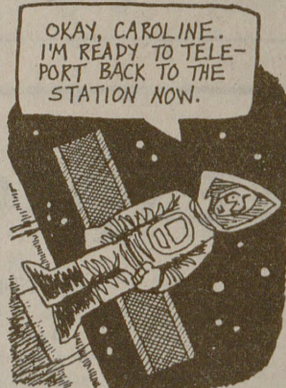


by Scott McCullar

WRPD



Trinidad struggles for stability

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — A Moslem zealot's attempt to overthrow the government, and the burning and looting that accompanied it, have staggered Trinidad after three decades of stable democracy.

The rebels surrendered Wednesday and the six-day coup attempt ended with the safe release of the hostages, but the casualty toll in the assault and subsequent violence was at least 38 dead and 150 wounded.

Now Trinidadians face food and gasoline shortages, economic disruption from a week of paralyzing curfews and the devastation left by looters and arsonists.

This racially and ethnically diverse nation known for sun and calypso also must deal with tensions created by the violent effort to destroy a democracy that has endured since independence from Britain in 1962.

"As a sociologist, I know that conflict and crisis can either splinter groups or unify them; it's never in-between," said Anthony Maingot, who was born in Trinidad and is a Caribbean expert at Florida International University in Miami.

The coup attempt by Abu Bakr, leader of a commune of 250 to 350 Moslems, began July 27.

Bakr and his followers, most of whom are poor and black, attacked police headquarters with explosives and seized Prime Minister N.R. Robinson and other government officials in Parliament House.

Other members of Jamaat-al-Muslimeen simultaneously invaded the state television complex a mile away and took employees hostage.

Bakr's immediate demands were the prime minister's resignation and elections within 90 days.

"I don't know that they planned beyond taking Red House," the parliament building, Col. Joe Theodore, who led the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force in the crisis, said. "He went in with a half-baked plan."

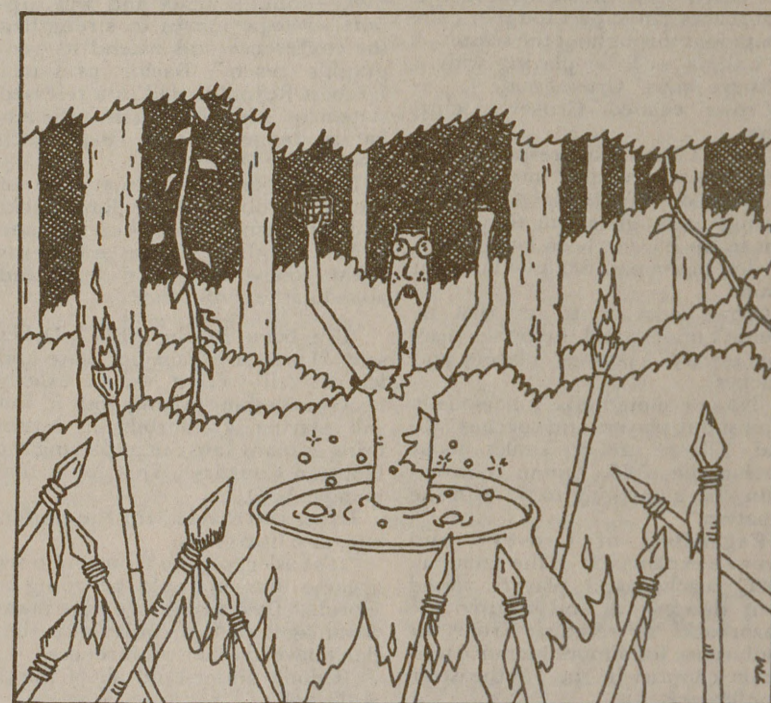
The sports and culture minister, Jennifer Johnson, one of the hostages, said the rebels were convinced they could improve Trinidad by establishing a fundamentalist Moslem state. Bakr, whose newspaper had attacked "satanic" U.S. and International Monetary Fund economic treatment of Trinidad, promised to help the poor.

There were no signs of popular support for Bakr's attempt to overthrow the prime minister.

Robinson trails in public opinion polls and elections are due next year. Trinidad has had a boom-to-bust economy over the last 20 years tied to the world price of oil, its main source of wealth.

"There is discontent in the country," government spokesman Gregory Shaw said. "Apparently, he (Abu Bakr) took this as a sign that the people were ready to revolt, but that is not the way Trinidadians change government."

Nerd House



SOLVING THE RUBIKS CUBE IN 2.4 SECONDS, HERBERT FINALLY CONVINCES THE NATIVES THAT HE TRULY IS A GOD.

Bush lauds U.S. cities for efforts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush paid tribute Monday to 10 All-American Cities, including Abilene and, for their citizens' response to disasters, Sioux City, Iowa, and Charlotte, N.C.

"The cities and citizens we honor today are reminders that America's potential is truly unlimited," Bush said at a White House ceremony, announcing the winners of an annual National Civic League competition. Sioux City was honored for its citizens' response to the crash of a United Airlines flight on July 19, 1989. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg County metropolitan area was honored for relief efforts after Hurricane Hugo last September.

"At a time when so many people are questioning what's wrong with American cities, you have quietly gone to work, made them right," Bush told the audience.

This year's other All-American Cities are Bakersfield, Calif.; Stockton, Calif.; Tampa, Fla.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Hamlet, N.C.; and Harrisburg, Pa.

Man claims JFK assassination performed by CIA conspirators

DALLAS (AP) — A 29-year-old former oil equipment salesman claimed Monday that his father was one of three Central Intelligence Agency operatives who killed President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

The CIA immediately denied the claim, calling it "ludicrous."

The accusation is the latest in a long string of theories about who killed Kennedy. None of the theories, some of which also have pointed to the CIA, have been proven.

Official investigations of the assassination have concluded Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

Ricky Don White has been shopping his version of the assassination for some time, and claimed a year ago that the third co-conspirator still was living in Texas.

White, who now lives in Midland, said his father, Roscoe "Rocky" White, joined the Dallas Police Department in September 1963 in order to carry out the assassination.

Ricky White told dozens of reporters that Oswald and police officer J.D. Tippit, who was killed following the assassination, were "patsies." Oswald was a part of

the conspiracy, while Tippit was uninvolved, White said.

White said much of his information came from his father's diary, but White could not produce the diary. He suggested FBI agents had taken it.

The FBI issued a statement saying in 1988 it received the same information that White divulged Monday but "determined that this information is not credible."

The CIA, which seldom responds to inquiries, had a strong rebuttal Monday to White's claims.

"These allegations — that this was done on CIA orders, that this guy worked for us and that CIA had a role in the assassination of President Kennedy — are ludicrous," CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said in Washington.

"This individual, Roscoe White, was never employed by the CIA or associated in any way with the agency," Mansfield added. "Normally, we never confirm or deny employment, but these allegations are so outrageous that we felt it necessary and appropriate to respond."

Awareness

(Continued from page 1)

If A&M graduates do not understand the concept of cultural diversity, Lopez-Aguado said, then the University is graduating functionally, culturally illiterate people.

"That's a shame because illiteracy of culture is the greatest crime that can be committed by a graduating senior," Lopez-Aguado said.

Sophomore mechanical engineering major Mannasser Marshall said A&M likes to think racism doesn't exist here, but in actuality there is a lot of it.

But another A&M student said

she has learned much about her culture while attending the University.

"I was told to be honest and frank," senior English major Cynthia Rincón said. "I have learned a lot about my culture and being proud of who I am from committees like the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture and the Department of Multicultural Services."

"I think it (being a student at A&M) has also detracted from my cultural heritage, and I'm not going to lie about that. Coaches are always telling track athletes not to look back and we're sitting here looking back."

"Sometimes I think if I didn't have to look back as much and worry about what's going on because of who I am, that I would have been at the finish line a long time ago," Rincón said.

"At committee meetings for a discrimination-free campus, A&M President William H. Mobley talked about the steps we need to take," Rincón continued. "But, we're taking so many more steps going around the problem in so many different paths that I'm afraid we're losing sight of the path of goals immediately in front of us."

All four students agreed the University should make mandatory a one-hour cultural awareness course.

Clark

(Continued from page 1)

our problem. About 90 percent of inmates in the Texas Department of Corrections never received a diploma, Clark said.

"We need to be concerned about the children who are dropping out of school, and we ought to help them find their way to somebody's institution," Clark said. "I don't believe that just because you were poor means your chances of success are poor."

Since graduating in 1976, Clark has been director of A&M's University Outreach Center in Houston and was elected to the city council in January.

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