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U.S. rebuilds security barrier in Saudi

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Workers built a new security barrier Sunday 400 feet from a U.S. military housing complex — a move Saudi authorities had refused in the months before last week's deadly truck bombing.

Seven trucks carried concrete barriers into the parking lot as work began early Sunday morning at the Khobar Towers, site of the terrorist bomb blast Tuesday that killed 19 Americans and injured hundreds of people.

"They stopped work a little while later due to the heat but will be resuming when it gets cooler," U.S. Air Force spokesman Capt. Scott Vadnais said Sunday afternoon as temperatures soared to 106 degrees.

In Florida, President Clinton presided over a memorial service at Eglin Air Force Base, home of 12 of the Americans killed. A lone bagpiper and a military orchestra played, and four jets roared overhead in a "missing man" formation before Clinton intoned the names and ranks of the dead servicemen.

At the time of the bombing, the security barrier was just 100 feet from buildings housing American personnel. Shortly after the attack, security checks were moved out to 400 feet, without the barrier in place.

The commander of the U.S. Air Force in Dhahran, Brig. Gen. Terryl Schwalier, said that before the bombing Saudi officials twice refused to allow the barrier to be moved to 400 feet.

"We asked them to move it to the outside

of the parking lot," Schwalier said Saturday. "The answer was, 'Not at this time.'" He explained their refusal by saying "the pace is different" in the kingdom.

Schwalier said that after a November bomb attack that killed five Americans and two Indians in the Saudi capital Riyadh, Dhahran base officials conducted a "vulnerability assessment" and identified 40 necessary measures for beefing up security — including moving the perimeter.

Measures taken included moving the main gate; erecting barriers to slow vehicles approaching the entrance; stringing a second tier of concertina wire around parts of the perimeter fence; and increasing patrols.

Since the blast, Americans also have been moved from exterior rooms to rooms closer to the center of the buildings, where they are safer in the event of a bombing.

U.S. and Saudi investigators pushed ahead with their search for clues that could lead them to the bombers, though no new details were announced Sunday.

The chassis of the deadly fuel truck — complete with serial number — was among the parts FBI agents from the United States had discovered. Saudi authorities reportedly have the license plate number and plan soon to release composite sketches of two suspects.

Suspicion is focused on Muslim militants who want to drive the roughly 5,000 U.S. troops out of the kingdom, home to Islam's holiest shrines.

Clinton vows a war on terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said it at the White House. He said it during endless meetings at the economic summit in France. And, most movingly, he said it at memorial services in Florida.

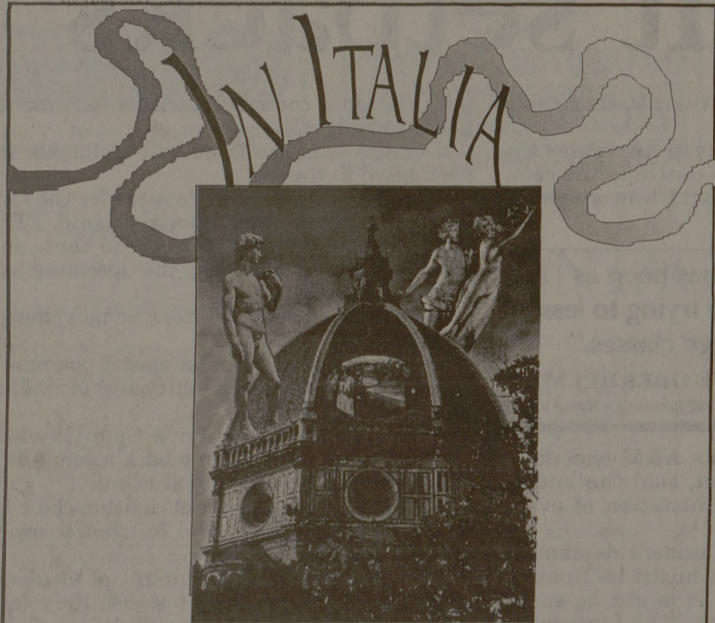
While the locales varied, the message remained constant: The United States will wage an all-out battle to defeat terrorism.

Paying his last respects Sunday at services for 19 U.S. airmen killed in a bomb blast Tuesday in Saudi Arabia, Clinton declared "America must not and America will not be driven from the fight against terrorism."

As relatives and wounded comrades of the slain servicemen sobbed during the tributes Clinton said, "America stands with you in your sorrow and your outrage ... We will not rest until our efforts to capture, prosecute and punish those who did this evil deed are successful."

The president cut short his European trip to devote Sunday to consoling the families of those killed in the truck bomb explosion at a military housing complex.

At both Eglin Air Force Base and Patrick Air Force Base in Florida, Clinton spent time visiting individually with victims' families before delivering the eulogy at services that featured flyovers by Air Force fighters in the "missing man" formation and a bugler playing taps.



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Financial aid not as scary as it seems

Most students can find assistance through loans, grants or scholarships

I realize over the past year there has been an increase in the cost for Aggies to attend this University. This has resulted in a greater need for financial aid.



CARL BAGGETT
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Most students feel financial aid is accessible to only a few students. We currently do not have as much financial aid for students as we would like, but there is \$100 million in financial assistance available to A&M students, and the figure continues to increase. Since 1991, grant-in-aid to students has increased by about 15 percent and scholarship support has increased by 27 percent — about twice the rate of tuition and fee increases during that same time period.

Financial aid is available to students at Texas A&M in the form of scholarships, grants and loans.

Currently, 9,379 students share in 16,580 scholarships totaling \$22,552,481. These scholarships are awarded by four major entities: academic colleges (3,000 students), the Honors Program (3,000 students), the Corps of Cadets (414 students), and financial aid (1500 students). Scholarships from the Athletic Department and outside sources are also awarded to about 1,500 students.

Grants are also a vital avenue for undergraduates striving to afford an education. There are 6,930 students who share 9,708 grants totaling \$13,174,690. The largest grant programs at A&M include the Pell Grant (5,700 students), the Texas Public Education Grant (3,000 students) and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (748 students).

Loans are another option — 10,998 students receive 16,621 loans valued at \$49,377,423.

The major type of loans taken out by students consist of Stafford Loans (3,000 students), College Access Loans (1,200 students) and Perkins Loans (1,400 students).

"Although financial aid may seem a labyrinth with a lot of dead ends, it can really be simplified."

There are excellent opportunities for all of you interested in financial aid, but most of you probably do not know where to begin looking. Although financial aid may seem a labyrinth with a lot of dead ends, it can really be simplified.

At the Student Financial Aid Office, located on the second floor of the Pavilion, you can pick up a Financial Aid Application for every grant and loan available. Each application is then processed and divided into need-based and non-need-based types. Even if you do not qualify for

need-based financial aid, you should still fill out the form so you can qualify for non-subsidized loans.

Also while at the Pavilion, be sure to go to the Scholarship Resource Center, where students have access to computers to perform a nationwide scholarship search. The student is given a printout with the name of each scholarship he or she is eligible for, the organization giving the scholarship and the way to get in touch with the organization. Not many students know about this useful resource, and I encourage everyone to try it.

Even though the cost of attending A&M has increased, the resources to find financial aid are accessible to all students. This is the right time to utilize those resources to benefit yourself. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the Student Financial Aid Office at 845-3236 or me at 845-3051.

Carl Baggett is a Class of '96 accounting major

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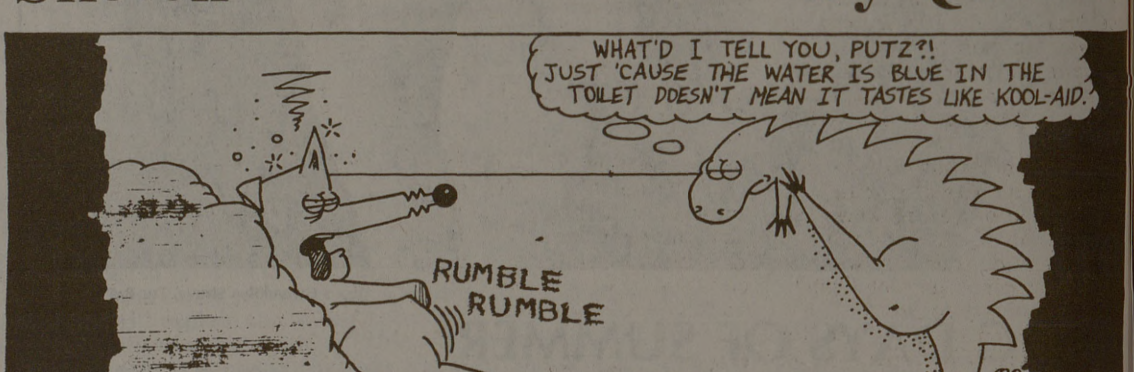
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Sketch



Somewhere the Russian translation of football had sadly gone wrong.

Sketch



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By Coll THE BA

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By Philip THE BATT

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