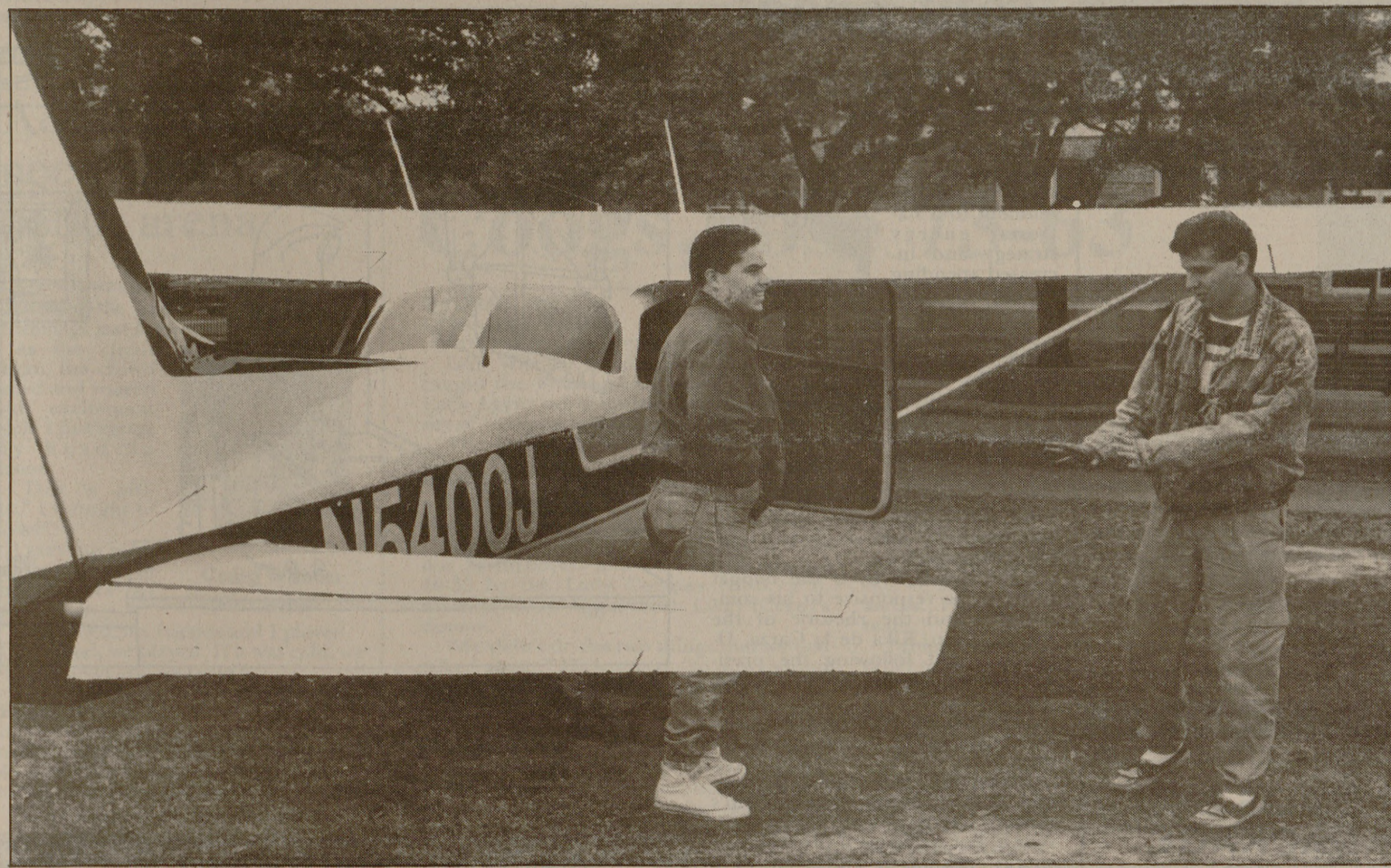


Wingin' it



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Kevin P. Pate (right), a member of the TAMU Flying Club, explains the use of an airplane's rudder to Saul Izaguirre. The club

used a tractor to pull the plane onto the Simpson Drill Field Monday.

Gulf Briefs

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf said Wednesday that two weeks of bombing raids have forced Iraq to abandon centralized control of its air defense. He said the allies have supremacy over Iraqi skies.

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Iraqi tanks and troops, some faking surrender, smashed into Saudi Arabia's northeast corner early Wednesday and were slowly beaten back in "hellacious" fighting by American and allied forces, the U.S. military said.

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Twelve U.S. Marines were reported killed in the heaviest combat of the 2-week-old war.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arab specialists agree that Saddam Hussein's 90-minute interview with CNN correspondent Peter Arnett conveyed the image of a calm and confident leader. Experts say the main purpose of Saddam's televised interview this week was to prove he is alive, relaxed and in control. "He has survived. That is his point," said Marshall Wiley, who was the top U.S. diplomat in Baghdad from 1975 to 1977. The Iraqi president knocked down "the notion of Saddam on the run and panicked and overwhelmed," said Dr. Jerrold Post, a psychiatrist specializing in psychological profiles of world leaders.

KHAFJI, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi-led allied forces stormed the Iraqi-held Saudi frontier town of Khafji on Wednesday night, but it was unclear whether they took the town or were driven off by Iraqi forces. Some light armored Saudi forces made it in to the center of the city, but other allied forces, including U.S. Marines, were forced into a feverish retreat when pelted by Iraqi rocket fire just south of the city. See story, page 1.

Gorbachev shares power with KGB, army, hard-liners

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev is no longer in complete control of his government and is sharing power with the military, according to knowledgeable Soviet officials.



Gorbachev

In private conversation during Foreign Minister Alexander A. Bessmertnykh's visit to Washington this week, one source told the Associated Press the Soviet president "can't make decisions on his own and expect them to be carried out."

"Gorbachev is not completely in control," the source, who is well placed to observe Kremlin decision-making, said.

The source said the military high command is pressing Gorbachev to go along with a nationwide crackdown to restore order in the crisis-ridden country.

Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov, who is generally viewed as loyal to the president and supportive of his reforms, is "not necessarily" among those urging the Soviet president to get tough, this source said.

The crackdown has ranged from bloody assaults on separatist government facilities in the Baltics to giving the KGB blanket authority to search foreign and domestic business offices for black-market activities.

A second Soviet official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said preservation of the union has become the single highest priority for the Kremlin, taking precedence over the political, economic and foreign policy reforms that have been the hallmark of Gorbachev's six-year rule.

"This is the most critical moment in the last 100 years, perhaps in the millennium of our country's history," the source said, seeking to explain the gravity with which the government regards the situation.

He said the union is disintegrating under pressure from separatist forces and a breakdown of law and order that followed the easing of harsh central control over Soviet life.

Plans to establish democratic rule, move to a market economy and pursue a cooperative foreign policy can only be implemented if the government can stave off anarchy and civil war, the official said.

He said Gorbachev has been under increasing pressure in recent weeks to halt the drift toward chaos and public disdain for central authority.

The source was distraught over what he considered unsympathetic American press reports of the situation in the Baltic republics.

He complained, as Gorbachev has, that the separatist government of Lithuania has trampled on the rights of the non-Lithuanian minority in the tiny republic, refused to negotiate for its independence.

Space

Continued from page 3

Administration. The Comet project will include launching three rockets equipped with an 1,800-pound experiment module and a recovery system into a low Earth orbit of about 300 miles, said Weldon Payne, spokesman for the Center for Advanced Space Propulsion. The first launch is planned in September 1992; the last in 1995. The project also includes options for two additional launches.

Space Industries will place experiments in the capsule, design the parachute-operated re-entry system and conduct operations while experiments are in orbit, said Meredith McClintock, manager of marketing for the Houston space design and engineering firm.

Space Services will adapt and build a previously designed launch vehicle for use in the project, said Deke Slayton, a former astronaut who heads Space Services.

Westinghouse will provide systems engineering and the experiment service module.

Among the experiments planned for the system are those for pharmaceutical companies and crystal-growth investigators, Payne said. Because the Space Shuttle has a backlog of experiments, the Comet system is expected to be in demand, he said.

The Comet system allows experiments of 30 days — much longer than typical shuttle missions.

The system will include a non-recoverable and a recoverable module, both of which will have a payload of experiments. The recoverable module will be parachuted back to Earth, landing at one of several sites being considered in the Southwest, McClintock said.

NASA already has approved a \$10.5 million budget for the project in 1991.

Traffic

Continued from page 3

To remedy today's traffic problems requires several answers, he says.

Cities must provide additional capacity for traffic and improve present operations, including clearing accidents sooner and preventing them from occurring, Lomax says.

Another solution for congestion is having people use roadways during non-peak hours, called demand management, he says.

If people could telecommute — do office work at home by computer — from 8 to 10 a.m., then they could drive to their jobs between 10 and 10:30 a.m. on relatively uncrowded roads, he says.

Lomax says the important goal is to take vehicles off roadways. Car pool lanes, like some in Houston, are

one way to help. He also suggests that allowing people to work at home one day of the week will help decongest traffic.

Mass transit is an efficient way of getting people out of single occupancy vehicles, Lomax says.

The park and ride system, combined with car pool lanes, saves commuters both time and money.

It also is the most efficient way to move many people because buses can pick up and let out everyone at the same locations, he says.

Transportation officials must combine methods and start dealing with congestion, Lomax says.

"The idea that any one solution is going to solve the problem is unrealistic," he says.

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