M graduate Rains tells local supporters education is top issue

By Kelly S. Brown

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Former Texas Secretary of State Jack Rains, Class of '60, plunged into the gubernatorial race challenging opponents to a debate over the issue of education.

Rains, who announced his candidacy last week, spoke Saturday to supporters and local politicians about his plans for a grassroots campaign and taking the issue of education to the people.

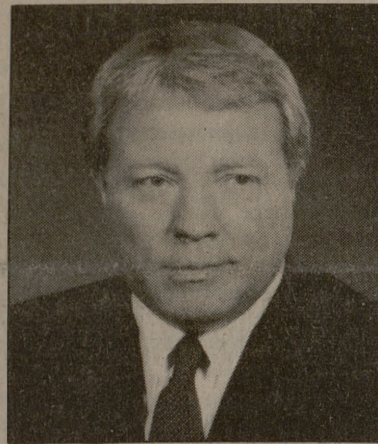
"There will be no hiding behind television and slick brochures," Rains said. "No one is going to buy the governor's mansion, because the people of Texas are going to tell them the governor's mansion is not for sale."

Rains is the second former student to join the governor's race. Clayton Williams, Class of '54, made his announcement in May.

Both Republicans say they are ready to fight the war on drugs, but Williams has made this his top priority while Rains said Texas' education problems must be solved before anyone can make a dent in the war on drugs.

Rains said in order for the state to deal with the problems of welfare, overcrowded prisons and drug dealers, it first must revive the Texas education system.

"Starting with state money going into teachers salaries and core curriculum," he said. "Education is about strengthening teachers, giving them the tools they need, giving them respect and support but most



Jack Rains

of all compensating them for doing an incredible job."

Rains said that during the campaign, all of the candidates will promise to be against drugs and crime.

"We're all against those things," he said. "But politics is about saying what people want to hear sometimes. Mostly though, it's about leadership, which is about vision and about what you have to do to attack the problems."

Rains said that as governor of Texas, he would work hard for the passage of the death penalty for drug dealers.

"It's time to get tough," he said. "The merchants of death — those who deal in drugs — will face death. I'm not talking about casual users, rather those who profit from dealing

in drugs — these are the people corrupting society."

Rains said some people argue that the death penalty is too harsh but he believes young people whose minds drug dealers corrupt and the future of the state come foremost.

These types of beliefs and principles drew Rains' long-time friend O.A. "Bum" Phillips, former coach of the Houston Oilers, into Rains' campaign.

Phillips, who will be Rains' treasurer for the campaign, said he approached Rains eight months ago, saying, if "you ever decide to run for an elected office, I would be honored to help you." Several months later Rains signed Phillips up.

Phillips said he wants to help build Rains' team because of what he stands for.

"For too long in this state, I believe we've elected people whom I call professional politicians," Phillips said. "I think you have to be some kind of politician to get along in the Legislature, but I think it also takes another mixture."

Phillips said a state that has a budget of more than \$47 billion needs a governor who knows about private business.

Before becoming secretary of state, Rains was a successful international business man.

"In my opinion, he (Rains) is by far the only qualified candidate who could possibly run," Phillips said. "To me he knows what the hell he is doing and I always believe in picking a head coach who knows what the hell he is doing."

Bush calls for meeting of governors to help improve education in U.S.

CHICAGO (AP) — President Bush, declaring that "together we can raise the level of learning in the classrooms of America," on Monday summoned the nation's governors to a September summit on education.

The Sept. 27-28 meeting at a still unselected site will be only the third time in U.S. history that a president has convened the governors to help

meet a pressing national problem.

Bush, in a speech overshadowed by the reported hanging of Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins by Shiite Moslem kidnappers in Lebanon, also enlisted the governors' aid to combat drugs and crime, and encouraged them to pursue trade with Poland and Hungary.

Bush told the 50 state chief executives, "To cure our nation of illiteracy, drug abuse and crime, we must act in tandem, president with governor, and governor with mayor, up and down the line. In short, we must find our collective will as a nation."

"Today we do not meet in a spirit of immediate crisis," Bush declared. "The nation is sound. But the decline of our educational system, the threat of crime and drugs, the economic dependency of so many — these problems threaten to endanger the very leadership position of America in the next century."

"A nation in which a half of our youth is ignorant of geography, in which drugs are rampant, in which a substantial proportion of the population knows little hope — such a nation will not long remain competitive," he said.

These problems, he said, "are issues of our national well-being, even our national security."

"Only twice before have the governors met with the president on an issue of vital national importance. Now there will be a third such conference, an historic meeting on edu-

cation," Bush said.

The first time was when Teddy Roosevelt brought the governors to the White House "to call for conservation, for an end to the reckless denuding of our forests," Bush said. The second was when Franklin D. Roosevelt sought the governors' help on how to "stem the financial crisis of the Great Depression."

Bush claimed a \$400 million-plus package of education reforms he sent Congress in April would help "redeem the future of millions of children."

That package includes new support for magnet schools and programs in which parents can choose the public school their child attends.

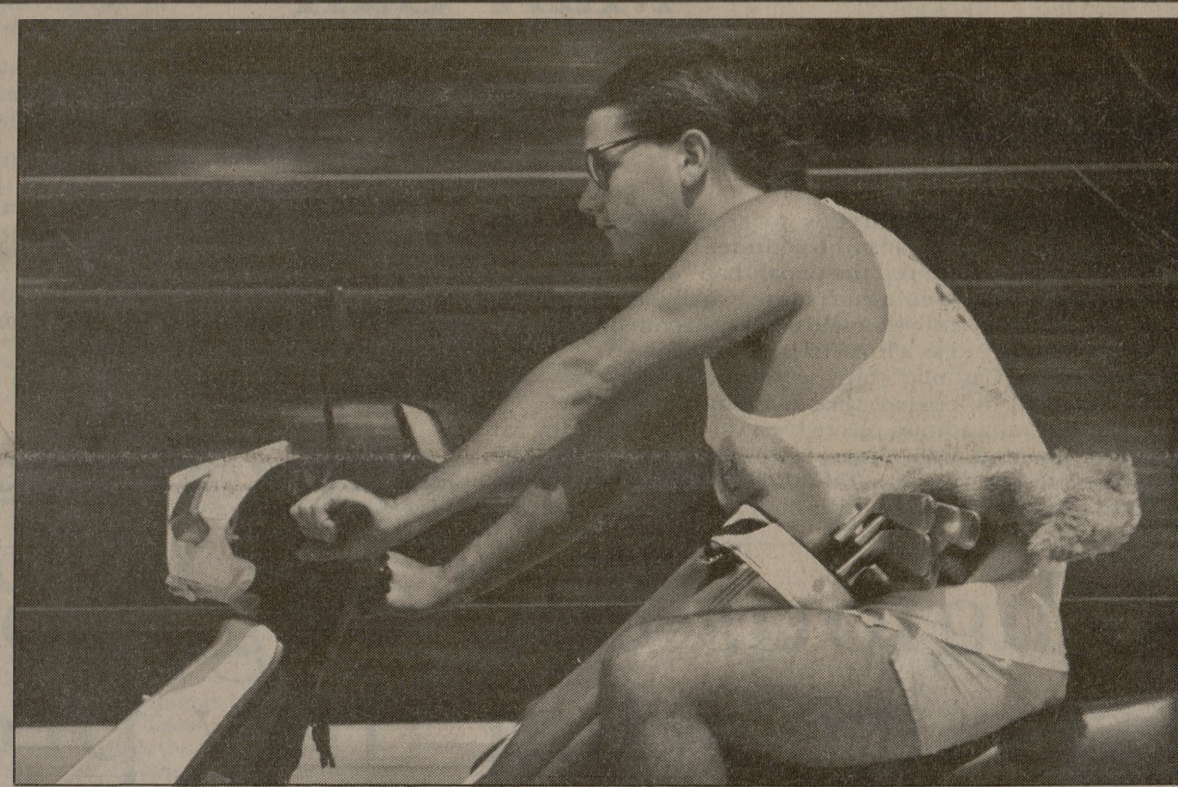
"The essence of reform is accountability in education and reward for those schools that show progress," Bush said.

Bush campaigned on a promise to convene an education summit of the governors.

While no surprise, his announcement got a receptive response from the state chiefs.

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, a Republican who is the incoming chairman of the National Governors' Association, said the governors welcomed the chance to work with Bush on "developing consensus goals to improve the quality of education."

Two Democratic governors asked Bush whether he stood ready to provide more funds for education.



Driving to drive

Brad Hulse, a sophomore from the Bryan-College Station area, passes on his moped

through the Research Park on the way to hit "shags" Monday afternoon.

Mobley weathers storms of 1st year, looks to new challenges

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

When William H. Mobley took over as president of Texas A&M Aug. 1, 1988, he said he wanted the school to be broadly recognized as a major, comprehensive, internationally recognized University by the time he left office.

Now Mobley can look back upon the challenges that faced A&M during his first year in office — increased enrollment, the school budget and a National Collegiate Athletic Association's investigation into the Athletic Department.

Through it all, Mobley has been in the center of the storm and has helped A&M move forward. He said it has been a maturing process for him.

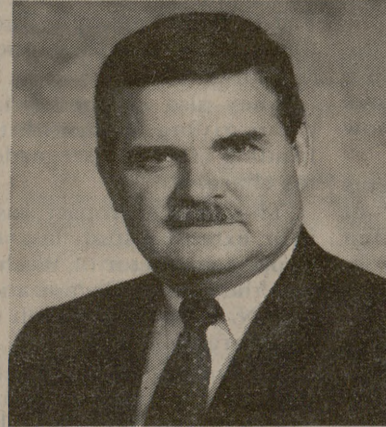
"In general, I had then and I have now great confidence in this institution and its future," Mobley said. "I suspect, like anyone going into a new role, there were some challenges and opportunities awaiting that I had not anticipated."

Last summer, when he became A&M's 20th president in the school's 113-year history, Mobley said enrollment — expected to hit an all-time high of 39,500 this fall — was his first concern.

However, the subject of enrollment took a back seat in Fall 1988 when the University and the Athletic Department weathered an investigation by the NCAA.

The investigation of 31 rules violations and seven procedural violations stemmed from reports that then-head coach Jackie Sherrill paid George Smith, a former A&M football player, \$4,000 in cash payments and money orders dating back to 1986.

In September, the NCAA found A&M guilty of 25 violations — nine



William H. Mobley

major and 16 minor — and gave the school a two-year probation, restricted football scholarships and limited recruiting.

"I did not appreciate the scope and intensity of what was coming in that arena," Mobley said. "We took it head on and tried to deal with it in an effective and professional way with the integrity of the University being the number one goal."

Later in September, Mobley hired a compliance officer to monitor the Athletic Department and set up new auditing requirements and revoked privileges of several boosters.

Sherrill resigned as head coach and athletic director in December. Sherrill's assistant coach and defensive coordinator R.C. Slocum was named head coach and John David Crow was named athletic director.

Former A&M President Frank E. Vandiver, who now is the director of A&M's Mosher Institute for Defense Studies, praised Mobley's response and handling of the athletic situation.

Mobley said that although the athletic situation was an unpleasant ordeal, it might prove to be a character-building experience for the University.

"It's been difficult," Mobley said of the athletic controversy. "It's been painful for a lot of people. I do believe we're a better institution. As time goes on, hopefully we'll be able to say it's been good for the institution."

Aside from athletics, Mobley's first year in office has been a full one.

Mobley's financial objectives for the University — to increase private and corporate contributions, research dollars and fundraising in general — are designed to supplement A&M's state funding, which like that of other public universities, will probably never again be adequate, Mobley said.

Besides adding to state funding, a boost in financing is crucial to meeting Mobley's other goals: to recruit top-notch faculty and to maintain and develop new academic programs.

Last year, fundraisers solicited \$46 million in private contributions. Officials expect the numbers to continue.

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Heart attack kills instructor at fire school

A guest instructor in the Firemen's Training School at Texas A&M died Monday from a heart attack while attending a fire-training class.

Charles Page, division head and chief of the Firemen's Training School, said Lannie Hatton, 44, was the fire chief for the Dupont Chemical Co. in Victoria.

Hatton went to make a phone call when he had a severe chest pain, Page said. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was administered.

Page said Hatton was picked up by the A&M Ambulance Service and taken to Humana Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Correction

A headline in Friday's *Battalion* incorrectly stated that parking tickets were issued to firemen by the University Police. The tickets were actually issued by Texas A&M Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services. *The Battalion* regrets the error.