

The Battalion CLASSIFIED ADS

Phone: 845-0569 / Office: English Annex

Help Wanted

THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT at TAMU is conducting research on group dynamics and needs participants. We will pay \$30.00 for 6 hrs over a three week period.

If interested, sign up outside Room 409 in the Psychology Building or call 845-0478 and ask for JUDY if you have any questions.

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WANTED - STUDENT TO WORK PART-TIME MANAGING A 10-USER NOVELL NETWORK. WORKING EXPERIENCE WITH NOVELL UTILITIES, DOS, SPREADSHEET, WORDPROCESSING, PROCAM AND DATABASE. 775-2199 FOR INTERVIEW.

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Female roommate wanted two bedroom one bath studio, \$150-172 utilities. Great area. Call 693-1489.

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Battalion Classified 845-0569

Lighter stories refocus news

By the Associated Press

After an initial deluge, news of the Persian Gulf War has settled to a steady flow that still dominates the state's newspapers but now competes for space with city council meetings and local crime.

Editors also are actively looking for a lighter story to offset the tragedy of war. Many of the state's newspapers published special sections on the war during the first days, although most have scaled back.

Initial jumps in sales have leveled off at most daily newspapers but remain higher than before the war.

The Dallas Morning News, which has four reporters in the region, ran as many as 14 extra pages of war news daily in that first week.

While that's been reduced, the Morning News still runs the equivalent of up to six full pages of war news. "Whatever it takes to tell the story," managing editor Bob Mong said.

As for balancing war news, on a typical day Page One will be about half war news and half other, he said.

Tubularman



Spade Phillips, P.I.



Iranian president offers to mediate with Iraq U.S. doubts peaceful resolution of conflict

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.

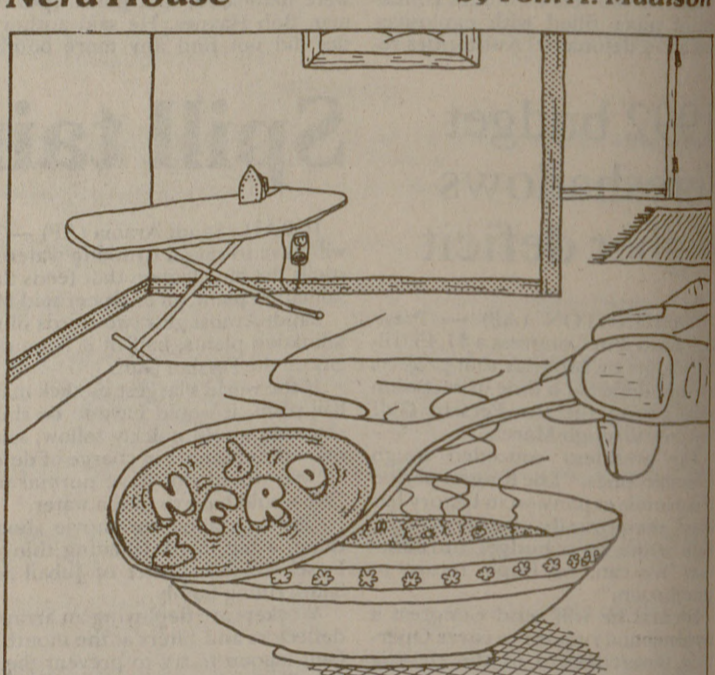
"And there have been no surprises, and there will not be any quick changes, nor will I try to tie the hands of the military because I just feel we have to go forward and prosecute this to a successful conclusion," Bush said.

"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."

Nerd House

by Tom A. Madison



HERBERT HATES TO EAT ALPHABET SOUP.

Labor costs accelerate, economy nears recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — The productivity of America's non-farm workers fell 0.8 percent last year, the worst decline since 1982 and the first back-to-back reversal — coupled with the 1989 drop of 0.7 percent — in a decade, the government said Monday.

Labor costs continued to rise as the tumbling economy forced businesses to drastically trim working hours in the final months of 1990, the Labor Department report showed.

"What we have here is the worst of both possible worlds — the economy was sinking into recession at the same time labor costs were accelerating," said David Jones, an economist with Aubrey G. Lanston & Co.

Increased productivity, or getting more worker output per hour on the job, is considered vital to increasing the nation's standard of living without inflation.

But the latest showing, said Jones, shows the United States is continuing to lose its competitive edge in international markets and threatens a long-term reduction in living standards "unless one of two things happens — either we sharply improve the quality of our labor force

through education, or sharply improve savings and investment in new plants and equipment."

"Our ability to produce more goods and services does determine the pie that's available to us," said Allen Sinai, chief economist at the Boston Co. "That pie grew very slowly in 1990 and is going to shrink in 1991," he said.

The report showed that during the final three months of 1990, the nation's businesses trimmed the working hours of their employees at an annual rate of 2.7 percent — the largest falloff since the depths of the 1981-82 recession.

It was the second quarterly decline in the number of hours worked, a normal consequence of recession — as businesses trim payrolls.

While productivity fell for all of 1990, it was about unchanged for the fourth quarter, growing at a small annual rate of 0.1 percent.

In the manufacturing sector, productivity declined at an annual rate of 2.4 percent in the October-December period — the largest drop since 1981. Meanwhile, factories trimmed their hours by 6.4 percent at the tail end of 1990.

Oil prices fall, market holds

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices slipped in light trading Monday as the market continued to show restraint about the Persian Gulf war and react instead to issues of supply and demand.

"Prices just kind of drifted lower," said oil analyst Peter Beutel at Petrus Econometric Group Inc. in Hoboken, N.J.

Light sweet crude oil for delivery in March settled at \$21.14 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, down 20 cents from Friday.

"Continuing high levels of Saudi and OPEC production and exports are putting the markets on a back-foot defensive," Beutel said. In addition, he cited a "lack of shock news" about the war or other events for the market's moderation.

"People are continuing to move away from the psychological factors and back to supply and demand," he said.

Beutel said the prices for March delivery of heating oil and natural gas slumped as unseasonably warm weather bathed much of the central and Northeast portions of the nation.