

Adm. Kelso keeps his job; Tailhook fails to end career

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Les Aspin rejected the advice of the Navy's civilian leader and decided Monday not to fire the service's No. 1 officer, Adm. Frank B. Kelso II, for his handling of the Tailhook sex harassment scandal. Navy Secretary John Dalton had recommended to Aspin that Kelso be dismissed for failing to provide leadership during the scandal arising from the 1991

Tailhook convention of naval aviators, at which scores of women were sexually harassed or assaulted. "An evaluation of his record under the criteria you have offered does not suggest to me that he should be asked to retire," Aspin wrote in a memorandum to Dalton Monday. "We have a partnership to lead the Navy," Kelso said as he left the Pentagon on one of the most remarkable days of his 38-year career in the seafaring service. "I have a real desire to continue to

serve the nation as the uniformed leader of the Navy," he said when asked why he wanted to stay after Dalton tried to oust him. He said he and Dalton had met Monday and discussed the problem. Remarking on Aspin's decision in his own written statement, Dalton said, "I understand his reasoning, respect his views and support his decision." Dalton reiterated his view that the Navy's senior leadership must be held accountable for failing to head off the Tailhook scandal.

"I believe that the damage done to the Navy's reputation by the incidents of Tailhook could have been prevented or minimized by aggressive leadership and foresight by senior Navy officials," Dalton wrote. Aspin also ordered Dalton to clarify his recommendation that disciplinary action be taken against an unspecified number of other Navy admirals and Marine Corps generals who attended the Tailhook convention in a Las Vegas hotel.

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Cultural

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Pierce Cantrell, associate professor in the department of electrical engineering and a member of the committee, said the new classes won't do anything to the students besides teach them about other cultures. "We don't give our students enough credit," he said. "These requirements aren't going to change anybody's mind and the way they were brought up to be." Ben Dale, academic affairs chairman of the student senate, said he wants the student body to know that no more hours will be added to their degree. He said the students are confused about the whole issue of multiculturalism and that when the student senate studied the issue, it gave students a chance to be heard. "The passing of this bill is not overwhelming support of multiculturalism, it is overwhelming support to have students heard," he said.

Health

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Harkins said all Texas A&M students are eligible to enroll in the insurance plan with no minimum hour requirement. "Several thousand are currently enrolled, and any student who applies is eligible," she said. "There are no health questions and no one is denied coverage. It's a lot less expensive when compared to many other plans. Plus there is no limitation on what physician you can go to." Patsy Luce, staff assistant at the A.P. Beutel Health Center, said insurance is important because students must foot the bill if they have to be treated outside the health center. "You never know when an emergency will happen," she said. "The student health fee does not cover anything that is not done here in the health center." "It is no secret that medical costs are high. That is why it is so vital for students to have an insurance plan to help them pay the bills."

Suicide

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The army would not confirm the name of the attacker killed when the car exploded near Beit El, a Jewish settlement just north of Jerusalem. The attack on the bus, just as it was letting soldiers out in front of the main West Bank military headquarters, followed Israel's weekend crackdown on armed opponents of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Hamas has said it carried out three similar previous attacks. Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader deported by Israel to Lebanon last year, praised Monday's attack as a "message written in blood that expresses the true and honest feelings of the Palestinian toward the Israel-PLO accord." Seven of those injured at Beit El remained hospitalized with slight to moderate injuries. The car carried at least 20 grenades and a makeshift bomb made of gasoline canisters with nails inside, the deputy commander of West Bank forces, identified only as Col. Merom, said on Israel radio. The bus was blackened on its left side, where the car hit. Nearby lay the shattered gray chassis of the car bomb, its steering wheel and an axle sticking up. The attack touched off angry reactions among settlers at Beit El, a settlement of 6,000 Jews next to the army base. Dozens waving Israeli flags drove to the attack site and prayed in protest for an hour before soldiers forced them to leave. Some said that the attack underscored their misgivings about granting Palestinians autonomy in parts of the occupied territories.