

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Former student among Korean airline victims

by Elaine Engstrom

**Battalion Staff**  
A former Texas A&M student was among 26 Americans on board the Korean Air Lines jumbo jet that was shot down by a Soviet fighter plane Thursday, according to the victim's brother.

Rebecca Lynn Scruton, 28, of Meriden, Conn., was on her way to visit her parents Robert L. and Mary Lynn in Seoul, Korea, her brother David R. Beal said. Scruton originally intended to take another flight, but a change in plans put her on the plane which was later shot down.

An airline official in New York confirmed that Scruton was on the ill-fated flight.

Beal, a 1982 Texas A&M graduate and a school teacher in Navasota, said: "The Lord intended for her to be on this other flight."

Another of Scruton's brothers, Robert Beal, 29, an electrical engineering sophomore at Texas A&M, says his sister was a deeply religious woman.

"My sister was a strong churchgoer," Beal said. "It is ironic that she was murdered by those who would advocate religious repression."

Scruton attended Texas A&M for the 1973-74 school year until she married Dale Scruton and moved to Connecticut. Her husband died of cancer last winter. Scruton is survived by her

children, Alicia, 2, and Todd, 6.

Robert Beal said his parents waited at the airport in Korea to meet Scruton's flight, but the plane never arrived. Finally, all those waiting for the plane were brought into a conference with officials and were told what had happened.

Pentagon sources said Thursday that the plane was shot down by a missile over Soviet territorial waters near Sakhalin Island.

Scruton's father-in-law, Raymond Scruton of Ludlow, Mass., told United Press International that shooting down the plane was a senseless act.

"There was no reason for it," Scruton said. "I can't think of any reason why the Russians would shoot down

an unarmed plane."

Robert Beal said the incident had opened his eyes to the real events of the world.

"Everyone is insensitive to things we see in the news," Beal said. "These events are real events that happen to real people. It's not fantasy."

"They seem to place a lot of emphasis on the senator that was killed. But to some of us the other passengers are just as important."

David Beal said the United States should be strong in dealing with the Soviets.

"We should take a firm stand with the Russians," Beal said, "but not do anything as uncivilized as what they have done."

## Plane's loss called Soviet 'accident'

United Press International

Japanese and Soviet ships searched today for debris from a Korean airliner shot down with 269 people aboard by a Soviet warplane in a "barbaric act" condemned worldwide. The Soviets today called the plane's loss an "accident."

The Soviet Embassy in Paris issued a statement condemning as "absolutely unacceptable" the "hysterical anti-Soviet campaign" by Western governments protesting the shooting down of the Korean Air Lines jet in the northern Japan Sea.

Referring to the plane's loss as an "accident," the statement said the jumbo jetliner twice violated Soviet airspace.

"For two hours the plane's crew did not answer the insistent calls addressed to it in accordance with the universal international code," the embassy statement said.

The Soviet statement did not mention the fate of the plane, but Soviet Ambassador to Japan Vladimir Pavlov told officials in Tokyo that the Russians had detected "signs" of a downed aircraft near Sakhalin Island about 785 miles northwest of the Japanese capital.

Pavlov did not identify the plane as the Korean Air Lines passenger jet, but the location he gave coincided with the Boeing 747's position when it vanished from Japanese radar screens at 2:26 p.m. EDT Wednesday.

The Japanese Maritime Agency said Japanese fishermen in the

area reported seeing a "glowing, expanding fireball" and hearing a loud explosion at the time the plane disappeared.

Pavlov repeated Moscow's denial of U.S. charges that a Soviet warplane deliberately shot down the New York-to-Seoul flight with a heat-seeking missile after the jumbo jet carrying 269 people strayed over a sensitive military area on Soviet-held Sakhalin Island.

There were no known survivors among the 240 passengers and crew of 29.

Rep. Larry McDonald, D-Ga., and chairman of the staunchly anti-communist John Birch Society, was a passenger. Korean Air Lines said today at least 49 other Americans were believed to have been aboard.

In Santa Barbara, Calif., President Reagan decided to end his vacation early and return today to Washington to discuss implications of the attack with advisers and congressional leaders, a White House spokesman said.

A Japanese foreign ministry spokesman said today a patrol boat spotted a 100-yard-wide patch of oil in waters west of Cape Ropchima, on the island's southern tip, 14 miles north of where the plane is thought to have gone down.

However, the foreign ministry complained Japanese rescue ships had to remain outside Soviet territorial waters because Moscow has not responded to requests for official clearance to enter.

## Repairs on fire-damaged Capitol wing underway

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN, Texas — Construction workers moved into the Texas state Capitol Thursday to begin a one-year, \$3.24 million project to repair and renovate the fire-damaged east wing of the 95-year-old building.

The Senate side of the historic pink granite building was severely damaged in a Feb. 6 early morning fire that killed an overnight guest in Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby's private second-floor apartment.

Warrior Constructors of Houston won the contract with a \$3.24 million bid for the work. The Legislature had appropriated \$7 million for the project.

"They have one year to complete it," said Sen. Roy Blake, D-Nacogdoches, chairman of the Senate Administration Committee, which will oversee the work.

The construction contract includes replacement of the air conditioning, heating and mechanical systems and recarpeting and painting in the Senate chamber.

Senate offices on the third floor, damaged by smoke and water, will also be recarpeted, painted and refurbished.

Workers will remove some walls and raise some ceilings to restore the Senate wing to its original appearance. Secretary of the Senate Betty King said the large archways — discovered under walls that had been added since 1886 — will remain.

Fire officials believe the fire began in a defective television set in Hobby's apartment. The attorney general's office has sued the Zenith Radio Corp. for damages.

## Flights could begin in January

# Braniff reorganization hopeful

**United Press International**  
FORT WORTH — A 16-month battle to return at least a portion of the bankrupt Braniff International fleet to the sky is coming to an end.

Federal Bankruptcy Judge John Flowers gave his approval Thursday to a plan calling for the Chicago-based Hyatt Corp. to provide at least \$70 million to put 30 Braniff jets — roughly a third of its fleet — back into service.

The proposal, which drew the support of almost 95 percent of the some 45,000 creditors who voted on the

plan, would provide jobs for 2,000 people — possibly former Braniff employees.

Any of the airline's total 80,000 creditors has 10 days to protest the plan. At the end of the appeals period, Flowers will consider any protests in making his final ruling on the proposal.

Braniff board chairman Howard Putnam, who struggled to save the airline before attorneys filed bankruptcy in May 1982 and who supervised several efforts toward reorganization before resigning as president

## Bootline

### Organizers hope to avoid confusion

by Ronnie Crocker

**Battalion Staff**  
During halftime of Saturday's football game against the University of California, the Class of '84 will form their first senior bootline to welcome the Aggies back onto Kyle Field.

Bootline is a tradition where all Texas A&M seniors are invited onto the field for a yell practice. At the start of the second half, they form two spirit lines that the football players run through as they come out of the stadium tunnels.

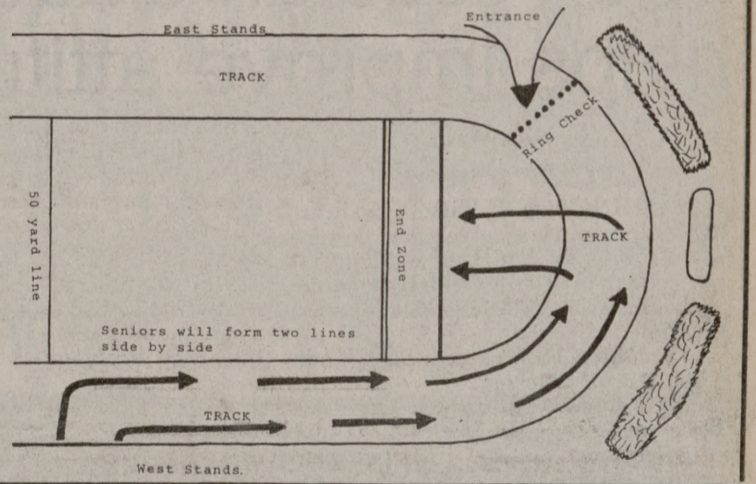
Student body president Joe Jordan asks that seniors use the southeast entrance when coming out of the stands and that they be ready to show some type of proof that they are seniors. Proof includes senior rings, senior boots, I.D. cards, fee slips or any other means of identification.

Seniors are asked to start filing out of the stands at the beginning of halftime because of the problem of getting the large number of participants organized. Jordan says that last year many seniors waited until the Aggie Band finished performing, which caused confusion on the field.

When seniors enter the track area, they will be met by about 10 volunteers from Student Government, the Corps of Cadets and other organizations who will be checking for proof that students are seniors.

The seniors then will be formed into the bootline by more volunteers.

The bootline will begin at the entrance of the stadium tunnel, extend along the track toward the scoreboard and turn up toward the south end goal posts.



## UN Security Council calls urgent meeting

United Press International

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council prepared for an urgent public session today after the United States and South Korea demanded a forum for charges the Soviet Union shot down a Korean airliner in a "flagrant and serious" attack.

U.N. officials said a session of the council was not expected before late today.

Ambassador Charles Lichenstein, the U.S. acting permanent represen-

tative to the United Nations, requested the meeting Thursday in a letter to Security Council President Noel Sinclair of Guyana.

He said the United States considered "that this unprovoked resort to the use of force" by the Soviets "must be deplored and condemned by the international community and by world public opinion."

"Upon instructions of my government, I request, in association with the Republic of Korea, that you convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider this serious matter," Lichenstein said.

In a long letter that detailed the downing with a Soviet air-to-air missile of the South Korean airlines Boeing 747 aircraft, he labeled the action "a flagrant and serious attack on the safety of international civil aviation."

The call came on Sinclair's first day on the job. He took over the monthly rotated post as council president from French Ambassador Luc de la Barre de Nanteuil Thursday.

Lichenstein is acting permanent representative in the absence of Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick who is on vacation in Rabat, Morocco.

Other than hearing grievances in a public debate there is little action the council can take against the Soviet Union, which as a permanent member has veto power over any decision.

A spokesman for Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is on a private visit to Portugal, issued a brief statement that avoided any condemnation of the incident but said the U.N. chief was following it closely.

"He is deeply saddened by reports of the serious loss of civilian lives," the spokesman said.



Twelfth Man coverage

staff photo by Guy Hood

The news media keep a watchful eye as the Twelfth Man kickoff coverage team receives some final pointers from coach David Beal during practice in Kyle Field

Thursday afternoon. The team is preparing for their opening debut against the California State Golden Bears Saturday evening at 6 p.m.

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### forecast

Today will be partly cloudy and warm with a high near 92. Tonight will be fair and mild with a low near 72.