

Russian half-time



Kevin Ivey/THE BATTALION

Alena Machann, a sophomore at A&M Consolidated High School, and Tomasz Styblinski, an A&M sophomore from Poland, perform at the half-time of the A&M basketball game against Red Army.

Native Texan held captive in Iraq returns to America

The Associated Press

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — An American oil worker held captive in Iraq for nearly seven months returned Tuesday to the United States, saying he was used as a political pawn by the Iraqis to renew talks with the U.S. government.

"They needed something to open a dialogue, something to gain recognition from the Western world, including, of course, the United States," said Kenneth Beaty, 45, of Mustang, Okla.

"I will say I was not mistreated and was nothing more than a political pawn," he told reporters on the tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington.

Beaty arrived on a military jet, accompanied by the U.S. senator who flew to Baghdad to negotiate the Texas native's release. He was freed Monday after Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., met with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz.

Boren stressed that his trip was for humanitarian purposes only, that his talks involved no negotiations with the Iraqi government on other issues and that no deals were made for Beaty's release.

"We made it clear all along the United States would not make concessions," Boren said. "I carried no message from the president of the United States on any other subject. I received no messages to bring back to him."

Beaty's release was widely seen as a goodwill gesture by Saddam Hussein's regime to get crippling U.N. sanctions lifted so Iraq can renew oil exports.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to review the sanctions next week. Aziz is scheduled to meet Nov. 22 with U.N. officials in New York.

In Washington on Monday, White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers commended Boren's efforts, but added, "There's been nothing to indicate a change of attitude by Iraq and we expect them to fully comply with all the U.N. resolutions."

Beaty, drilling superintendent for Dallas-based Santa Fe Oil Co., was apprehended April 25 when he strayed across the border into Iraq after checking an oil well in northern Kuwait. On May 3, a Baghdad court sentenced him to eight years in prison for trespassing.

His release had been sought on humanitarian grounds because of his heart problems. Beaty, who had a heart attack in 1990 and requires medication, was pronounced in good health by an Oklahoma City cardiologist who flew to Baghdad with Boren, the senator said.

Beaty said he was hospitalized three times during his imprisonment, but was treated well.

He said he was kept with other Westerners being held in Iraq, and was allowed to buy chicken, eggs and vegetables from a grocery store in the prison compound.

"We did have radios, Trivial Pursuit cards; just read a lot mainly, said our prayers and hoped for the best," he said.

Holocaust museum asks guests to 'stay away'

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seven months after opening its doors, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is making an unusual request to visitors: Please, if you can, stay away.

More than 750,000 people have been to the museum since April, and about 4,000 more arrive each day. Museum officials say both staff and building are feeling the wear and tear.

Already, some parts of the brand-new building need repainting and new carpets. Bottlenecks form daily in the exhibits. And even after the end of the summer tourist season, crowds remain enormous.

"We certainly believe, as we said at our opening, that this museum has unique lessons for all Americans. We do invite everyone to visit — but not right now," Museum Director Jeshajahu Weinberg said at a news conference Tuesday.

The museum tells the story of the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust and of many others who were victims of the Nazis.

With such personal artifacts as toothbrushes and shoes of those who died, as well as films, photographs and eyewitness testimony, it brings the Holocaust chillingly to life.

Recently, the museum has been surveying its visitors.

About 72 percent of more than 3,000 people polled as they waited in line for tickets in August and September came from out of town. Of those, about 25 percent said they came to Washington primarily to see the museum.

But nearly half of all visitors surveyed had the same complaint: too crowded.

Many said that they didn't have time to read the labels and that they felt rushed, said Peter D. Hart, who conducted the poll.

The museum already puts a cap on daily visits by requiring tickets to its permanent

exhibition. About 4,000 tickets are used each day — half booked in advance and half handed out to those who wait in early morning lines.

"The dilemma for us, of course, is that that's how many people can fit in the museum, which is not the same as that's how many people can fit comfortably," said Elaine Heumann Gurian, the museum's deputy director.

The extra staff and maintenance required to accommodate the crowds has put a strain on the budget too, Gurian said. The museum expects at least a \$12 million shortfall in basic operating funds this year.

Weinberg said he has spent a lot of time trying to explain the museum's great success. His best explanation: It is a "hot museum" that affects its visitors emotionally.

"Usually a museum is a cold place. It gives you aesthetic or informational input. But it does not drive up your blood pressure. This one does," said Weinberg.

House votes to ban smoking in federal buildings

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Smoking would be banned in federal buildings, except in areas equipped with separate ventilation systems, under a bill passed by the House Monday.

The bill, sent to the Senate on a voice vote, was pushed by lawmakers who cited an Environmental Protection Agency study this year that said some 3,000 lung cancer deaths a year are caused by secondhand smoke.

Most air in office buildings is circulated, said Rep. James Traficant, D-Ohio, so the legislation is needed to protect government workers and Americans who go there on business.

Traficant said the bill is still fair

"It would be a complete ban, rather than a reasonable compromise."

— Rep. Tim Valentine

to smokers because smoking would be legal in designated areas, as long as there is a separate ventilation system that doesn't recirculate the air through the rest of the building.

But one tobacco state lawmaker, Rep. Tim Valentine, D-N.C., said the bill amounts to a prohibition, since it would cost \$50 million to put in special ventilation systems in the largest of federal buildings.

"It would be a complete ban, rather than a reasonable compromise," he said.

And Valentine complained Congress would end up ignoring the law in the Capitol building and nearby office buildings. There are informal, designated smoking areas in the Capitol complex, but many smokers simply light up in whatever hallway they want.

A lobby next to the House floor, for instance, is fair game for smokers and some lawmakers still discreetly carry lighted cigarettes onto the floor.

"This constitutes another ex-

ample of the Congress mandating one set of rules for the rest of the country and one set of rules for itself," Valentine said.

Valentine said the bill was unfair to smokers and "the thousands of Americans who make an honest and honorable living from tobacco, a legal commodity."

But Rep. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said Congress would have to abide by the law. In response to a question about why Veterans Affairs hospitals weren't covered in the bill, Durbin predicted they would be some day.

Durbin noted that when he and other anti-smoking activists first moved to ban smoking on airplanes, they had to settle for flights under two hours. Now, smoking is banned on all domestic flights.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:

ALL MEAL PLAN OFFICE FUNCTIONS will be handled at the AGGIE BUCK OFFICE located in room 110 of the PAVILION until the end of this semester.

The Meal Plan Office (Sbisa Basement) will re-open on Jan. 17, 1994 for Spring Semester Meal Plans.

For further information or assistance, please contact: The AGGIE BUCK OFFICE @ 845-4661 or FOOD SERVICES @ 845-3005.

MSC All Night Fair

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All student organizations can now sign up for a booth for this year's fair on Saturday, March 5, 1994.

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JUNIOR MAKE UP PICTURES FOR THE 1994 AGGIELAND YEARBOOK WILL BE FROM MONDAY, NOV. 15 THROUGH FRIDAY, DEC. 3.

The make up schedule is as follows:
Juniors: Nov. 15-Dec. 3
Sophomores: Dec. 6-14

Pictures are being taken at A R Photography, located at 707 Texas Ave. S., near Taco Cabana, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
For more information, call 693-8183

If you did not purchase your picture in the Aggieland during teleregistration, it can be purchased in 230 RDMC for \$1. 1994 yearbooks can be purchased in 015 RDMC for \$25.

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