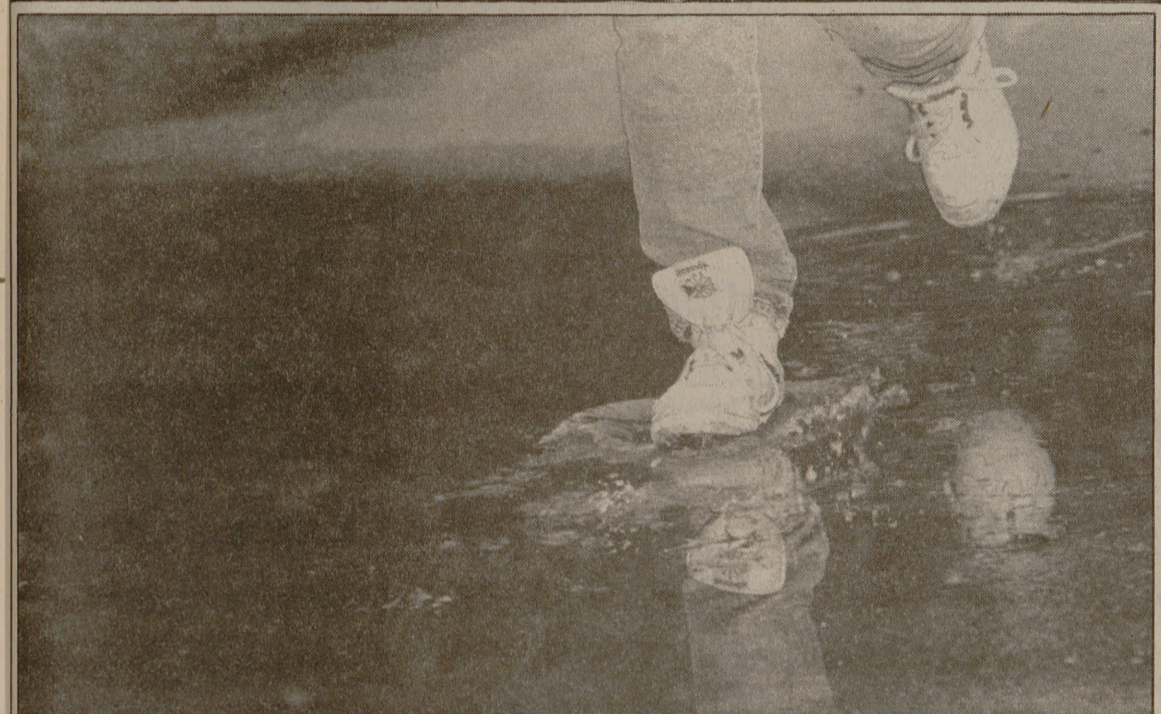


Wading games



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Students sloshed through puddles Thursday afternoon. More than 15 inches of rain have fallen on the Brazos Valley Wednesday night.

Regents decide fate of college upgrade

By **MIKE LUMAN**
Of The Battalion Staff

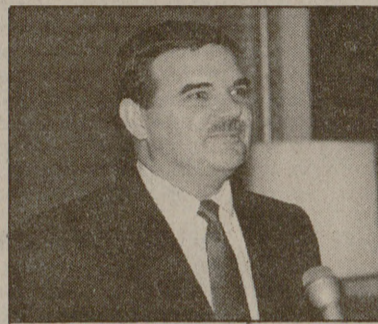
The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents is expected to approve a proposal today to upgrade the 13-year-old College of Medicine and establish a health science center.

The proposal, presented by University President William Mobley, was approved by the Committee for Academic Campuses.

"The objective is to position the College of Medicine and the University Health Science Center to leverage the capabilities of this campus, and also to meet state needs in health care and be a significant player in research," Mobley said.

If established, the new health science center will be patterned after other successful units, such as the health center at Texas Tech University.

Mobley also presented proposals to the Board to establish an ethnic studies institute and a center for



Dr. William Mobley

presidential studies at A&M.

Mobley said the Ethnic Studies Institute, which will be part of the College of Liberal Arts, is "timely and appropriate."

The institute will conduct research, but Board Chairman William A. McKenzie said its main purpose is to bring people together and "move forward," rather than to study minorities.

The Center for Presidential Stud-

ies will be a nationally recognized center for research on the American presidency, and also will serve as a national archive, Mobley said.

The Board, which reacted favorably to both measures, will vote on the proposals today.

In other business, the Board discussed a plan to construct a College of Business Administration Building. The structure would be located near the Medical Sciences Library.

Mobley said the building, which would cost more than \$22 million, would increase student activity at West Campus.

New shuttle routes could be created, sort of a "people-moving system," Mobley said.

He said most business courses are upper level, and junior and senior business students likely will have all their classes in the new building.

He added that A&M is one of the only major business schools in the country without its own building.

The Board is expected to approve an appropriation for preliminary design of the building today.

College of Business hosts 12th Career Fair

By **TROY D. HALL**
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M students interested in a business career will have a chance to meet recruiters and attend events during the 12th annual Business Career Fair next week.

Approximately 100 corporations will attend the three-day event beginning Monday on the first floor of Blocker Building. Different corporations will be on campus recruiting each of the days.

This is the largest Business Career Fair since the event began 12 years ago, says Kyle Wantzloeben, publicity chairman for the fair and sophomore marketing major from San Antonio.

The fair primarily is for students majoring or minoring in business, but all students are welcome, he says.

"Most companies will be looking for students with business degrees," Wantzloeben says. "I am sure there will be some companies looking for other types of degrees as well."

Members of the Business Student Council encourage all business school students to participate in the fair, no matter what their classification.

"Even though freshmen and sophomores might not be looking for a job, the more they interview and talk with recruiters, the better off they will be when they are ready to graduate," Wantzloeben says.

The fair provides juniors and seniors with the opportunity to give prospective employers resumes and get an edge on the interviewing process.

The fair also will help students set up career networks and let them get

to know the recruiters, he says.

Some of the recruiters come to A&M each year and begin recognizing students, Wantzloeben says.

Christy McBride, a senior accounting and marketing major from Greenville, says she gained valuable experience by attending a career fair.

"When I was a sophomore, I went around and talked to all the accounting firms at the fair to find out what the scoop was, including when I should start talking to them and how to go about receiving internships with them," McBride says.

Along with the Business Career Fair, several events to help students develop networking also are being offered.

The eighth annual Women in Business Symposium is Monday. Sessions are scheduled for 9 to 11

a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower.

Panel discussions will be presented by the Executive Women of Dallas. A&M students and faculty members are invited to attend.

The Women in Business Symposium luncheon will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the College Station Hilton.

The Career Fair banquet will feature Marvin J. Girouard, president and chief executive operating officer of Pier 1 Imports. The banquet will give students the opportunity to meet corporate recruiters.

Students need to reserve seats with company representatives by Friday. Wantzloeben says students will have the opportunity to meet recruiters and discuss potential career

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White House warns conflict could continue for months

WASHINGTON (AP) — The war against Iraq probably will last months, not weeks, and will entail "enemy victories" and allied losses before Saddam Hussein is defeated, the White House said Thursday in its first tentative predictions about the duration of the conflict.

The somber appraisal was combined with a confident prediction that "in the final analysis, we will prevail."

Eight days into the war, Republican leaders of Congress were briefed on the fighting by President Bush and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

"It's not going to be a short war," said Republican Leader Bob Michel of Illinois. "We're not going to be rushing into a land war while the air strikes still have much to accomplish."

Rep. Newt Gingrich, the GOP House whip from Georgia, said Saddam was "a very, very dangerous opponent" and that "all of us ought to understand that this is still a long, difficult undertaking."

Even so, Gingrich said Saddam is "going to get his butt kicked."

"There are going to be enemy victories, there are going to be enemy surprises, days when we see allied losses," presidential press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said.

"We need to get into a frame of mind that allows us to accept those reverses and surges and still keep track of the main thrust and our conviction that we will win, that we are being successful at this point," Fitzwater said.

With Iraqi forces hunkered down and refusing to come out fighting, allied casualties have been kept low. That could change dramatically if the war moves from the air to a fierce battle on the ground between infantry, armored and artillery forces.

"We would prefer not to talk in terms of days or weeks but months because we think the people need to be prepared for the idea that this is not a short war," Fitzwater said.

The Army said it was calling 8,478 more reservists and National Guard members to active duty from units in 22 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Michael Edwards pays for her lunch with Aggie Bucks at the Underground food court. Student Government and University Food Services continue to feud over Aggie Bucks' refundability.

Strained relationship sours between Student Government, Food Services

By **GREG MT. JOY**
Of The Battalion Staff

Controversy over the refundability of Aggie Bucks has rekindled the feud between the Texas A&M Student Government and University Food Services.

"We were led to believe Aggie Bucks were fully refundable," Student Body President Ty Clevenger says. "We have heard, however, there are strings attached. We have no confidence in Food Services' work whatsoever."

Clevenger says he heard penalties of 20 to 30 percent are charged on all Aggie Bucks refunds, and no refunds are given on Aggie Bucks used with a meal plan.

However, Lloyd Smith, director of A&M Food Services, says Clevenger has been misinformed.

"As far as we are concerned, Aggie Bucks are refundable, with or without a meal plan," Smith says. "If

you want to drop a meal plan, Aggie Bucks will be refunded 100 percent. There is no service charge at all either."

Smith says much of the problem stems from the Fiscal Offices' policy of not accepting requests for refunds before the first day of classes.

He stressed this was a Fiscal Office policy and not set by Food Services. This incident is the latest in a series of run-ins between Clevenger and Food Services.

"Last year we had a major problem," Clevenger says. "At the end of the semester, they would confiscate any funds left in an Aggie Bucks account."

Clevenger says on-campus expenditures increased by \$5 million with Aggie Bucks funds. When this much money is locked up, Clevenger says Food Services will do whatever it can to make it difficult to get out.

"They have tried to deny it," Clevenger says. "But obviously the motive is to keep the bureaucracy afloat

at Food Services."

Smith says the policy for confiscating leftover accounts is standard procedure for most universities, and the computer software used for Aggie Bucks originally was written that way.

Smith also denies allegations made by Clevenger that Food Services' products are overpriced.

"We go out several times a semester to see the prices of local merchants," Smith says. "What most students forget to do, however, is compare apples to apples. You can't compare our hamburger to a regular McDonald's hamburger. You have to compare it to their quarter pounder. If you do, you will see we are extremely competitive."

Smith also says A&M meal plans are less expensive when compared with prices at the University of Texas and Southern Methodist University.

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Fraternity hopefuls now knock on bid house door

By **ELIZABETH TISCH**
Of The Battalion Staff

More than 300 men will accept or deny fraternity membership bids at 5 p.m. today during the Interfraternity Council's Bid Day in front of the Texas A&M Systems Building.

Slaton Smith, IFC public relations chairman, says the procedure, which was changed last semester, promotes the Greek system and creates excitement among a fraternity's new members.

In the past, Bid Day took place in a small room in the MSC or Rudder Tower. When rushees accepted bids, they did not meet their chosen fraternity until days later.

Unlike past years, all members from the 27 University-recognized fraternities will be waiting on the Systems Building lawn to meet pledges and welcome them.

"Before, when the event was held in Rudder, there were only a few guys to congratulate you," Smith says. "Now, when someone accepts a bid, he immediately

meets the chapter.

"Also, it promotes the Greek system when people drive or walk by and see the excitement going on," he says.

Smith says A&M's Bid Day is modeled after Stephen F. Austin University's event called "step". Shannon Smith, last year's IFC rush chairman, says he decided to plan the event similar to SFA's after he saw how successful it was.

Rod Cruz, IFC president, says the 10-day fraternity rush should end in a special way because of the commitment involved in joining a fraternity.

"It's a happy moment for the guys," Cruz says. "They've made a lifelong commitment to a fraternity that takes young members and develops them into responsible and successful men."

IFC also wants to promote the Greek system by clearing up any misconceptions students might have about fraternities.

"People think you can't be an Aggie and a Greek, or a member in the Corps of Cadets and a Greek," Smith says. "In fact, we would like to invite Corps members to join."

Allied forces down Iraqi jets over Saudi, foil overhead attack

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Iraq's elusive air force showed signs of life Thursday, sending two warplanes over Saudi territory where they were shot down carrying missiles capable of sinking allied warships.

Iraq mocked the allies for failing to launch a ground offensive, but allied commanders said they would stick to their game plan and intensify the around-the-clock air strikes on Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

The United States and Britain each lost a warplane during the night Wednesday. The American pilot was saved in a dramatic rescue after his jet was disabled by ground fire and he ejected over the Persian Gulf.

The two crewmen of the British Tornado GR-1 fighter-bomber are missing, British sources in Riyadh said.

The losses occurred as allied forces took advantage of clearing skies to step up their relentless air assault on Iraq and Kuwait. Many of the attacks concentrated on Iraq's elite Republican Guards, an Army spokesman said.

"We are hitting them with all assets available to us," U.S. Army Lt. Col. Greg Pepin said of the elite Iraqi unit. He estimated that more than 150,000 of the guards are "well dug in" in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

The allied tactics call for "softening up" the Iraqi forces from the air before trying to eject them from Kuwait by ground.

The number of allied sorties passed 15,000 on Thursday, Pepin

said. Allied sources in Dhahran said the U.S.-led coalition wants to pick up the pace, perhaps flying 3,000 missions a day if the skies remain clear.

In addition, Pentagon sources said Thursday that U.S. submarines, operating from the depths of the Mediterranean and Red seas, are continuing to fire Tomahawk cruise missiles at targets inside Iraq.

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday in Washington that air attacks would intensify along supply routes and lines of communications around the Iraqi city of Basra, near the Persian Gulf and Kuwaiti border, in an attempt to strangle the Iraqi army in Kuwait.

Despite the crushing allied air assault, Saddam Hussein reportedly visited his troops on the front lines in southern Iraq and Kuwait on Wednesday.

The official Iraqi News Agency said Saddam's commanders discussed the latest developments in the war with their commander-in-chief, then mocked the allies, saying they fear a ground war.

The news agency said that as of Tuesday, "only 90" Iraqi troops had been killed by the punishing allied bombing of Iraq and Kuwait. The allies have not released casualty figures from the aerial bombardment.

The dogfight that downed two Iraqi warplanes over the northern Persian Gulf on Thursday was one of the few such engagements of the war and the first report of an Iraqi attempt to enter Saudi airspace.