

Waldo

I'M BACK!

WYLBUR HAS RETURNED HOME AFTER PLANTING TREES ACROSS AMERICA...

WYLBUR!

The Battalion Staff positions

Applications available for:

Assistant city editor Assistant entertainment editor Assistant news editors Assistant sports editors Reporters Reviewers Feature writers Sports writers Columnists Copy editors Photographers Cartoonists Graphic artists Illustrators Clerks

Applications can be picked up in Rm. 216 Reed McDonald Due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 28



Persian Gulf places Navy in danger, commander says

WYLBUR!

COME HERE!

70

By Sherri Roberts Staff Writer

The volatile situation in the Persian Gulf places the U.S. Navy in a constant threat of danger, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Gerald J. O'Donnell said.

In a lecture sponsored by the Mosher Institute for Defense Studies and the Military Studies Institute at Texas A&M, O'Donnell addressed

"The threat in the Gulf is a 24-hour threat," O'Donnell said. O'Donnell, the surface operations

officer for the USS Constellation, recounted his experiences as com-manding officer of the USS Thach and its various assignments.

and its various assignments. Thach, which was deployed to the Persian Gulf from September 1987 to January 1988, contributed to "O-peration Nimble Archer" — the U.S retalitory strike against Iranian oil platforms in the Rostam Oil Field. The guided missile frigue also par The guided missile frigate also par-ticipated in a night engagement in which three Iranian gunboats were sunk near Farsi Island.

O'Donnell said the cultural differ-

Groups urge passage

of 'equity' amendment

ences between the Muslim-domi-nated countries of Iran and Iraq and the Judeo-Christian influenced United States contributes to the tension between them.

"The culture over there is alien to us and ours to them," he said. "The concept of democracy is unheard of there.

Leaders in the Southern Gulf welcome the U.S. presence in the Gulf, he said. The United States, he said, helps maintain the flow of oil, which benefits them economically. How-ever, he said, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini and his followers want to cut off the oil flow and the U.S. Navy's involvement in the Gulf.

O'Donnell said Iraqi air attacks are the largest threats to the Navy's prescence in the Gulf. Explosive water mines and Iranian attacks also are constant threats, he said. The Iranian attackers are meticu-

lous in choosing who they attack, he said. Tankers from the neutral countries of Japan and Greece are favorite targets, he said, because these countries respond with few retaliatory measures.

O'Donnell said tankers from vulnerable countries would times bury themselves among/ ican frigates, to lessen their vis He recalled one such expe

by Kevin Thoma

FOLLOW ME!

AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE WYLBUR?

OOK! YOU DIDN'T PLANT

DOES TOM LANDRY

involving the refuge of a la tanker. An official from an frigate became suspicious after ting the large red dot on these the tanker, he said, and started tioning its commander.

"You could noticeably hear fe the voice of the Japanese com der," he said

O'Donnell said Iranian o furiously criticized the United for its protection of the tanker

"It made you feel good to in you'd reached out and too someone," he said. Although Soviet influence in Gulf is not widespread, O'Dor said Soviet leaders would low have more control of the area.

"Russians) are big arms sell both sides in the Gulf," he said. O'Donnell said he never fe strained regarding rules of gagement — rules that deter situations which merit retaliation

FHA mails credit notices to farmers

WASHINGTON (AP) -

AUSTIN (AP) — The Select Committee on Education wrapped recommendation by member up its work Tuesday after urging Charles Miller of Houston that a

The committee turned down a

ALL STUDENTS

(Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors and Grads) can get their pictures taken for the 1989 Aggieland until the end of the week.

Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. YBA Studio on Northgate above Campus Photo 846-8856

lawmakers to consider a constitutional amendment on the state school finance system — if a judge's ruling against the system is upheld.

The panel, appointed to examine the finance system and other issues, to change the Texas Constitution.

But members said an amendment should be considered because State District Judge Harley Clark's deci-sion would require such extreme changes to their educational system.

Clark last year ruled the system is unconstitutional because it does not ensure each district has the same ability to obtain money to educate students.

Committee Chairman Larry Jenkins of Austin said if equity is required for every student in every district then compliance would be difficult to achieve.

The committee on Monday recommended options to the Legis-lature that would change the finance system to ensure most students are in an equitable system.

The committee also recom-mended other changes, including a

didn't decide what is equity, and what is the right degree of equity."

constitutional amendment is needed to set such a standard apart from whatever the final court ruling may

Miller said it is important to clardid not recommend specific wording ify the constitution on one of the most important issues they'll face.

But board member Will Davis of Austin said a constitutional amendment won't be needed if the Supreme Court rules for the state.

The ruling, which has been ap-pealed by the state, now is pending in the 3rd Court of Appeals

Gov. Bill Clements is pushing for constitutional amendment that yould put authority for the school finance system solely with the Legislature.

'I'm not sure very many people think we ought to have the courts out entirely," Jenkins said. "I think trying to leave it up to the courts tohow much money we ought to spend, is probably the other ex-treme. Some place in the middle is realistic.

students and a longer school year. "Our constitution requires us to have equity," Jenkins said. "No one quarrels with that. Unfortunately, it didn't decide what is equity, and possible because of the state's ded-ication to local control.

began mailing thousands (tices Tuesday to farmers wh past due on loans, with me of Congress criticizing the election timing and promis move would be scrutinized.

FHA spokesman Marly cock said about 83,500 would be mailed through N 25, with about 6,500 going Texas farmers.

The agency had said ea that 90,000 letters would be in an effort to collect \$8.8 bi in past-due loans but Aycock some had since been paid The collection effort comes der rules implementing credit legislation that took ef

Monday. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, a T Democrat and chairman of Senate Finance Committee cused the FHA of holdingth ters back until after the N presidential election for "po reasons," although the ag had the letters in hand "we fore the election.'

'That is no way to admin program that is so importa our nation's farmers, and it way to treat the 6,500 or s ans who are getting the lett said Bentsen, the Demot nominee for vice president.

