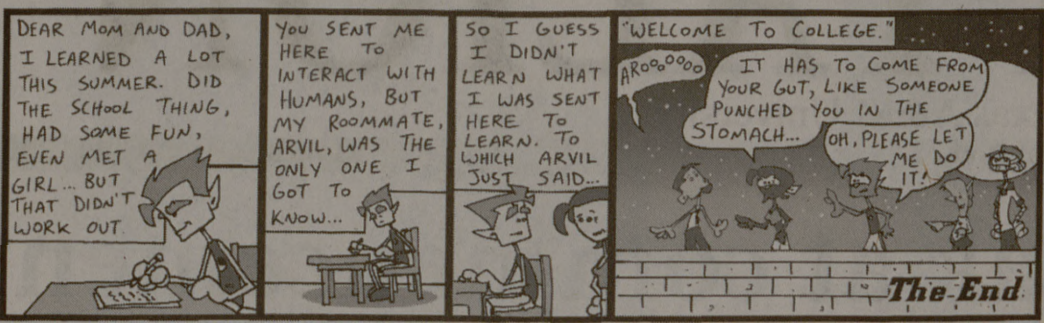


Full Moon

by R. DeLuna



Liberia

Continued from page 1

presidency. "They can call off their dogs now," Taylor said. "We can have peace." It was a goodbye that few would hear in his desperate, war-divided capital — preoccupied in the search for food, and without fuel to keep radio or TV stations on the air. Two months of rebel sieges have left well over 1,000 civilians dead in the capital, as insurgents and Taylor's forces dueling with the city of 1.3 million as its battlefield. The war has left Taylor controlling little but downtown, referred to derisively by rebels as Taylor's "Federal Republic of Central Monrovia." West African leaders extracted Taylor's promises to leave Monday, to be followed by exile in Nigeria at some unspecified time after. At least three West African heads of state, including South African President Thabo Mbeki, were expected for what Taylor's regime was trying to organize into an hours-long formal resignation ceremony.

"If I were the problem — which you know and I know I'm not — I would ... become the sacrificial lamb."

— Charles Taylor outgoing Liberian president

Taylor recorded the farewell speech for radio, at a desk behind shelves piled high with folders. Lit by generators running on fuel scrounged by the presidency, the scene was recorded separately on scratchy audiotape. By late Sunday, the speech had not been played on local radio in the unlit capital, shattered by shelling and littered with shrapnel, bullet casings and rubbish from looting by Taylor's forces. The recording session came as at least one car piled high with luggage pulled out of Taylor's high-walled private home. Female members of Taylor's party danced outside to show support and maimed veterans of 14 years of conflict under Taylor stood by aimlessly. Support stopped just across the street from the former warlord's home. "We've been praying to Almighty God for this day," said Theoway Gayweh, among small crowds gathered across the street to watch what they hoped would be the last hours of Taylor's regime. Most in government-held Monrovia spent the

day scouting for food in markets that had little to offer except leaves.

Others picked their way to churches in ragged Sunday best along water-clogged streets, unpaired since Taylor, then a rebel leader, launched Liberia into civil war in 1989.

Fighting since then has left more than 100,000 Liberians dead. International aid agencies estimate virtually all of Liberia's roughly 3 million people have been chased from their home by war, at one time or another, under Taylor.

His rag-tag forces, paid by looting, are accused by rights groups and Liberia's people of routine raping, robbing, torture, forced labor and summary killings. Rebels, to a lesser extent so far, likewise are accused of abuse.

Taylor made no apologies — asking only forgiveness from any he may have wronged, in what have been his years of carnage.

He compared his departure from the presidency to Jesus submitting himself to the Romans.

"If I were the problem — which you know and I know I'm not — I would ... become the sacrificial lamb," Taylor said. "I would become the whipping boy that you should live."

Perhaps crucially, Taylor made no direct mention of his promise to leave Liberia. Closing his speech, he declared: "I will always remember you wherever I am, and I say, God willing, I will be back."

Taylor has accepted an offer of asylum in Nigeria, but he has also hedged on when he will go. He has said that he would like to remain in politics.

Rebel leader Sekou Conneh met in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who has offered Taylor exile. Obasanjo urged Conneh to support West African-led peace efforts, Obasanjo spokeswoman Remi Oyo said.

Conneh, in turn, pledged to open Monrovia's rebel-held port quickly for humanitarian supplies — but indicated that would come only after Taylor's departure.

On the rebel-held side of Taylor's capital, rebels were skeptical of that day coming.

"Until Taylor resigns, I won't believe it," said Sekou Fofana, on turf patrolled by boys as young as 10 guarded with AK-47s.

Speakers

Continued from page 1

"The main theme of his speech is that it's important that you love what you do professionally, but that you make an effort to give back to the community in order to be a well-rounded individual," Reyes said.

Psychology professor Ludy T. Benjamin Jr. will receive the University's new Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence Award during the 9 a.m. ceremony on Friday. Stephenson said the award includes a \$25,000 stipend and the recipient is chosen by A&M President Robert M. Gates.

"These awards are the most valuable awards of the teaching kind in the nation," Stephenson said. "Two awards will be given each year."

Commissioning ceremonies for the members of the Corps of Cadets entering the military will also be held Friday afternoon.

Southerland

Continued from page 1

"You often hear from (students) later, five years later, 10 years later that, 'By the way, I did such and such because (one) day I had this interaction.' Well, that's remarkable; it's a remarkable opportunity," he said. "And I've accepted it as an opportunity. I've understood that."

Southerland worked with many student leaders during his 36 years.

Student Body President Matt Josefy said Southerland lives and breathes for A&M and its students.

"Dr. Southerland's legacy on campus runs much deeper than the honorary titles and the numerous awards he received," Josefy said. "Dr. Southerland's legacy is the lives of tens of thousands of students who he affected through the decisions he made, but more importantly through his personal relationships with them."

Bryan Barton, Class of 2002

knew Southerland during his involvement with the A&M Student Government Association.

"He's a great example of what happens when someone starts out at the bottom of an organization and works their way up," Barton said. "He's done such a tireless service. He always tried to help students achieve their dreams and he did all this often without receiving seeking recognition."

On April 13, Southerland received an honorary Buck Weirus Spirit Award from the Association of Former Students.

The award is given to those who display vision, character and superior dedication to A&M.

"It has been my experience that there is really none that is more important than your understanding of your level of integrity," Southerland said. "With some self-confidence and you set; you're going to be okay."

Israel

Continued from page 1

Video footage showed patches of blood left on a concrete staircase.

The streets of the town were deserted by nightfall, with residents staying in their homes or in bomb shelters. "We are very afraid," said resident Lara Elhai, 50. "Any moment, they could shoot at us. It's the summer holidays, and we can't even send our children to the pool."

The last civilian death in such an attack along the northern Israeli border happened June 24, 1999, when a Hezbollah rocket struck the city hall of Kiryat Shemona, killing two men.

In response to the latest death, Israeli warplanes fired at least one missile near the village of Teir Harfa, about two miles from the Lebanese-Israeli border. No casualties were reported.

A senior Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the warplanes hit the Hezbollah artillery positions that fired at Shlomi.

Hezbollah said it had fired anti-aircraft shells at Israeli fighter jets flying over southern Lebanon, but Israeli security officials denied aircraft were in the area at the time.

A senior military source said Israel's inner security Cabinet would meet to discuss a further military response and that more strikes could be expected. However, Raanan Gissin, a Sharon aide, said that while Israel would not tolerate Hezbollah attacks, it has "no intention of escalation."

Hezbollah, which is on the U.S. State Department's list of terrorist organizations, led a guerrilla war against Israel's 18-year occupation of a border zone in southern Lebanon that ended in May 2000.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom has Lebanon and Syria — which dominates Lebanese policy-making — responsible for Hezbollah actions.

"We say to Syria and Lebanon as responsible parties ... that if Hezbollah activities continue and constitute an undermining of security of the citizens of Israel, we will have no choice but to defend ourselves," Shalom said Sunday.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan holding the Syrian and Lebanese governments responsible for Hezbollah's "acts of terror," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yonatan Peled said.

Annan issued a statement condemning the shelling and urging "all governments that have influence on Hezbollah" to deter it from further actions that could increase tension. He also urged Israel to exercise "utmost restraint."

American diplomats also told Lebanon and Syria that the administration was concerned about the "calculated and provocative escalation" by Hezbollah, State Department deputy spokesman Philip T. Reeker said.

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Sheik Naim Kassem said Sunday that Hezbollah "is fully prepared and ready to respond in the proper manner to any Israeli aggression or threat."

"This anti-aircraft fire is fired as a reaction to warplanes that regularly violate Lebanese airspace," he said in an interview with the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya satellite station.

Syria's state-run Tishrin newspaper charged an editorial that Israel was trying "to expand the circle of its aggression and deliberately provoke and threaten more than one Arab country," in hopes of slowing progress on the "road map" peace plan with the Palestinians.

Dems approach 2-week marker

By Natalie Gott THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio had just finished her second legislative session as a state senator when her 10 Democratic colleagues chose her to lead their caucus.

Less than two months later, she led those same lawmakers in a historic boycott of the Senate chamber in protest of a Republican effort to redraw the state's congressional districts.

The boycott hits its two-week anniversary on Monday. "They are strong. They are strong," Van de Putte says of her Democratic colleagues who are holed up with her at a New Mexico hotel.

But Van de Putte, a mother of six, also has been strong, getting the Democrats to New Mexico and standing firm as their leader. The boycott has stopped business in the Senate chamber because without the 11 Democrats, there are not enough senators present for the 31-member chamber to take up business.

The Democrats say there is no reason for legislators to take up redistricting since a plan is in place. Lawmakers failed to agree on a map during the 2001 legislative session, when they

were scheduled to take up the issue, so judges drew the map of the current congressional districts. Democrats have a 17-15 advantage in the delegation.

Some Republicans, led by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Sugar Land, say voting trends show Texas should have more Republicans representing the state in Washington. Two attempts to pass a redistricting bill, however, have failed this year.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry called a second special legislative session to try again, but if the Democrats can stay gone from the Capitol until the session ends, the effort will have failed a third time.

The Democrats face another challenge this week as the Texas Supreme Court considers a case filed by Perry and Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst that seeks to order the Democrats to return.

"If the goal was intimidation, I guess they just don't understand our resolve. It's like adding fuel to the fire," said Van de Putte, not known to back down from a challenge.

She proudly shows off a scar on her knee, noting it is the result of an injury she received while playing intramural football.

When a woman once harassed Van de Putte and her grandmother outside a voting precinct, Van de Putte challenged the woman and the two ended up on the ground in a fight until a pregnant Van de Putte prevailed.

"You hurt my kids, you hurt my grandma, who is, you know, in a wheelchair. I'm sorry, I'm coming after you," Van de Putte said.

Van de Putte grew up in San Antonio and followed in her grandfather's footsteps, becoming a pharmacist. She married Pete Van de Putte, whose family owns Dixie Flag, opened her own pharmacy and over nine years, had six children.

She was active in the community, serving on the Parent Teacher Association and other groups.

Then, in 1990, the political bug hit. She was serving as a precinct chair and because there was a vacancy in a state representative post between the primary and the general election, the precinct chairs chose who would be the candidate, Van de Putte said.

None of the contenders, however, won her over so Van de Putte threw her name into the ring and won. Before winning, Van de Putte talked to her children, about how a win would affect the family.

COLLEGE STATION POLICE DEPARTMENT BLOTTER

- 8/8/03 8:02 a.m. Traffic arrest, Wellborn/Grove.
8/8/03 1:07 p.m. Burglary of vehicle, 309 College Main. Taken: guitars.
8/8/03 1:33 p.m. Warrant arrest, 12677 FM 2154.
8/8/03 1:43 p.m. Evading arrest, 1500 Holleman. One arrest.
8/8/03 2:08 p.m. Warrant arrest, 401 College Main.
8/8/03 2:23 p.m. Warrant arrest, 430 Southwest Pkwy.
8/8/03 2:49 p.m. Warrant arrest, 430 Southwest Pkwy.
8/8/03 7:20 p.m. Major accident, Merry Oaks/Dominik. Complaint of pain.
8/8/03 8:04 p.m. Solicitation, 915 Sun Meadow.
8/8/03 10:48 p.m. Driving while license suspended, 2351 Earl Rudder Frwy. One arrest.
8/8/03 10:54 p.m. Major accident, Texas/Brentwood. Complaint of neck pain.
8/8/03 11:00 p.m. Driving while intoxicated, 2500 Texas.
One arrest.
8/8/03 11:01 p.m. Driving while license suspended, Park Place/Texas. One arrest.
8/8/03 11:18 p.m. Possession of dangerous drugs, Earl Rudder Frwy/University. One arrest.
8/9/03 12:26 a.m. Driving while intoxicated, 1910 Texas. One arrest.
8/9/03 12:30 a.m. Possession of controlled substance, Glenhaven/Fernhaven. One arrest.
8/9/03 2:25 a.m. Driving while intoxicated, 731 University. One arrest.
8/9/03 4:33 a.m. False report to officer, 2611 Texas. One arrest.
8/9/03 5:01 a.m. Burglary of vehicle, 1501 Holleman. Taken: checkbook, CDs.
8/9/03 7:37 a.m. Burglar of vehicle, 1601 Holleman. Taken: speakers, subwoofer, CD case, 200 CDs.
8/9/03 9:47 a.m. Runaway, 2611 Texas. Recovered.
8/9/03 12:13 p.m. Major accident, Southwest Pkwy/Welsh. Complaint of pain.
8/9/03 1:40 p.m. Major accident, Harvey/Texas. Complaint of neck pain.
8/9/03 8:03 p.m. Deceased person, 8901 Driftwood.
8/9/03 8:03 p.m. Illegal gambling and contributing to minors, 2403 Memorial.
8/9/03 8:04 p.m. Public intoxication and contributing to minors, 1209 Austin Avenue.
8/9/03 8:48 p.m. Runaway, 1200 Blk Airline. Recovered.
8/9/03 8:55 p.m. Warrant arrest, 1401 Harvey.
8/9/03 9:05 p.m. Public intoxication, SH 6/Greens Prairie. One arrest.
8/9/03 11:26 p.m. Aggravated assault, 1907 Dartmouth.
8/9/03 11:45 p.m. Possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, 1501 Harvey. One arrest.
8/10/03 12:52 a.m. Assault, 313 S College. One arrest.
8/10/03 3:07 a.m. Warrant arrest, 100 Dominik.

Student Counseling HelpLine. Are you a good listener? Do you want to help others? Volunteers Needed... All majors welcome! Brochure & application - Room 104 of Henderson Hall. For more information call Susan Vavra at 845-4470 ext. 133 or visit www.scs.tamu.edu/emergency/volunteer.asp

Student Counseling HelpLine. Stressed out over grades? Worried about what's going on at home? Has a relationship got you down? Call us... 845-2700 (v/tty) Available 4 PM to 8 AM weekdays, 24 hours a day on weekends

Answer to previous puzzle. DAM TSE SATES MILE OWNS IRENE EVIL LATE GEESSE SECONDBANANA ARENA IDLE ABE CALLSITADAY SCARCE COKE BOOTEE UNAIRED UNIT TENDER MINUTESTEAK PCS ROLE LASSO MANOFTHEHOUR ACHED OLIO ERIE ROUTE PODS ARTS EDGES NET DYE

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