

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## USS Missouri fires on Kuwait

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Allied warplanes and the USS Missouri's mighty guns shattered the morning peace from Baghdad to Kuwait's shores Tuesday.

The U.S. command reported the Missouri's 16-inch guns opened up twice overnight — once with six rounds that knocked out part of a long-range Iraqi artillery battery shelling coalition troops across the border in Saudi Arabia, and once with 28 rounds that destroyed an Iraqi radar site.

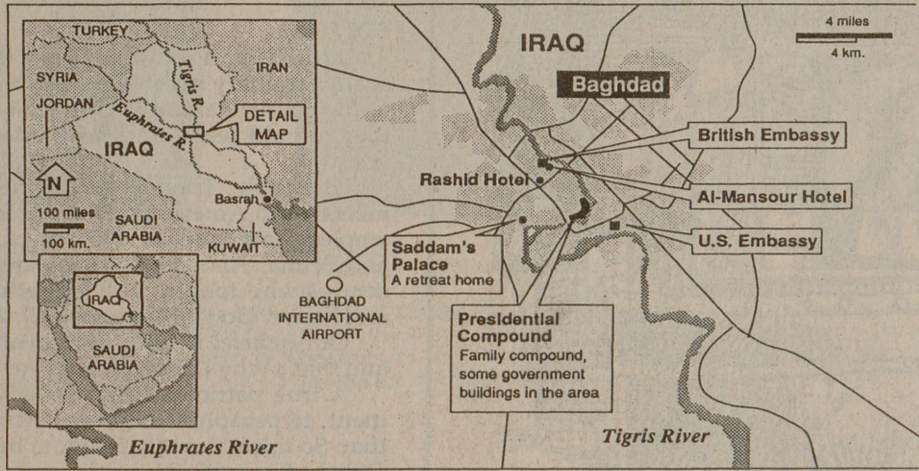
At midday Tuesday, the Missouri could be seen off Khafji, in Saudi Arabia's northeast corner, firing its guns toward the Kuwaiti coastline again, an informed source reported.

In another move Tuesday, Iraq banned sales of heating oil and other fuel to its increasingly desperate people.

Baghdad said 428 civilians have been killed thus far in what the official radio condemned as "savage" bombing.

The Syrian contingent in Operation Desert Storm engaged in its first combat, driving 30 Iraqi intruders back into Kuwait with artillery fire, Saudi officials reported.

In telephone calls and private meetings,



diplomats and government leaders conferred on Monday's bid by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani to mediate a Persian Gulf peace.

The Soviets and Turks signaled support for Iran's initiative. In Washington, however, President Bush said he had seen no Iranian peace plan and saw nothing to ne-

gotiate with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"He's got to say, 'I'm going to get out of Kuwait, now, fast,'" Bush said.

The U.S. chief executive said he was sending the Pentagon's top leadership — Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Gen. Colin L. Powell — to the war zone this week to assess how the U.S.-led offensive is progressing.

The U.S. command reported another 2,000-sortie day in the Desert Storm air war, and said American warplanes took special aim again at the dug-in Republican Guard, backbone of the Iraqi defense of Kuwait.

Six "packages" of B-52 strategic bombers struck Guard positions, the command said. It said U.S. warplanes also continued focusing on resupply lines to the Iraqi troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq, striking a 25-truck convoy in one instance late Monday. British officers reported strikes on an ammunition storage site south of Baghdad, and a railway junction and rail bridge in southeast Iraq, among other targets. They said one-third of the key bridges in

Iraq have been destroyed.

A key U.S. Air Force commander, Col. John McBroom of the First Tactical Fighter Wing, told reporters Tuesday some Iraqi ground units' fighting "capabilities" were cut in half by air strikes. American commanders say they want the attacks on armored vehicles and bunkers to reduce Iraqi fighting power by half before they will order a U.S. ground offensive against the half-million-man army assembled in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

"The air war is absolutely getting to him," McBroom said.

In Baghdad, post-midnight explosions shattered windows and shook residents from their beds for another early morning spent in basement shelters.

Witnesses said at least four allied missiles hit the city. Associated Press correspondent Salah Nasrawi reported from the Iraqi capital. They said one was at a military site.

Baghdadis were told by official radio Tuesday that all fuel sales to civilians had been banned.

## Gorbachev denounces Baltic vote

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail S. Gorbachev stepped up his war of words with Lithuanian leaders on Tuesday by rejecting their independence poll set for Saturday and ordering instead a Kremlin-controlled referendum.



Gorbachev

"Lithuania is in observance of law ... and views the president's decree as impermissible political interference in the matters of the sovereign Lithuanian state," he said in a statement read by spokeswoman Rita Dapkus.

The decree followed Gorbachev's order for new talks with the Baltics and seemed a clear attempt to force Lithuanians to seek independence only on the Kremlin's terms. The decree did not threaten any action if the poll was held, indicating only that the Kremlin would not accept its results.

"The poll and the attempt to call it a 'plebiscite on the future of the Lithuania state' (are) legally invalid," his decree said, according to the state news agency Tass.

The poll "cannot be seen as anything other than an attempt to block ... the holding of a national referendum on the question of preserving

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## A&M doctor probes AIDS, medical ethics

By Julie Myers  
Of The Battalion Staff

The AIDS epidemic has presented new dilemmas to health care providers, said a Texas A&M professor of medical ethics.

Dr. Don Self, head of the humanities in medicine department at the A&M College of Medicine, addressed "Ethics in medicine and the AIDS crisis" Tuesday during a meeting of the Pre-medical/Pre-dental Society.

AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, presents a conflict between the safety of the public and the medical community and the rights of the individual, Self said.

Because of this conflict, hospitals and their employees are experiencing a combination of problems. Self said these include:

- An eight-fold increase in workload over the past two years. AIDS is a labor intensive disease.
- An unbalanced medical education. AIDS research predominates in journals and conferences.
- Decreasing resident autonomy. Because AIDS patients take much bed space in internal medicine hospital units, doctors must supervise residents more closely.
- Fear of transmission.
- Frustration with the limits of technology and its inability to solve the AIDS epidemic quickly, unlike Toxic Shock Syndrome or Legionnaires.

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## Riding out the storm



James Schroter, an A&M Cycling Team member, rides on Highway 60 Tuesday afternoon under a stormy sky. Schroter didn't mind the showers after traveling 75 miles with the team last Sunday.

MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

## Faulty radar blamed in crash

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The air traffic controller who placed a USAir jet and a Skywest commuter plane on a crash course was hindered by broken radar and confusion caused by a third plane, investigators said Tuesday.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators probing Friday night's runway crash at Los Angeles International Airport that killed 34 people also found communication problems with the airport fire department.

The unidentified controller handling the USAir Boeing 737 with 89 people aboard and the Skywest Metroliner with 12 people aboard has not been interviewed, NTSB investigator Jim Burnett said.

She will not be interviewed until all other controllers and her supervisor have been questioned, Burnett said. "She's subject to medical availability," he said, but he wouldn't elaborate on what that meant.

Eight survivors of the USAir jet remain hospitalized, one in serious condition.

The controller was responsible for runways on the north side of the airport. A ground surveillance radar used by controllers to determine where planes were on the field was functioning but the indicator at the position used by the north side controller was out of service, Burnett said.

The south side indicator was functioning. "The local controller handling the (USAir and Skywest) aircraft could not have observed the south indicator without unplugging her head set and getting up from the position, basically leaving her position, so that was not a practical thing to do," Burnett said.

Burnett also detailed a communication problem with a Wings West Metroliner commuter plane that occurred in the moments before the USAir and Skywest planes collided.

The first officer of the Wings West plane had the ability to monitor the local air traffic control frequency while talking to that airline's airport facility, but made a switching error that turned off the tower frequency.

## MSC head promotes leadership, balance; challenges students

By Jayme Blaschke  
Of The Battalion Staff

Newly selected MSC President Chris Britton said Tuesday he wants to develop more leadership and balance in the 1991 MSC Council and continue the MSC's tradition of great programs.

Britton, a junior agriculture development major from Cleburne, said he looks forward to working with Texas A&M students involved with the Student Programs Office.

"My number one goal is to challenge students involved in the Memorial Student Center to develop excellence within themselves," he said.

MSC Student Programs made its first selection Monday by naming Britton president. The student council will continue its search for other MSC officers during the next four weeks.

Britton said the importance of balancing MSC programs, academic success and having a social life is one thing that has to be stressed.

Having a good balance is necessary for developing leadership skills, he said.

"In the next selection rounds, we want to look at students interested in leadership positions in an objective, impartial manner, and hopefully provide them some insight into their character," he said.

Strong leadership is essential to continue the MSC's reputation of ex-

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## ExCEL gives assistance to minority freshmen

By Katherine Coffey  
Of The Battalion Staff

A Texas A&M freshmen orientation program is looking for people interested in helping minority students excel at the university level.

ExCEL — Excellence uniting Culture, Education and Leadership — is the name of the three-year-old program started by the director of Department of Multicultural Services Kevin Carreathers.

Applications for ExCEL '91 will

be available beginning Feb. 20 for students interested in serving as assistants in the program.

Darron Edwards, executive director of ExCEL, says the program is intended to focus on different cultures.

"What we are stressing is for people to identify ways to preserve their cultural identity and heritage," Edwards says. "It is also meant for students to appreciate and understand

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## Funniest People holds auditions in Flagroom

By Julie Myers  
Of The Battalion Staff

Some of America's funniest people are waiting to be discovered at Texas A&M.

The producers of ABC's America's Funniest People will audition A&M students from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday in the MSC Flagroom.

KTSR Star 92 disc jockey Bobby "Slam" Duncan also will broadcast live from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the MSC.

Contestants appearing on the weekly show have a chance to win a \$10,000 first prize, or second and third prizes worth \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

Duncan says the show's producer obviously believed there are some prospects at A&M for the show.

Anne Harding, MSC recreation chairwoman and senior journalism major, said the show auditions at many colleges and universities.

They also will audition Baylor University students while in Texas.

Harding says the crew will videotape each audition in the Flagroom and edit the tape in Los Angeles.

The ABC crew apparently stays away from major metropolitan centers, like Houston, and concentrates

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### Weather Outlook

Wed Cloudy	Thurs Cloudy	Fri Cloudy

### Focus

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