

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Saddam praises Iraqi citizens

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Sunday saluted his country's resistance to "the warplanes of shame" that have brought more than three weeks of bombardment, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

INA said Saddam described the patience of the Iraqi people as "the force of faith on the frontline," the soldiers in Kuwait who have been subjected to relentless bombing by the U.S.-led alliance in an effort to dislodge them.

The president hailed "steadfastness, faith and light in the chests of the Iraqis," and "their faith that they should not relinquish their role assigned to them by God, to which they obediently responded," the news agency said.

INA said Saddam reaffirmed that the Iraqis, "each passing hour and day become more firm in what they believe, and they shine out more in front of the whole world."

The speech, running about 25 minutes, was broadcast at 10 p.m. Baghdad time (1 p.m. CST), shortly after the news agency

announced a "historic speech" would be broadcast.

Reception of Baghdad radio in Nicosia was too poor to decipher. INA did not immediately carry a full text of the message.

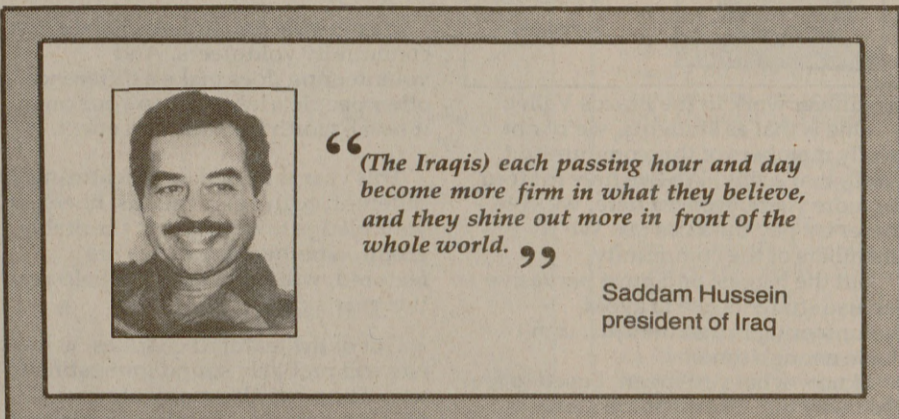
It was the first time Saddam was heard on a broadcast in about two weeks, when he was interviewed in Baghdad by Cable News Network.

Saddam's speech came on the eve of an expected offensive by allied troops.

However, as allied pilots bombed Iraqi troops and their supply lines Sunday, a senior American military official said the U.S.-led forces could use another three to four weeks to prepare for a ground offensive.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, meanwhile, said the next phase of the Persian Gulf War would probably combine air power with both ground and amphibious combat. But he would not say how soon it might begin.

In the air campaign, the Americans lost their first warplane in combat in more than a week. The Marine Corp AV-8 Harrier was downed over southern Kuwait on Sat-



"(The Iraqis) each passing hour and day become more firm in what they believe, and they shine out more in front of the whole world."

Saddam Hussein president of Iraq

urday, and the pilot was missing, the U.S. command said.

Taking advantage of improving weather, American warplanes flew 2,800 missions Sunday, concentrating on Republican Guard troops on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border

and the bridges, highways and railways used to supply them.

The fierce action in the air and sporadic exchanges of artillery along the Saudi border came as Cheney headed back to Washington to brief President Bush on the pro-

gress of the 25-day-old war.

He told reporters flying home with him that the air campaign had reduced the fighting power of some Iraqi divisions by as much as 40 percent.

Although Cheney did not say when a ground and amphibious assault might begin, a senior American military official said some U.S. forces just arrived in Saudi Arabia and they need three or four more weeks to prepare.

"The guys just got off the boat, they could use some more time," the official told The Associated Press in Riyadh on condition of anonymity. He was referring to the ground units recently arrived from Europe. Such forces have the specialized M-1 battle-tanks designed to take on Iraq's Soviet-made T-72 tanks.

Iraq said it would welcome a ground assault by the allies, who now have about 700,000 soldiers in the region, including 505,000 Americans.

Several hours before Saddam's speech, Baghdad radio said Iraqi troops were prepared "to make this duel the end of the imperialist American empire."

### Miss TAMU uses position to help young

By Troy D. Hall The Battalion

Newly crowned Miss Texas A&M University Kim Nietenhoefer plans to use her reign to help young people in the community strive for their goals.



Nietenhoefer

"When I was growing up, I always looked up to people who were older than me and who I thought were going places in their life," says Nietenhoefer, a junior political science major from Boerne. "So I want to be an inspiration to younger people and tell them they can do anything they want if they set their mind to it."

Nietenhoefer says her crowning at Saturday night's Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant still is soaking in.

Waiting to enter the pageant since she was a freshman, she says she decided to wait and work with the pageant committee for a couple of years.

"I finally decided this was the year I was going to do it, and I was not going to wait anymore," she says. "I am so glad I made it."

Nietenhoefer was among 12 finalists who began tryouts for the competition last October. The tryouts began with 30 entries.

Nietenhoefer's reign will find her representing A&M at social, athletic and service events in the community and state.

Nietenhoefer says she has signed contracts for community service events, including promoting a drug-free society and education.

Nietenhoefer says her new title will be a challenge.

"I am going to have to manage my time carefully," she says.

Being Miss TAMU, a member of Chi Omega sorority, and a Sigma Alpha Epsilon little sister, among other organizations, Nietenhoefer says she wants to put 100 percent into everything.

But she says education is still her top priority.

She plans to go to law school and realizes she has to maintain good grades to obtain her career goals.

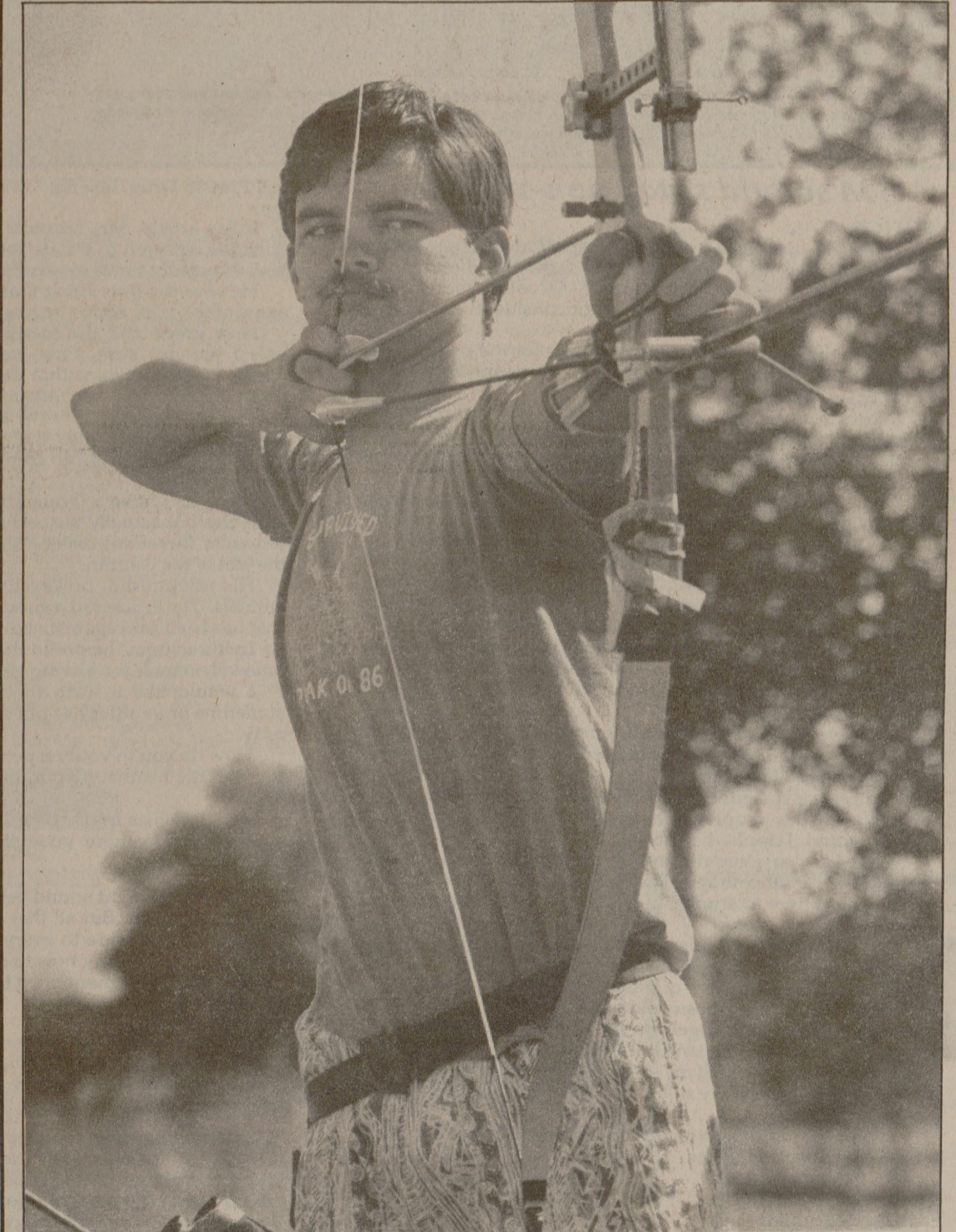
Dick and Pat Brunner, 1990-91 A&M Parents of the Year, were among the judges of the pageant.

"All of these girls are winners," says Pat Brunner. "We are really proud of them."

Mr. and Mrs. Brunner said the

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### Straight as an arrow



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Curtis Sager, a member of the A&M archery team, practices Sunday for the upcoming outdoor season. The men's team will challenge for the

national championship in May after five consecutive second place finishes. The team will host the Indoor Championships in March.

### Rep. Ogden pushes voting bill to avoid address confusion

By Julie Myers The Battalion

State Rep. Steve Ogden filed a bill Friday with the Texas Legislature to amend the Texas Election Code and clear up confusion over the "permanent residence address" portion of voter registration cards.



Ogden

Ogden, a Republican from Bryan, says the proposed changes will help eliminate the confusion which led to more than 1,800 Texas A&M students mistakenly registering to vote in other counties before November's general elections.

The students registered in other counties by putting their parents' addresses in the "permanent mailing address" portions of voter registration cards.

The proposed changes include:

- Adding the words, "county in

which applicant resides and intends to vote" to the space for the applicant's county of residence.

• Replacing the words, "Permanent residence address" with the words, "where you live and intend to return." Ogden says residence address is not legally defined as "permanent."

• Stating that giving false information to obtain voter registration is a misdemeanor. Presently, the registration card incorrectly says the offense is a felony. According to the criminal code, it is a misdemeanor.

Other proposed changes in the code include requiring delivery of written notice within two days to applicants whose registration cards were sent to other counties. Applications clearly must indicate the applicant resides in another county.

The amendment, which would be effective Sept. 1, also requires the Texas Secretary of State to provide amended voter registration cards no later than Dec. 31.

An official voter registration application form that complies with the law as it exists Aug. 31 would remain valid. On receiving the new forms,

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### Chinese students observe New Year of the Goat

By Katherine Coffey The Battalion

Chinese students at Texas A&M celebrated the Year of the Goat Saturday in the MSC with an entertaining show, dinner and Chinese cultural display.

The traditional Chinese New Year begins Feb. 1 and lasts through Feb. 15.

"Just like Christmas for Americans, the new year to Chinese is the day for family reunion in the western culture," said Chieh Peng, president of the A&M Chinese Student Association.

"The celebration of the new year is like saying congratulations to each other and for luck in the new year," she said.

Chinese New Year celebrations started on the A&M campus more than 15 years ago, Peng said.

Music from the Roan's Band and CSA chorus, skits by the A&M Chinese School, dances by the CSA Folk Dance Club and performances by the CSA Rodeo Club and Chinese fighting artists highlighted this year's two-hour program.

"We thought it was a good idea to present our culture to Americans," Peng said. "Since we don't have Chinese day or week, we thought this was a good chance to tell Americans and other cultures what we have."

Peng, who is from Taiwan and is a research associate in the A&M

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### Air Force pilot from A&M listed as MIA

The U.S. Air Force listed a Texas A&M graduate as "missing in action" after the plane he was flying went down Feb. 1 somewhere in the Middle East.

Thomas Clifford Bland, 26, Class of '86, was an A&M Student Government member and an opportunity scholarship recipient while at A&M. He graduated a commissioned Air Force officer.

Air Force officials would not give the location, type of aircraft or nature of the crash for security reasons.

Air Force 1st Lt. Bland is from Gathersburg, Md.

### Anti-apartheid group refocuses efforts

By Bridget Harrow The Battalion

After focusing on South Africa, Students Against Apartheid recently has changed its name and broadened its scope to include the oppressed of other nations.

Now known as the Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (SCAR), the organization at Texas A&M will not concentrate only on apartheid in South Africa.

"We changed our focus because we feel the problem of apartheid and racism exists elsewhere in the world, including the United States," says Syed Hyder, president of SCAR.

SCAR also will focus on the Soviet Union, Israel and some Latin Amer-

ican countries that discriminate against native Indians, Hyder says.

The student organization will try to have a speaker discuss apartheid and racism in different places every week, Hyder says. So far, speakers have lectured on South Africa and Palestine.

"Our motto is education through non-violent actions," Hyder says. "So we try to educate people about the problems of racism and apartheid around the world."

Hyder says apartheid in South Africa still will be on SCAR's agenda. He says SCAR is encouraged by recent South African reforms, but the student group will maintain its opposition to apartheid.

"We changed our focus because we received suggestions from people

that apartheid is coming to an end in South Africa, although it has not come to a full end yet," Hyder says. "(F.W.) De Klerk (president of South Africa) has made a lot of changes, but there still is a long way to go."

South Africa today is like the United States after the Civil War, Hyder says.

"After the Civil War, everyone thought it was all downhill, and every man would be free and equal," he says. "But it took decades until civil rights laws were passed for problems to be solved."

Hyder says SCAR also is continuing to push for divestment from South Africa. He says the University needs to divest.

"Texas A&M always claims to be a world-class University," Hyder says.

"So I think A&M has a responsibility to face world-class problems."

Many new people have begun coming to SCAR meetings since it expanded its scope, Hyder says.

"In previous years, we were criticized for not dealing with problems of racism on the homefront and only focusing on apartheid in South Africa," he says.

Hyder says that as students SCAR members believe they should educate other people about racism and apartheid.

"People need to understand that while the United States is sending people thousand of miles away to fight for a cause, there are causes facing Americans at home that are equally, if not more important," Hyder says.

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