

# Texas A&M The Battalion

U.S.S. McCall comes up roses



A&M lineman spends summer tending flowers, preparing for 1990-91 football season.

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Vol. 89 No. 190 USPS 045360 12 Pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, August 22, 1990

## White House refuses to negotiate, demands withdrawal of Iraqi army

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — The White House on Tuesday rebuffed an offer from Iraq to negotiate, saying "the world is united" in demanding the unconditional withdrawal of Saddam Hussein's army from Kuwait.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Western nations are willing to talk to Iraqi officials about the welfare of their citizens held in Iraq and Kuwait.

"But that's not the same as negotiations over a U.N. demand to get out," said the press secretary. He declined to respond to what he called the latest "litany" of criticism of Bush from Saddam.

Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, said in Amman, Jordan, Tuesday that "we are ready to talk" and "put all the cards on the table" at a U.N. Security Council meeting. Aziz and Saddam, in separate statements, warned that the United States would be defeated and "humiliated" if it went to war against Iraq.

Fitzwater said Iraqi officials have refused to give a U.S. diplomat access to Americans, and he added, "At this point we see very little to talk about when all we get are negative responses."

The White House also announced that Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, returning from a trip through the tense Middle East, and Gen.

Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will fly to Maine Wednesday to confer with Bush at his oceanfront vacation home. Among the matters they will discuss are a planned call-up of military reserves.

Fitzwater said Bush will not sign before Wednesday the order calling up reserves to fill in the ranks of doctors, cargo handlers and other specialists depleted by the massive deployment of U.S. troops to defend Saudi Arabia.

The number of reservists to be called was still unspecified. One administration official said privately the order may be open-ended.

Chief of Staff John Sununu said it will be a "very surgical, specialized call-up."

Fitzwater said 18 Americans got out of Kuwait Tuesday but "there are still 54 Americans missing" — 13 in Kuwait and 41 in Iraq.

"It does appear that citizens of all nations are being moved about in Iraq to unknown destinations," he said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said there were "credible reports" that Iraq had forced some Westerners to industrial installations and said an American in Kuwait was seized in his home and interned in a hotel.

Boucher said the reports had not been confirmed, nor was it known whether Americans

were among those taken to plants.

The buildup of U.S. forces continued in Saudi Arabia.

At the Pentagon, Gen. Hansford T. Johnson, the top official responsible for getting troops and supplies to Saudi Arabia, said security rules prevented him from disclosing the exact number of ground troops there or on the way but that "we've moved in essence" the equivalent of a town the size of Jefferson City, Mo.

Preliminary 1990 census figures put Jefferson City's population at 35,408.

An additional 20,000 or so sailors are deployed on warships in the area.

Fitzwater spoke with reporters at the Woodlands Country Club in Falmouth, Maine, while Bush was out golfing at a tournament raising \$200,000 for Maine Gov. John McKernan's reelection drive.

Fitzwater stressed that it was not the United States alone but "all nations" that were demanding Iraq to end its occupation of Kuwait.

"We demand complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait," the spokesman said. "That is the position of the United Nations and that's the position of all nations."

"I'm sure all nations are interested in the welfare of their citizens, interested in talking to Iraq at any point," he said.

## Stance against Iraq strengthens

Arab and Western nations toughened their resolve against Saddam Hussein on Tuesday, condemning his threats against the hostages and adding more muscle to the force intended to strangle his economy and drive him out of Kuwait.

In a speech directed to President Bush, Saddam defended detaining foreigners and promised "a major catastrophe" if fighting breaks out in the Persian Gulf. Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, called for a negotiated settlement, but did not offer to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Arab efforts to counter the Iraqi aggression grew. Egypt, which has led Arab opposition to the invasion, urged Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait or face a war "that will devour everything."

Syria formally announced it was sending troops to Saudi Arabia.

Yemen promised to turn away an Iraqi oil tanker, but questions about its intentions surfaced when at least two

Iraqi oil tankers appeared in its port.

In London, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher urged the United Nations to authorize the use of military action to stop Iraqi tankers in the Persian Gulf. Thatcher said she would refuse to negotiate with Iraq to win freedom for Britain's 4,500 hostages.

"As President Bush pointed out yesterday, Saddam Hussein is trying in his tactics to hide behind Western women and children and use them as human shields and use them as part of his negotiations," she said at a news conference.

Of the 3,000 Americans trapped in Iraq and Kuwait by the invasion, 54 are believed to have been seized by Iraqi authorities, the State Department says.

At the first all-European meeting on the crisis, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy said in Paris they were sending warships to the region.

To bolster U.S. forces depleted by the massive deployment of troops in Saudi Arabia, Bush planned to order thousands of military reservists into active duty.

## Turtle lady aids endangered species, teaches others about plight of turtles

The environment seems to be a popular topic these days, but for more than a decade before Earth Day, Ila Loetscher, "the turtle lady" of South Padre Island, has been helping endangered sea turtles and teaching people about how to make their world a safer place for marine life.

Loetscher founded Sea Turtle, Inc. in 1978, said Vice President Diane Colley. It is a non-profit organization aimed at protecting all marine turtle species, especially the Kemp's ridley sea turtles. Its ultimate goal is to restore the endangered turtles' population.

To reach its goal, the organization sponsors awareness programs to educate the public about the plight of

the turtles. Perhaps the most popular of these programs are the Meet the Turtles shows, said Colley.

Loetscher shows the turtles on the deck of her back yard, where the tanks are kept. During the show, people may ask questions and even touch the turtles.

The stars of Loetscher's show are the sick or injured turtles she cares for who are unable to return to the wild. All of the turtles are handicapped in some way, with the exception of a few, Colley said.

Loetscher and several volunteers are currently caring for 14 turtles, said Colley. The number usually increases in the winter because the turtles, which are used to tropical and subtropical temperatures, become immobilized and may die when the temperature drops too low. They are released when the danger has passed.

Money to care for these turtles comes strictly from donations, Colley said. They receive no government funds.

Through donations, Sea Turtle, Inc. established a development fund at Texas A&M that contributes to research in the reproductive biology of the Kemp's ridley turtles to aid in the restoration of the ridley population.

But the key to the future of the turtles lies in education. Pollution, for example, probably kills more turtles than any other factor, she said.

Loetscher heads the only educational program of its kind in the area, Colley said.

"If we can teach one person about the turtles," she said, "we are successful."



Dianne Colley, vice president of Sea Turtle, Inc., holds Gerry, a 25 pound female Atlantic Green turtle, at a show on South Padre Island. Colley substituted for "the turtle lady," Ila Loetscher.

### Moving in



Daniel Boothe, 8, helps his sister Shannon Boothe, a freshman from San Antonio, move into Clements Residence Hall Monday.

### Fire engulfs student's car in campus lot

A Texas A&M graduate student watched his 1972 Volkswagen Beetle catch fire and become engulfed in flames in minutes after he attempted to prime it into starting Monday afternoon.

The car was in Parking Lot 50 across from the Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center on campus when Joel Brent Davis, a computer science graduate student, tried to start his car at about 2:30 p.m. Monday.

Davis poured gasoline into the car's carburetor in an attempt to prime it. Gary Stevener of the College Station Fire Department said.

After starting the engine, flames came out of the rear of the car and Davis ran to call help, Stevener said.

When the fire department arrived on the scene, the VW Beetle was engulfed in flames and was destroyed.

Stevener said the fire department had the blaze under control within minutes.

There were no injuries reported and no other cars were in the area of the fire.

### A&M, UT cosponsor minority outreach center

Attending college could become a reality for more Hispanic and African-American middle-schoolers in Corpus Christi since a new minority outreach center opened there Tuesday.

The center, jointly sponsored by Texas A&M and the University of Texas, is the fifth outreach program location to open since A&M and UT agreed in 1987 to increase minority enrollment in their institutions using the centers.

Students also are prepared to attend colleges other than those in the two sponsoring university systems.

The centers focus on counseling and direct contact with students, parents and school personnel.

Last year, outreach center personnel contacted more than 50,000 students, parents, teachers, and junior high and high school counselors in

San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and McAllen. The sixth center will open soon in Austin.

If the students decide to come to A&M, they have a good chance of graduating, according to recent figures.

About 86 percent of all African-American students and 87 percent of Hispanic students who come to A&M earn degrees. This compares with 90 percent graduation rates for non-minority students.

Kevin Carreathers, director of the Department of Multicultural Services, said A&M leads the state in minority student retention.

A&M President William Mobley and UT-Austin President William Cunningham were featured speakers at the opening of the center in Bonilla Plaza.

Representatives from the A&M University System Board of Regents and Corpus Christi Independent School District also participated in the ceremonies.

### Professor's prediction comes true Rudder Oak transplant fails

A Texas A&M horticulture professor strongly opposed to the transplanting of the MSC trees said he was not surprised by the death of the "Rudder Oak" last week.

After months of intense summer heat and several transportation problems, the tree known as the Rudder Oak died and was chopped down by A&M Grounds Maintenance crews.

"My prophecy is coming true," said Dr. J. Benton Storey, a professor in the Department of Horticulture. "I had hoped it wouldn't happen and that I would be wrong, but it happened anyway. It was a foregone conclusion that the Rudder Oak would die."

Storey said the tree was too large, the soil too poor for transplanting, and the summer too long and hot for it to survive.

He also said the Rudder Oak had two extensive root systems and neither totally was saved during the transplant.

Dennis Busch, assistant University Center manager, said the tree had been transplanted in early March and moved about 60 feet north to its most recent location near the MSC.

The Faculty Senate, led by Storey and other senators, asked the A&M administration last fall to find an alternate plan to save the trees, but the administration did not act on the recommendation.

Eugene Ray, director of A&M Grounds Maintenance, said Instant Shade, the company contracted to handle the move, used the "boxing method" to transport the trees near the MSC.

Ray described the boxing method, saying the contractor used a large wooden box to move the tree and its root system.

Ray said this method is an alternative to the traditional bind-and-burlap system used to move smaller trees.

Busch said several trees had to be transplanted because of the MSC expansion project.

He said, however, unlike the four trees left in their

boxes on the southwest corner near the MSC post office, the oak tree quickly had been replanted.

"The tree was transferred quickly to avoid any unnecessary stress on the root system," Busch said.

Ray said the oak had not been doing well since late July because of the unusually early summer heat and other transportation problems.

"The tree was transferred four months late," Ray said. "We wanted to move it in December but a contract problem delayed the move until in March."

He also said after the tree had been placed in the box, a large concrete structure was discovered underneath the planned spot for the tree. Ray said all of these factors led to the deteriorating health of the tree.

"We tried almost every method to save the oak," Ray said. "But it was too late, it would just not respond to any treatment."

Storey said Instant Shade did its best to save the Rudder Oak, but he said it was tough for him to watch the tree die.

"There were too many strikes against that tree," he said.

But Storey said he doesn't think the Rudder Oak will be the last of the transplanted trees to die.

Ray said A&M chose Instant Shade, which is a nursery based in Houston, because the company had an excellent record of transplanting trees.

"This (tree) is only one of a very few trees that Instant Shade has lost," Ray said.

Officials at Instant Shade could not be reached for comment.

The oak which died early last week came to be known as the Rudder Oak when Maj. Gen. J. Earl Rudder, A&M's 16th president, fought to save the tree when the MSC first was under construction in the late '50s.

Since then many A&M students have referred to the tree as the Rudder Oak.

However, that oak tree near the MSC might not be the only Rudder Oak on campus.

Busch said another oak tree on the University President William Mobley's yard has a plaque stating it is the Rudder Oak.

"Any way you look at it, A&M lost a lot of tradition when that tree died," Busch said.