

# Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 87 USPS 045360 10 Pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, February 5, 1991

## Iranian mediation effort fails

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States reacted skeptically Monday to Iran's offer to mediate the Persian Gulf War, and President Bush declared, "We have to go forward and prosecute this to a successful conclusion."

"It's going according to plan," Bush confidently assured the nation's governors, summoned to the White House for briefings on the \$1.45 trillion federal budget he submitted to Congress.

The budget earmarks \$15 billion as a "placeholder" for increased military spending for the war.

Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani offered to meet Saddam Hussein for talks on ending the 19-day-old war. Rafsanjani also said he was willing to resume official contact with Washington in the interests of peace.

"What's to mediate?" State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said. "The only mediation ... that would be appropriate

would be for the people who communicate with Saddam Hussein to convince him to comply with the 12 United Nations resolutions" demanding Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said, "If someone can come up with a diplomatic resolution that achieves that objective, that would be fine, but I frankly don't expect it."

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Iran "is not directly involved in this conflict and our interest is in getting Iraq out of Kuwait."

The United States and Iran severed relations after the 1979 seizure of American hostages at the American Embassy in Tehran. Tutwiler renewed Bush's offer two years ago for direct talks with authorized representatives of the Iranian government.

"We are going to set the timetable for what lies ahead," Bush said.

"I have confidence that we're doing the

right thing, and I have confidence that it is going the way we planned," the president said.

"And there have been no surprises, and there will not be any quick changes, nor will I try to tie the hands of the military because I just feel we have to go forward and prosecute this to a successful conclusion," Bush said.

"I would not underestimate the amount of work that remains to be done," Cheney said.

The secretary refused to speculate about when a ground war might begin. "We have not established any sort of artificial timetable," he said at a news conference. "There is no drop-dead date ... out there by which we feel we have to act."

Bush said he would send Congress a supplemental request to cover costs of the fighting. Budget Director Richard Darman said the administration hopes U.S. costs will not go much higher than the \$15 billion figure.

"They feel a substantial portion of the war

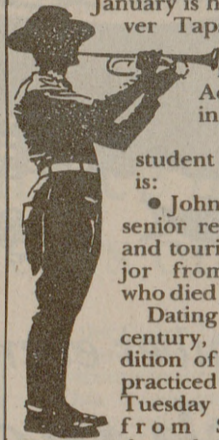
costs are being paid by the coalition" of nations aligned against Iraq, Democratic Gov. Booth Gardner of Washington said as he left the White House. "But there are some costs for this country."

The administration defended allied bombing raids that Jordan says have injured and killed Jordanian truck drivers on Iraq's highway from Baghdad to Amman. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar condemned the attacks.

The State Department's Tutwiler said the trucks were traveling through a war zone "and specifically through an area that has been the source of Scud attacks against neighboring states."

"Moreover, we have credible information that war material, including some related to Scud missiles, has been transported in convoy with civilian oil trucks," she said. "Such material contributes to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and is a legitimate military target."

## Silver Taps ceremony to honor 1



The solemn sound of buglers playing "Taps" and the sharp ring of gunfire will be heard on campus tonight as one Texas A&M student who died during January is honored in a Silver Taps ceremony at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building.

The deceased student being honored is:

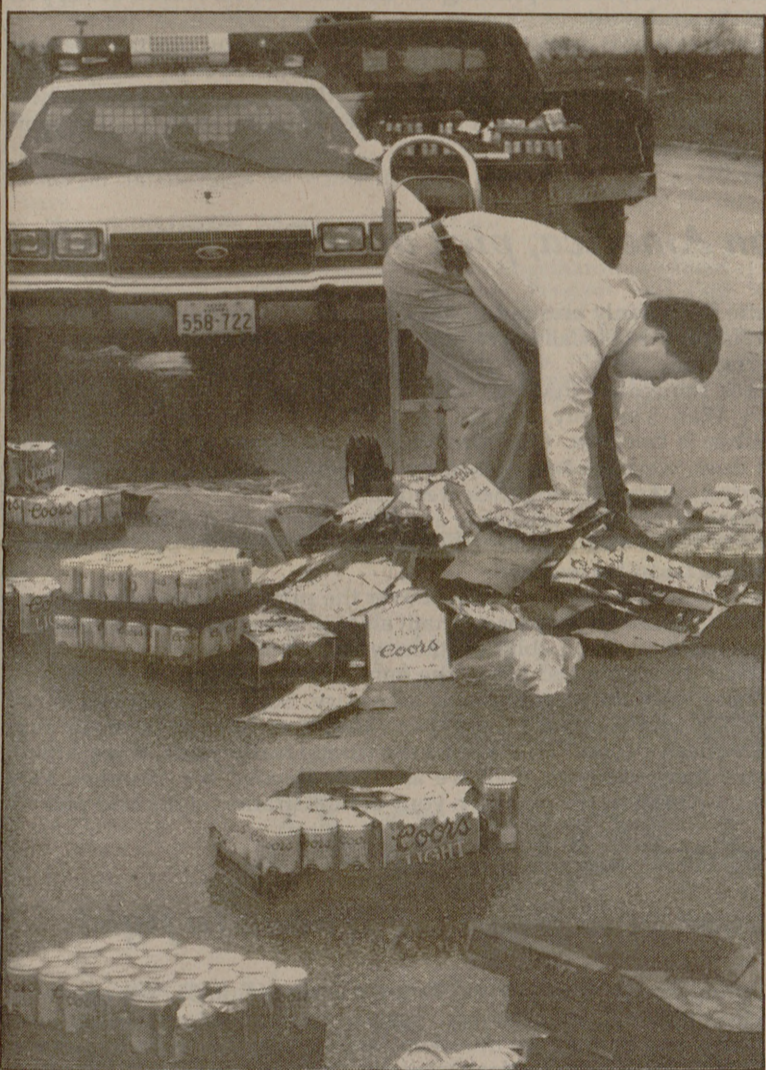
● John C. Lusk, 24, a senior recreation, parks and tourism science major from Springtown, who died Jan. 7.

Dating back almost a century, the stately tradition of Silver Taps is practiced on the first Tuesday of each month from September through April, when necessary. The names of deceased students are posted at the base of the flag pole in front of the Academic Building, and the flag is flown at half-staff the day of the ceremony.

Lights will be extinguished and the campus hushed as Aggies pay final tribute to fellow Aggies.

The Ross Volunteer Firing Squad begins the ceremony, marching in slow cadence towards the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Shortly after, three volleys are fired in a 21-gun salute, and six buglers play a special arrangement of "Taps" three times — to the north, south and west.

## Beers bashed on Briarcrest



MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

Coors Distributing account representative Bobby Reneau cleans up some of the beer remaining on Briarcrest Road in Bryan after 50 cases spilled out of the open door of a Coors trailer. The door had come ajar following a delivery by the driver. The TABC also made an appearance at the cleanup site.

## Senate approves Regent appointees

By Mike Luman  
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas Senate unanimously approved Gov. Ann Richards' two appointees to the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and confirmed Regent Royce E. Wisenbaker to a third six-year term.

Alison Leland, an investment banker from Houston, and Mary Nan West of the A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Development Council became full-fledged regents after Monday's Senate vote.

Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, and chairman of the Senate Committee on Nominations, said Monday the new regents will work for increased access to higher education for minorities.

Last week Barrientos told Leland

and West he was not satisfied with A&M's progress in work concerning accessibility of Texas universities to Hispanics and blacks.

"I think they (Leland and West) are outstanding individuals who will work for the schools and the benefits of all Texans," Barrientos said.

The new regents also fielded questions about hazing during the confirmation process, he said.

"We were assured they would do everything possible to see students aren't hurt in anything as crude as hazing," Barrientos said.

Leland, the first black woman on the Board, graduated in 1980 from Spelman College in Atlanta and received a law degree from Georgetown University in 1985.

She is a member of Spelman College's Advisory Council Interna-

tional Affairs Center and of the Texas Opera Theatre.

Leland's husband, U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, was killed in a plane crash in August 1989 while trying to organize famine relief in Ethiopia.

A Richards supporter, Leland, 32, replaces Regent L. Lowry Mays of San Antonio.

West, chairwoman of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition Board, replaces Regent John A. Mobley of Austin.

A native of Batesville, West graduated from St. Mary's Hall and then attended the universities of Arizona and Colorado.

West owns 10,000 acres in Val Verde County and runs her grandfather's 36,000-acre ranch near Batesville.

See Regents/Page 9

## Student lectures on apartheid

By Julie Hedderman  
Of The Battalion Staff

A definite feeling of resignation and acceptance exists among upper-class, educated white South Africans that things have to change, but there is also a reluctance for those changes to occur, said a South African student.

Roger Horrocks, a Texas A&M junior philosophy major, spoke and answered questions Monday night during the Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism meeting.

"Let's face it," he said. "Our way of life is very good."

Horrocks, a member of SCAR, said he was uneasy about embracing a particular perspective and was a spectator most of the time while living in South Africa, although he did participate in some anti-apartheid protests.

"Apartheid itself was developed in attempt to solve the kind of cultural mix that evolved in the country," he said. "It has to go, it has to change."

However, he does not see an immediate change occurring. The period of transition the country is now going through is difficult on people his age. They have little faith in the future and are uncertain about their roles in it, Horrocks said.

He also said young people do not have a strong identity as South Africans and tend to embrace an American way of life.

Horrocks said his knowledge of South African history is questionable because the textbooks he studied in school were written by white educators for white students.

Horrocks asked how many of the people at the SCAR meeting had a working knowledge of South African history. Of the 18 people there, only one raised her hand.



Roger Horrocks

HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

Horrocks then asked the audience, "How can you be so concerned about South Africa when you know nothing about it?"

Horrocks said economic sanctions on South Africa have affected every-

one in the country, but they have had the most economically damaging effects on the blacks, despite the positive political results.

See Africa/Page 9

## Researcher designs pump to improve artificial heart

By Mack Harrison  
Of The Battalion Staff

A Texas A&M bioengineering researcher is bringing life to a new artificial heart designed to overcome problems in present models.

Dr. Gerald Miller, director of the A&M Human Systems Engineering Laboratory, is developing an artificial heart that uses a centrifugal pump more efficient than previous pumps.

The new pump — called the Tesla turbine — relies on centrifugal force and friction to move fluids and has been used to propel rocket fuel. The turbine can produce tremendous flow rates, Miller says.

Blood flow rates are a major concern for artificial heart designers, he says. The concept of the artificial heart is limited by how much flow the device can produce, Miller says.

"The normal human heart can produce five times the (usual) amount of flow during exercise," Miller says.

Presently available designs are not useful for certain types of people, he says.

A limited blood flow might be sufficient to meet the needs of a 70-year-old patient, but it might not be adequate for a 35-year-old, he says.

Older artificial hearts use pneumatic-powered sac-and-valve systems or "pusher plate" pumps to

drive blood through the circulatory system, Miller says.

This is a cumbersome way of operating an artificial heart because older pumps use an inefficient elastic bag to collect air built up in the bloodstream, he says.

Miller continues to work on the device because of limits of available artificial hearts. He says he wants to become more responsive to the anticipated need for the devices.

In January of last year, the Food and Drug Administration decertified the most well-known artificial heart, the Jarvik-7, for use as a total replacement.

Miller says the Jarvik-7 model had many problems associated with it, including difficulties with the pump and its bulky power supply.

Other models still are certified by the FDA and researchers are considering some for implantation in people.

However, Miller says these devices are used mainly on a temporary basis to assist patients recovering from open-heart surgery.

"It's been quiet in terms of total heart replacement," he says.

The new heart will be simpler and more responsive and able to regulate flow and pressure electronically, he says. The improved design avoids flow and valve problems and also

See Heart/Page 9

### Inside

2 Mail Call 'the itch'

6 Cartoons

4 What's Up

7 Wilson column

---

### Weather Outlook

Wed  
Partly Cloudy

Thurs  
Cloudy

Fri  
Rain

---

### Focus

#### Hall of Shame

Directors vote to permanently exclude Pete Rose from Coopers-town ballot.

page 7

## Spill dredges up problems Oil harms marine life

By Elizabeth Tisch  
Of The Battalion Staff

Destruction of tiny organisms called phytoplankton is one of the most devastating results of the Jan. 25 oil spill in the Persian Gulf, says Texas A&M graduate student Khaled Al-Abdulkader.

"Phytoplankton are the main producers of the sea," Al-Abdulkader says. "They utilize light in the water to produce organic materials."

Al-Abdulkader, who received his undergraduate degree in aquatic sciences, has studied ecology of phytoplankton since 1987.

The native of Saudi Arabia has conducted research on these organisms in the Persian Gulf as a research assistant at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran.

He presently is pursuing his master's degree in oceanography at A&M.

Al-Abdulkader says he only can speculate about the damage of last week's oil spill, which U.S. officials call Iraq's attempt to halt U.S. military forces in the Gulf.

He says, however, his speculations are based on past research of oil spills in the Persian Gulf.

"This is not the first in the Persian

Gulf," he says. "There have been several during the Iran-Iraq war."

In 1970, a storm damaged an offshore oil pipeline, spilling 100,000 gallons of oil into the gulf. In 1983, Iraq hit an Iranian oil pipeline during the eight-year war.

Al-Abdulkader says he is not sure of the amount spilled in 1983 but this latest dumping is far worse and possibly more damaging than the 1989 Alaskan Exxon Valdez oil spill.

"It was stated in a Saudi Arabian newspaper Saturday that 1.5 million tons of oil were released into the gulf," he says. "The largest batch of oil is 80 by 25 kilometers but spreading southward slower than what was reported earlier in the week."

Earlier statements reported the batch moving at a rate of 20 kilometers a day.

The oil patch prevents sunlight — needed to sustain phytoplankton — from penetrating the water.

"Phytoplankton is the base of the pyramid of the food chain for marine animals," he says.

Oil also will damage coral reefs which are the main breeding grounds and shelter for phytoplankton and other marine life, Al-Abdulkader says.

The lack of these organisms will cause a deficiency of food for fish,

birds, dolphins and whales.

Al-Abdulkader says nature will play a much bigger part in cleaning up the oil than efforts made by cleanup crews from the Environmental Protection Agency and Arab-American oil companies.

The amount of time necessary for surface water to be mixed and replaced by water from the ocean floor in the Gulf — or residence time — can be two and a half to seven years, he says.

The gulf's counterclockwise circulation also will exchange water with the Arabian Sea through the Strait of Hormuz.

Al-Abdulkader says the Persian Gulf's residence time most likely will be two and a half years, but the circulation rate is difficult to determine during winter months.

"It is hard to predict the circulation rate at this time because the winter winds are slowing down the flow," he says. "Also, the gulf has only one relatively small opening, which is the Strait of Hormuz."

One reason the Persian Gulf recovered from past oil spills is because the gulf's marine life reproduces quickly, he says.

"Although the Persian Gulf has

See Ocean/Page 9