

The Battalion

Vol. 88 No. 138 USPS 045360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, April 21, 1989

WEATHER
 FORECAST for SATURDAY:
 Mostly cloudy in the morning with a partly cloudy and hot afternoon. Temperatures will be 5-10 degrees above normal.
 HIGH:88 LOW:65



Navy continues looking for cause of Iowa explosion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bodies of 47 sailors killed in the gun explosion on the Iowa arrived in the United States on Thursday as the Navy tried to figure out what caused the battleship's turret to blow up.

None of the guns in the No. 2 turret had been fired before the explosion killed the seamen, Navy officials said. They discarded a theory that the blast had been sparked by red-hot debris left in the gun's breech by earlier rounds.

The Navy organized a board of inquiry and placed a moratorium on firing 16-inch guns, found only on the Iowa and its three sister battleships, the New Jersey, the Wisconsin and the Missouri.

The Iowa was headed back to its home port at Norfolk, Va., while the bodies of the dead were flown to the military mortuary at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware and families of the battleship's 1,600 crewmen learned whether their relatives were among the dead.

At the White House, chief of staff John Sununu announced President Bush will attend a memorial service Monday for the victims in Norfolk.

The blast occurred Wednesday morning northeast of Puerto Rico as the Iowa took part in firing exercises that were part of naval training.

A spokesman for the Atlantic Fleet and the ship's former captain both said the explosion in the No. 2 turret could have been triggered by red-hot debris from earlier firings in the three-gun turret.

But Cmdr. Mark Baker, chief of the Navy's Pentagon press office, said later that none of the turret's three guns had been fired.

Only four rounds of 22 scheduled to be fired as part of a training exercise had been fired, he said, and all had been from the No. 1 turret, forward of the one that exploded.

No eyewitnesses survived

Wednesday's explosion behind one of the 16-inch guns on the Iowa, one of the largest warships ever.

Pentagon officials declined to speculate publicly about the exact cause of the disaster, the worst to strike a Navy ship since 1977, but two officers — Capt. Paul Hanley, a fleet spokesman, and Capt. Larry Seaquist, the ship's former captain — said a possible explanation was that red-hot debris from a previous round ignited new charges.

But Seaquist stressed, "We simply do not know what caused that powder to go."

Baker said no guns in the No. 2 turret had been fired and the order had just been given to the No. 2 turret crew to load and prepare the center gun when the explosion occurred.

"We have no eyewitnesses to what actually transpired," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney told reporters as he headed back to Washington from a NATO meeting in Brussels.

The Iowa sailed to Roosevelt Roads Navy Base in Puerto Rico to unload the bodies, which were then flown to Delaware. Navy investigators boarded the ship as it left for Norfolk, where it is expected to arrive Sunday or Monday.

Navy Secretary William Ball attended a memorial service at the Delaware base, home of the armed services' largest mortuary. The flag-draped coffins were carried off a plane by Navy honor guards.

Around the United States, Navy officers and chaplains broke the bad news to the dead men's next of kin.

The job began just before midnight Wednesday, when officials in Norfolk received the list of the dead.

The commander of the U.S. 2nd Fleet, Adm. Jerome Johnson, who was on board the Iowa, told reporters in Puerto Rico, "The fire and explosion was instantaneous."

University Tower will provide benefits unavailable in dorms

By Richard Tijerina
STAFF WRITER

Living at University Tower may be more expensive than on-campus housing, but leasing agent Jamie Sandel said Texas A&M students will be willing to pay a little more for better quality.

"I think they'll want to pay more for better facilities," Sandel said. "I know I would. The services we have to offer are just tremendous compared to a regular dorm. The way our general manager looks at a dorm is that it should be just like home."

Hotel officials announced Wednesday that the 17-story University Hotel in College Station will change its name to University Tower and become a private, co-educational dormitory in fall 1989.

The 304-room hotel will house about 700 students, Sandel said, and it will provide numerous benefits on-campus dormitories don't, including a swimming pool, weight room, computer room, sundeck, game room, TV room and a sports court.

The rooms will also have refrigerators, telephones and televisions.

However, the cost of a room and meal plan at the hotel will be significantly higher than for on-campus housing. For example, the most expensive housing and meal plan on campus is about \$3,500 a semester.

The cost of a housing and meal plan at the University Tower will be between \$3,600 and \$7,600 for nine months, depending on the type of the room and the number of occupants in it.

Tom Murray, assistant director of Student Affairs, said he was interested in seeing how students

react to the costs of the hotel compared to the advantages it provides.

"The cost of what they're providing is more than what we provide," Murray said. "They certainly are providing more services than we are."

"It'll be interesting to see how that weighs against the things students like about on-campus housing — convenience, cost, the different styles available and now the availability of coed dorms."

Murray said the University Tower has no connection to the University and has not contacted Student Affairs about student referrals or publicity. He said the hotel is direct competition to his office.

He said the hotel is opening at a bad time because on-campus housing has six new dormitories and has offered new housing contracts to everyone who's applied.

"We don't even have waiting lists anymore," he said. "The pool they might have been able to draw from in the past isn't going to be the same this year. That's not to say a lot of our students won't cancel and see it's a golden opportunity — that may happen."

He said students who already have signed a contract for on-campus housing will lose part or all of their \$200 security deposit if they break their contract, depending on how late in the semester they break it.

The first cancellation deadline for breaking a contract was April 15 — before that date students could receive their entire \$200 deposit back. If they break their contract by May 30, they will receive \$150 of it. If they break



University Inn will become University Tower and provide dorm space in the fall. Photo by Jay Janner

See Tower/Page 9

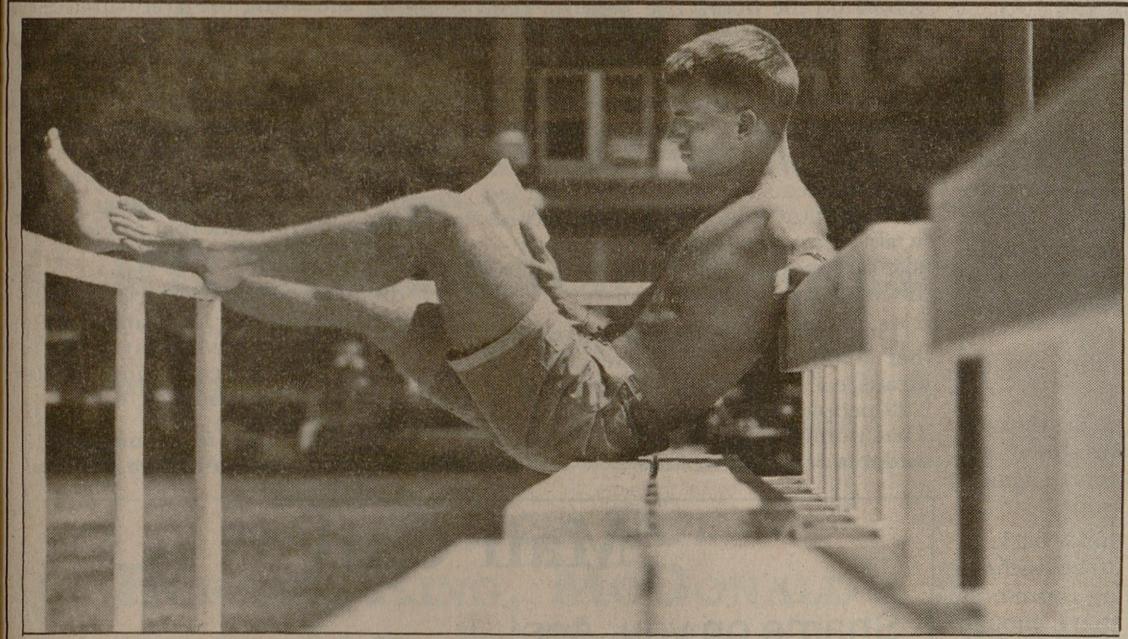


Photo by Kathy Haveman

Kick back

Kirby Fry, a senior forestry major from Houston, relaxes in the sun and reads a book on the stands at Simpson Drill Field Thursday. Fry is a member of Squadron 4.

North's fate now in jury's hands; judge denies motion for mistrial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The jury in Oliver North's Iran-Contra trial was dispatched Thursday to decide the guilt or innocence of the former White House aide with the judge's admonition that no one, including the president, had "the legal authority to order anyone to violate the law."

North has said he had authority from superiors including, he believed, President Reagan, for many of his actions in behalf of the Nicaraguan rebels at a time when official U.S. aid was banned.

Because of the lateness of the hour, jurors were sent to the nearby hotel where they will be sequestered, and ordered to begin deliberations on Friday.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell told them "your job is to decide the facts" in the first trial stemming from the mid-1980s affair in which profits from arms sales to Iran were

diverted to aid the Nicaraguan rebels.

The judge was specific in his instruction about North's contention that he acted under orders from top White House officials and, he assumed, with Reagan's approval.

"Neither the president nor any of the defendant's superiors had the legal authority to order anyone to violate the law," Gesell said.

"Neither the president nor any of the defendant's superiors had the legal authority to order anyone to violate the law."

— Gerhard Gesell, U.S. District Judge

"Our country is governed by the rule of law. You have heard testimony indicating that other govern-

ment officials may in some respects have concealed facts known to them, and some ranking above or below the defendant may have engaged in conduct similar to that charged against the defendant on trial."

But, he said, the conduct of others was no justification for North's conduct and "you are not to judge the defendant's guilt or innocence based solely on the actions of others."

The judge's charge was delayed for a half day by a problem involving jurors who may have given misleading answers in pre-trial questioning. When he convened court in the afternoon, Gesell said he had denied a North motion for a mistrial, filed on grounds that "the jury had been infected by publicity about some of its members."

The five alternates were dismissed after Gesell gave the instructions and were driven home.

Football passes will be coded on student I.D. cards in fall

By Kelly S. Brown
STAFF WRITER

Remember when it was mandatory to bring an all-sports pass and a student I.D. card to pick up tickets for games? Long lines, sweltering heat and grumpy people. Well, no more.

Or at least that's what the Athletic Department is hoping.

Beginning this fall, students who have purchased a football coupon book or an all-sports pass will have the option placed into coding on their identification cards. Cards can be read for this option like I.D. cards are read for meal plans in dining halls.

Penny King, business manager for the Athletic Department, said the plan has been on the drawing table for three years. The department expects the plan to be faster and more efficient.

Two potential problems with the new system kept cropping up that had to be panned out, King said. The problems were that students who ride the bus and students who eat at the dining halls in the past often gave friends their ticket book to pick up their tickets.

Under the new plan, the student would give the friend an I.D. card to get tickets, so they might not have their I.D. card to get on the bus or to get into the dining hall.

The problem with the bus passes has been solved. Doug Williams, director of bus operations, said starting in the fall bus passes will be separated from the I.D.

card. Instead of putting a sticker on the I.D. card, he said, "some other form of bus pass will be issued."

Wally Groff, associate athletic director, said problems are inevitable, but it's a workable system and it will eliminate hassle for the students.

As for the problem with the dining halls, Groff said the department is working with food services and will have some sort of plan by September.

King said both the Athletic Department and the students will benefit greatly from the change.

"In the long run money will be saved, because the cost of printing coupon books won't be there," King said. "Also, it will allow us to keep better accounting figures."

The student I.D. card will be better protected under this new system, she said.

"If a student reports a lost I.D. card, that will go into the computer and if someone tries to use it — they'll be caught," King said. "Also, the name of who is drawing tickets for anyone else will remain in the computer."

Another benefit the system will give the students, King said, is if a student's credit hours rise in the summer, putting him in a higher classification, then the computer will pick this up as soon as the paper work is processed in Heaton Hall. This hasn't been possible in the past.

King said the policy for drawing tickets will remain the same — only the method will change.

"The Athletic Department is asking for patience and cooperation from the students," she said. "Arrangements can be made on the students' parts, and they'll see it will be more advantageous in the long run."

Aggie Muster will honor deceased in 400 locations

By Fiona Soltes
STAFF WRITER

Aggie Muster, the final roll call for those Aggies who have died within the last year, will be tonight at 7 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The ceremony also will be performed in 400 locations worldwide and televised by satellite.

During the ceremony, names of the deceased are read aloud. Friends and family answer, "Here," to represent the deceased in spirit.

On the A&M campus, roll will be called for Brazos Valley residents, students who have died since the last Muster, names by special request and deceased from the Class of '39, who will be special guests for their 50th reunion year.

The speaker for this year's ceremony on campus is Texas Sen. Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville, a

1974 graduate of A&M. Following a final farewell to the deceased, the Ross Volunteers will give a 21-gun salute and "Taps" will be played. The Singing Cadets also will perform.

Alison Westmoreland, a Muster committee member, said the first Muster was in 1903 to honor the men who died during the struggle for Texas independence. Muster is held on San Jacinto Day, the anniversary of the 1836 defeat of the Mexican army under Gen. Santa Anna by Sam Houston's forces.

She said the ceremony gained national recognition in 1942 when performed by men under Gen. Moore, Class of '08, while under fire on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II. Fifteen days later, the island fell to the Japanese. Since then, Muster has been performed around the world, Westmoreland said.

An Aggie Muster Endowment Fund has been established for future Musters with the sale of commemorative nickel, bronze, silver and gold coins.

Hooded gunmen kill U.S. officer in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Hooded gunmen killed an American military officer Friday as he was driving to work at the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group headquarters, U.S. and Filipino officials said.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Jerry Huchel said Army Lt. Col. James N. Rowe was pronounced dead on arrival at a Philippine military hospital and his body was flown to Clark Air Base, 50 miles north of Manila.

Col. Victor Tiangco of the Philippine military's Capital Region Command said Rowe was chief of the army division at the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group. He said Rowe's chauffeur was wounded in the shooting and was in serious condition.

Tiangco said the assailants opened fire with M-16 rifles as the victim's car approached the group compound in suburban Quezon City about 7:10 a.m. Tiangco said 21 bullets struck the car.

He said the assailants sped away. Witnesses said the victim's car was able to reach the compound, about two blocks from the shooting.

soned
when the Texas Tw...
ounded: the rockabil...
Hams on Rye, the...
blues band High C...
hard rock band OZ...
the musicians are ab...
musical roots in th...
mat. "We've matured...
I guess it's seasoning...
well seasoned."

f fame,
band

one wants to learn...
own, however, and...
available locally for...
most any instrument...
of Bryan teaches pian...
a student on voice, w...
most of her students...
id.

the burgeoning mus...
d, is not something...
er students, she said...
to make people prac...
don't want to," she...
one of her students...
ing, she tried to encour...
change his mind.

work," she said...
ire him to practice...
id work theory paper...
to make a great accou...
y. So I said, "Do you...
ould help me set up a...
r you? Could you be...
ks?"

was a complete prac...
ritten by the young st...
esented to Watts at th...

ANTED:
rprising
Starters

business starts
g it's time to
out expanding
eration. Adver...
the Classifieds
right person to
job not only
good sense, it
ults!

a you have
em to sell, a
page to get
s, a product
y, a service
vertise...en...
sising people
our Classi...
for fast,
omical and
ive results!

CALL
5-2611
Battalion