



The wait is over

Lady Ag spiker returns to court

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Bush prepares video message, extols chance to address Iraq

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — President Bush will accept Saddam Hussein's offer to broadcast a message to Iraq, but only on his own terms, Bush's spokesman said Thursday. The president will make a tape in lieu of an interview with an Iraqi TV crew.

"It's a real opportunity," Bush said of Saddam's offer to televise the U.S. leader's comments. Bush's spokesman said the president had "a very distinct message" to give the Iraqi people about American reasons for the massive military buildup in the Persian Gulf.

Iraqi Ambassador Mohamed al-Mashat said in Washington that "of course" Iraqi TV would air Bush's message "in its entirety without editing. Here you edit, in Iraq we do not edit."

On another topic, looking ahead to this weekend's superpower summit, Bush said he will use the meeting not only to discuss the Persian Gulf with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev but to press for a quick resolution to strategic arms talks.

Before embarking on a one-day political trip to Kansas and Florida on Thursday, Bush spoke by telephone with a number of world leaders on the Gulf situation and his upcoming meeting with Gorbachev. They included Syrian President Ha-

fez al-Assad, Turkish President Turgut Ozal, French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the White House said.

He also called United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to thank him for his unsuccessful try at resolving the Gulf crisis in talks last week in Iraq.

Bush also met Thursday with Israel's visiting foreign minister, David Levy in Washington.

The president did not comment further on the offer to address the Iraqi people, but his press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, said the White House would be happy to tape a message of 10 or 15 minutes.

Naji al-Hadithi, director general of Iraq's Information Ministry, said in Baghdad that an Iraqi television crew was ready to go to Washington to interview Bush for a broadcast on state-run television.

Fitzwater said that wouldn't be necessary — "we'll produce it ourselves."

"Although we have not heard from Iraq directly, we accept their offer of a broadcast to the Iraqi people," Fitzwater told reporters accompanying Bush on Air Force One. "The president

will tape a message to the Iraqi people in the next few days which will be provided to the Iraqi information minister."

Bush has said he wished he could have the media access in Iraq that Saddam has had on U.S. television. The Iraqi president's statements and appearances have been broadcast widely, many of them on live and unedited CNN reports.

"The president has a very distinct message that he wants to give to the people of Iraq about our purpose for being in the Gulf. He thinks this is a good opportunity," Fitzwater said.

On a separate matter, Fitzwater said that there is no new economic package for the Soviet Union in the offing, although the Sunday summit meeting in Helsinki will offer a chance to talk about "technical assistance."

He had said on Wednesday that because of Soviet cooperation in the United Nations-led sanctions against Iraq, Bush was willing to look anew at potential financial aid for the ailing Soviet economy.

Fitzwater noted Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher was leading a team of American business executives to Moscow to discuss investment opportunities.

Cain addition bids exceed estimate

By TROY HALL
 Of The Battalion Staff

Construction bids for the Cain Hall addition were higher than expected, said Maj. Gen. Wesley Peel, vice chancellor for facilities and planning of the Texas A&M University System.

The low bid of \$771,000, presented by Chappell Hill Construction Co. of Brenham, was approximately \$63,500 higher than an estimate provided by Emmett Trant and Associates, an architecture and engineering firm.

The 4,031-square-foot addition will provide a computer lab, study cubicles and tutorial areas for male and female athletes, who presently have no area for academic support.

The expansion plans also include renovation of the kitchen and dining facilities to accommodate 80 to 100 female athletes who will be assigned to dine in

Cain Hall, Moffatt Adams, chief architect for the facilities and planning division of the System, said.

"The kitchen facilities were designed 20 years ago and have been in operation for 17 years," Adams said. "Since then, we haven't done a thing to upgrade the kitchen or the dining facilities."

"We have been working with Lloyd Smith, director of food services, to bring Cain Hall up to date with Sbsa, Duncan Hall and the Commons."

He said the plans also provide for more serving space to ensure better service.

The Board of Regents must approve the bid by Chappell Hill Construction Co. at its meeting in October before construction will begin.

The estimated cost of the entire project is \$1 million and should be completed in Fall 1991.

Survival is awareness Students more cautious after gruesome slayings

By SUZANNE CALDERON
 Of The Battalion Staff

The recent murders of five students at the University of Florida in Gainesville have heightened students' awareness of personal safety on college campuses nationwide.

Although some students at UF are packing handguns for protection, Texas A&M students with safety concerns have some protection options when on campus, but handguns are not one of them.

It is illegal to carry handguns in Texas, but self-defense items such as Mace, stun guns and tear gas canisters are legal, Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department said.

Even though these items are legal, citizens using Mace, stun guns or tear gas canisters are accountable for their actions, Wiatt said.

Wiatt stressed the importance of being familiar with any type of self-defense item before using it. This prevents misuse and enables effective use in times of danger.

"If a person has any kind of weaponry, like martial arts ability, tear gas, a hat pin or a fingernail file they are familiar with and feel they could use in a moment of being attacked, then it's naturally going to be of benefit to them," Wiatt said.

"Anything a person is familiar with and stands ready to use, I would think that's very prudent," he said.

One self-defense item is tear gas, available in a liquid as chemical Mace or as a gas in a small canister.

Karen Fletcher is president of Houston's RKJ Enterprises, distributors of a personal-sized tear gas canister called Curb. She said this is one of the first times tear gas canisters have been available to the public.

Senior Officer Walter Sayers, with College Station Police's Crime Prevention Unit, said liquid tear gas is known as the chemical brand Mace

and has been available to the public for as long as he can remember. He said other repellents include concoctions with red pepper.

A sergeant with the Brazos County Sheriff's Department said Mace can be shot in a directed stream but tear gas cannot be contained to one direction and will engulf an area.

While Fletcher said tear gas is more effective than other defense sprays on the market because the gas does not have to hit the attacker in the face to work, Sayers warned it can affect the user.

"You might have a reaction violent enough to render yourself disabled and what good will that do you?" Sayers said.

"If you're in a panic and not thinking about the way the wind is blowing, you're going to be completely defenseless," he continued. "It's the same way with a stun gun. If you accidentally put it against your skin, you're going to be in a predicament."

Sayers said if people are going to use these types of defenses, they should be trained and certified to use them to their advantage. He said users are liable if attackers are injured because of a weapon's use against them.

Wiatt said all the weapons in the world won't help in an emergency situation if they are not available at that moment. This makes awareness the best defense, he said.

He said rather than taking courses in martial arts or weaponry, people need to follow common sense awareness.

This includes not walking alone at night, staying away from dark areas and not opening the door to strangers.

"The exercise of common sense and awareness that there could be problems anywhere in this world — that is the best defense from any kind of attacker," he said.

Bus incident



Charlie Falco, dispatcher for bus operations, examines an A&M shuttle bus trapped against a tree at the intersection of Ross and Ireland streets across from the Bus Stop Snack Bar. The driver of the bus took a right turn too sharply.

Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

Panel plans to issue fraud allegations report

By STACY ALLEN
 Of The Battalion Staff

A report by a scientific administrative panel appointed to review Texas A&M's cold fusion experimentation will be issued in three to four weeks, an A&M official said.

A controversy erupted Wednesday after a Dallas Morning News article referred to the review as an investigation of fraud in cold fusion experiments.

The newspaper article quoted a June 15 Science magazine article that suggested A&M's cold fusion experimentation might have been tainted by fraud. Science charged A&M officials with doing little to investigate the allegations.

The Morning News article stated A&M officials would submit results of a report this week after the University decided to

conduct an inquiry when media members became concerned.

A&M Provost E. Dean Gage said the Dallas Morning News article was not true and denied an investigation was being conducted.

"It is not a formal investigation into cold fusion fraud," he said. "It's a review into what we are doing in cold fusion throughout the University."

Gage said he did not know what the results of the report would be and believed it was improper to speculate.

"I have no idea at this point, and I have had no preliminary information given to me by the panel," he said.

Gage would not specify who composed the panel, but the Morning News article said representatives included a nuclear chemist, a physicist and a nuclear engineer.

APO helps reroof elderly Bryan woman's house

By BILL HETHCOCK
 Of The Battalion Staff

Spending a Saturday reroofing a house isn't most people's idea of fun, but that's what members of Alpha Phi Omega will be doing this weekend.

About 20 APO members will join Elder Aid, a non-profit organization that assists elderly people in the community, and reroof a Bryan woman's house, Sara Loeppart of Elder Aid said.

Several professors also will help out on the project, she said.

Mike Bradley, president of APO, said the woman approached several government and community organizations before she went to Elder Aid, but none of them would help with the expense and labor of reroofing her house.

Then she asked Elder Aid for assistance, and APO, a service-oriented fraternity, was contacted, Bradley said.

"Her roof has been leaking into her house for some time now, and we're going to go fix it for her," Bradley said.

He said the materials for the project will cost \$400. About half is being donated by the A&M Methodist Church, and the rest is being funded by a local builder.

Bradley said the project will take about five or six hours. Some of the students who signed up to help have roofing experience, and the professors who volunteered also have construction experience, Bradley said.

The reroofing project is one of the community service activities APO will participate in this year, Bradley said. He said the fraternity plans to put in 10,000 to 12,000 hours of community service

this semester.

Another project the group has planned includes a "super dance" to raise money for muscular dystrophy. It also will supply the labor for campus blood drives.

The fraternity also provides a babysitting program for faculty and staff, helps with Special Olympics in the spring, and participates in clean up projects in parks and graveyards.

"The purpose is to go out and have fun while we do these projects and get a good feeling from what we do," Bradley said. "It's a great opportunity to practice leadership skills by helping to organize projects."

The A&M chapter of APO has 130 active members.

Anyone interested in joining APO should attend Sunday's meeting at 8 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

Official dispels traditional A&M myths

By KATHERINE COFFEY
 Of The Battalion Staff

No one knows how rumors start, but Texas A&M students sometimes fabricate and circulate myths that are not true.

Questions stemming from rumors often are raised in students' minds. These include: "If a professor is 15 minutes or more late for a class, can students leave?" or "Do you really get a 4.0 grade point ratio if your roommate dies?"

Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. John Koldus said unless stated in the University's Rules and Regula-

tions Handbook, something is not a policy or a general rule.

If an instructor is late, it is up to individual faculty members to notify classes about a walk or even if there is another lecturer for the day, Koldus said.

Junior journalism major Lisa Saucedo said she heard the myth about leaving after 15 minutes if a professor is late, but never has left a class.

"I believed it at first but don't ever remember walking out of a class early because I always wanted to wait around wondering if he would show up and not wanting to miss anything," she said.

The myth about students receiv-

ing a 4.0 GPR if their roommate dies also is not true, Koldus said.

"When there is a death, faculty members are notified," he said. "They are asked to work with students as well as possible. It is the faculty members' responsibility, and they all work with these situations differently," Koldus said.

Another situation students believe true is pedestrians always have the right of way when crossing streets.

Koldus said the law states this is true when pedestrians use crosswalks. Otherwise, drivers are showing courtesy when they allow pedestrians to walk across the street.

The foreword of the 1989-90 Regulations Handbook, presented by President William Mobley and former Student Body President Kevin Buchman, states the handbook is to present rules and regulations governing student conduct and activities. The rules describe faculty and staff obligations in their work with students.

It also states rules and regulations result from years of experience and are products of student, staff and faculty thought.

The handbook is revised every school year and is distributed in dormitories. It also is available in the admissions office in Heaton Hall.