

ay • September 21

By Alva

AT'S IMPOSSIBLE. ONLY EVER COME

By Br

WARRANT COURTHOUSE MAN EXECUTED

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Ex-prisoner George Lott, whose sudden death spree two years ago in the Grant County Courthouse left two people dead and three others wounded, went to his death early Tuesday.

Lott, 47, spurned legal help that may have saved his life and was executed after midnight. He had represented himself at his trial and in his appeals but no motions in the courts.

"I want all of these cases to be reviewed appropriately," Drew Durham, assistant attorney general who presided over the execution, said. "But Mr. Lott made his choice. And he died with his choice."

His execution — just 18 months after arriving on the Texas death row — took the shortest time a Texas male had spent on death row before the punishment was carried out. The average prison time for the 81 convicted killers put to death since the state resumed capital punishment in 1982 is 12 years.

Lott had no final statement, responding with a simple "No" when asked by Warden Morris Jones if he had anything to say.

Trade deficit in July U.S.'s second worst

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rising oil prices and a big drop in airliner sales in July gave the nation its second worst merchandise trade deficit in history, the government said Tuesday. Financial markets went into a tailspin.

The Commerce Department said the overall deficit in goods and services surged 21.6 percent to \$10.9 billion as imports remained near an all-time high while exports weakened considerably.

The worse-than-expected deficit figure, which followed a June shortfall of \$9.04 billion, rattled Wall Street. Stocks, bonds and the dollar all weakened.

Shuttle Discovery lands at Edwards

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery and its six astronauts glided through clear skies to a flawless desert landing Tuesday after an 11-day mission that included the first untethered spacewalk in a decade.

Two days of storminess at Cape Canaveral forced NASA to bring the shuttle to California.

NASA prefers Florida's Kennedy Space Center to Edwards because the detour costs \$1 million and takes one week to ferry a shuttle cross-country atop a jumbo jet.

The astronauts' families had to settle for watching Discovery's 2:13 p.m. arrival on television.

"This is from your families: They said you landed on the wrong coast," Mission Control told shuttle commander Richard Richards.

You never know what you'll find at the beach

AUSTIN (AP) — Volunteers who cleaned up Texas beaches this past weekend found everything from the everyday plastic trash to an entire Pontiac.

The 11,208 volunteers collected 167.1 tons during the three-hour Saturday cleanup, the General Land Office reported Monday.

That included a Pontiac Fiero hauled in on North Padre Island near Corpus Christi. Officials said the car likely was a stolen car that had been ditched.

Also found in Saturday's cleanup was a plastic bag full of small bones, a television set, discarded appliances, file cabinets and more.

A set of bed springs was found on the Bolivar Peninsula, while bed frames were found on Mustang Island, along with a 6-foot grocery store shelf and 500 pounds of roofing shingles.

The semiannual cleanups have been removing trash from Texas beaches since 1987. During that time, 139,508 volunteers have picked up 2,849.1 tons of debris.

Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said that the national Center for Marine Conservation reported last week that ocean dumping is down worldwide.

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Police Beat

Indecent Exposure. Man opens pants. Well, you get the rest.

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Opinion

COLUMNISTS DEBATE: Should Texas' prisons ban smoking?

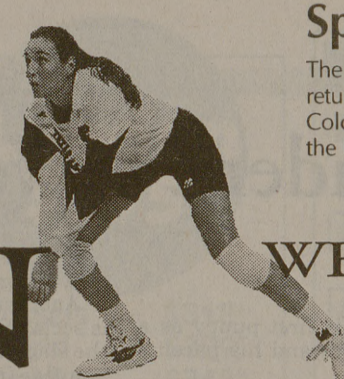
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Sports

The Lady Aggie volleyball team returns from the University of Colorado/Coors Tournament to face the Lady Raiders of Texas Tech.

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THE BATTALION



WEDNESDAY

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

Haitians attacked as U.S. troops unable to intervene

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Jubilant supporters of Haiti's exiled president cheered U.S. troops on Tuesday, but police clubbed the demonstrators and fired tear gas as American soldiers stood by, under orders not to get involved.

Some demonstrators became angry at the Americans for failing to protect a man who, according to witnesses, was clubbed to death by a Haitian policeman.

After the disturbances, senior U.S. military officers here roared up to Haiti's army headquarters for a lengthy "talk to," as one American officer put it. At sunset, U.S. military police emerged from their bases at the airport and seaport to begin motor patrols along the perimeters.

Some American soldiers bridled at the orders that prevented them from intervening when police attacked supporters of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first freely elected president, who was ousted in a 1991 coup.

"I feel terrible," said Specialist Douglas Walton of Cincinnati, a soldier in the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. "To see people beaten and not be able to do anything."

U.S. officials said, the troops would not interfere in Haiti's domestic affairs. In Washington, Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned the risk of violence was high and said, "We can be taking casualties at any moment."

A day after soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division, from Fort Drum, N.Y., began landing at the Port-au-Prince airport, Marines extended the U.S. military operation to Cap-Haitien.

About 1,600 Marines came ashore in armored amphibious vehicles, helicopters and Hovercraft. Haitian police cooperated with the American troops.

U.S. troops were not seen patrolling in Port-au-Prince and appeared to be concentrating on consolidating defense positions and supply depots. Convoys moved between the port, airport, an industrial park and a warehouse district where the Americans were setting up bases.

The Marines' objective was to secure the port and airport at Cap-Haitien, then move inland to take control of two roads and two bridges. Later in the day, they were expected to move farther into town to locations by a Haitian army barracks and several police outposts and a prison.

American soldiers numbered 7,000 by day's end. A leading Haitian democracy activist, Evans Paul, urged Haitians to stop demonstrating at least until American peacekeeping forces reached their planned deployment of 15,000.

"We've got to know how to manage this situation and not react by chasing rainbows," he said. "It is too soon for mass popular demonstrations, which are dangerous."

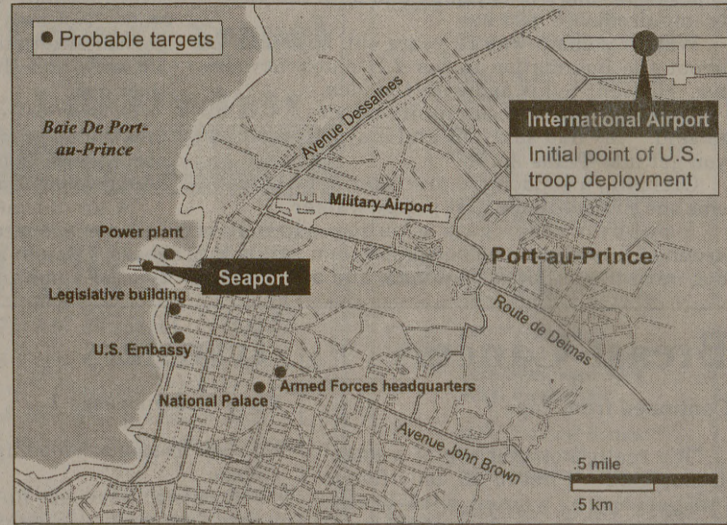
Marine Lt. Col. Steve Hartly, commander of one of the two task forces landing Tuesday, said under the rules of engagement his men could only step in when murder or rape was involved.

Several thousand Haitians were gathered outside the Port-au-Prince port Tuesday. Blue-uniformed Haitian police had held back but one officer at one point attacked a demonstrator, hitting him on the back of the neck with a club, witnesses said.

At least 500 angry Haitians massed around his body, angry over the death. Some of the protesters blamed the Americans.

"If they came to help us no one would be dead," said one demonstrator, Melax Dasluvaes. "I don't know why they are here."

Marines expand mission to second city



Mission to date

- Monday: 3,000 U.S. soldiers coming by air and sea took over Port-au-Prince, securing the main airport and seaport without firing a shot. U.S. and Haitian military are preparing a cooperative plan to quell any violence.
- Tuesday: Elite U.S. Marines are expanding their peacekeeping mission to Cap-Haitien. U.S. civil affairs personnel plan to clear the Port-au-Prince airport, seaport and access routes of any remaining obstacles.

AP/Wm. J. Castello

Breast cancer gene discovery has local physicians hopeful

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

The recent discovery of the gene that causes hereditary breast cancer promises major advancements in detecting and treating the disease, local physicians say.

Dr. Nali Rengala, medical director of the Brazos Valley Cancer Center, said the gene isolation discovery may lead to more advancements in cancer research.

"Every new step in research is exciting," Rengala said, "because it opens new windows for other research."

It always works that way. You make one breakthrough, and that leads to the discovery of other breakthroughs.

"It means a whole lot of good for the future. When we know what causes a disease, we are in a better position to cure it."

Dr. Henry Bohne, a College Station surgeon, said that any advancements resulting from gene isolation may be two to three years in the future.

"The first thing one has to realize is that with most cases the practical application is several years down the road," Bohne said. "However, it's opening a door. Find one aspect and you can find another."

Bohne said the results of this discovery will mainly affect women with a family

history of developing breast cancer.

"The major impact will be finding women at high risk," Bohne said. "Certain families know their risk is high, but right now it's hard to predict who will get the breast cancer. Surgery is often done needlessly."

Dr. John Tomlinson, a pathologist with the Brazos Valley Medical Center, said the gene isolation will impact breast cancer prevention much more than treatment.

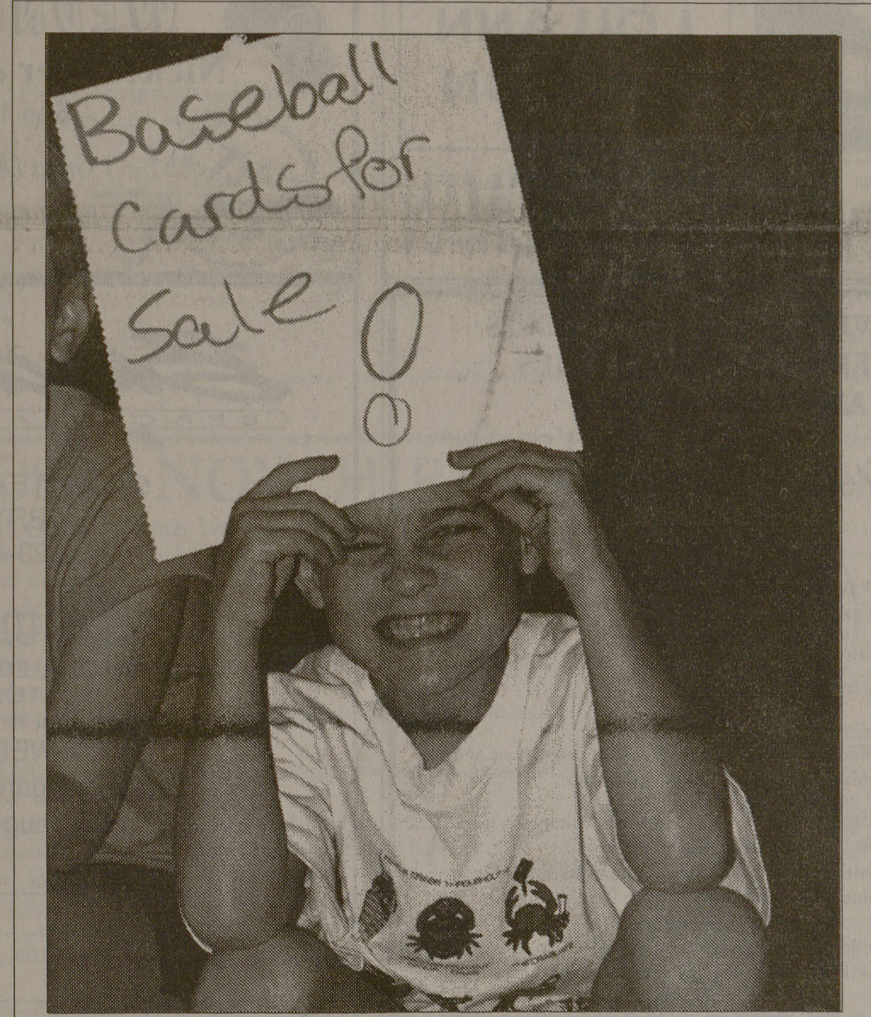
"If someone had a family history of cancer and there was a concern of increased risk of developing cancer, a highly specialized lab could run a test to see if you carried the gene," Tomlinson said.

"Knowing someone carried the gene would change things somewhat. You'd be induced to follow them more closely with mammography. You'd want biopsies more frequently."

Tomlinson said if a strong correlation appears between carrying the gene and developing breast cancer, the person could choose to have a mastectomy before cancer develops.

Hillary Jessup, who started a breast cancer support group in Bryan-College Station, said she is not that excited about the gene isolation.

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Garrett Higley/SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

So much for these cards

Bennett Goodman and his friends try to sell their baseball cards along Walton Drive in College Station.

Transfer students create varied A&M student body

By Kari Whitley
THE BATTALION

Over 1,900 transfer students from across the state and nation are enrolled at Texas A&M this fall and are adding to the diversity of the school's student body, A&M officials said.

"Students often choose to transfer to A&M from other two year and four year schools because of the academic reputation and student life this university has to offer," Dr. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, said.

Ann Goodman, assistant director of student life, said there are three categories of incoming transfer students.

The typical transfer student stays at their local two year college while getting their basics out of the way, she said.

Other transfer students go to different four year universities while making decisions about their majors and future career plans, Goodman said. These students take the first one or two years to experience college on a smaller level in a one-on-one environment.

Goodman said another group of transfers at A&M are students who "stopped out" of school to work or start a family. These students also include those who have had military obligations and are returning to finish their degree.

"These students offer a wealth of knowledge and life experiences to the university campus," Goodman said.

Southerland said students who transfer to A&M are more focused

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Graduate Student Council, Student Government resolve differences

By Stephanie Dube
THE BATTALION

The Graduate Student Council is anticipating an eventful year after resolving its differences with the Student Government.

Amy Kardell, president of the Graduate Student Council, said she is pleased the council and Student Government can work together now after disagreeing on several issues in the past.

"We are looking forward to a positive year, and going places and doing good things," Kardell said. "This has given us more visibility and opened a lot of doors on campus to graduate students' concerns."

She said that over a year ago,

the council voted to call themselves the Graduate Student Government. However, when they submitted their new constitution to Student Activities, the change was stalled because A&M already had a student government association.

"This incident brought attention to the problem," Kardell said.

As a result, a task force was formed to deal with the misunderstandings between Student Government and the Graduate Student Council.

Stanley Merritt, former president of the Black Graduate Student Association and former national affairs chair of the Graduate Student Council, was a graduate student representative on

the task force.

Merritt said the task force consisted of three graduate and three undergraduate students, and two ex-officio faculty members.

"The task force was formed because of a misunderstanding as to how funds would be allocated to the Graduate Student Council," Merritt said. "This, however, was a small underlying feature of the bigger problem of how the graduate students felt they were viewed at the University."

Merritt said many of the concerns stemmed from the different experiences graduate and undergraduate students deal with.

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