

Texas A&M The Battalion

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A&M remembers missing pilot

Squadron wears MIA bracelets

By Elizabeth Tisch
The Battalion

Members of Squadron 1 display their concern for a Texas A&M graduate listed as missing in action by wearing gold MIA bracelets.

Thomas Clifford Bland, Class of '86 and former member of the squadron, was listed missing after the plane he was flying went down Feb. 1 somewhere in the Middle East.

Because Squadron 1 Executive Officer Mark Stratton, Class of '91, holds the same position Bland had in 1986, he says he is compelled to show the company's support and concern for the Bland family in Maryland.

"I've heard his name since I was a freshman and the word 'motivation' always accompanied it," Stratton says.

Squadron 1 juniors organized the distribution of the gold MIA bracelets, he says.

"They ordered 50 MIA bracelets with Bland's name and the date the Air Force listed him missing," he says.

The juniors also ordered more bracelets for former members of Squadron 1, Stratton says.

"We want to distribute as many as we can to keep Bland in our hearts," he says. "The members of our unit



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Squadron 1 Executive Officer Mark Stratton watches senior John Webb sign a sympathy card for the parents of missing-in-action Air Force officer and former Texas A&M student Clifford Bland. The U.S. Air Force listed Bland as MIA after the plane he was flying went down Feb. 1 somewhere in the Middle East. Bland, 26, was an A&M Student Government member and graduated in 1986.

vowed not to take them off until he is found or has had a proper burial."

Stratton says the company has sent an ivy plant to Bland's mother to symbolize continuous life. In addition to the plant, Stratton says he

plans to send a letter of support to the Bland family with the signatures of every member of the Corps.

"So far, I have most of the signatures," he says. "I plan to send the letter this Friday."

Beginning today, Stratton will send letters to all resident advisers for hall residents to sign. Stratton also will leave a letter in the Corps

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Allies cut off Basra as air war escalates

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — U.S. and allied jets stepped up the air war Monday with hundreds more bombing runs against Iraqi targets. The city of Basra, strategic heart of Iraq's defense, was believed all but cut off.

"We hated to come back, but we ran out of bombs," an exuberant U.S. Air Force pilot told reporters on his return.

As U.S. air commanders pressed this "battlefield preparation phase," President Bush met with his war advisers to consider ordering American troops onto that battlefield.

Emerging from a White House meeting with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and joint chiefs chairman Gen. Colin Powell, both just back from Saudi Arabia, the president said the air war "will continue for a while."

As for a ground offensive, Bush said, "we're not talking about dates."

In Baghdad, the government announced it was reaching still deeper into the Iraqi population for teenage soldiers to help "destroy the enemies of God and humanity."

Also Monday, Iraq's religious affairs minister, Abdullah Fadel, said "thousands" of civilians have been killed or wounded in allied bombings. It was the first time a senior Iraqi official had spoken of such high civilian losses. The government previously listed 650 civilian dead. Peace activist and former U.S. at-

torney general Ramsey Clark, newly returned to New York from a week in Iraq, said the chief of the country's Red Cross affiliate estimated civilian deaths at 6,000 to 7,000.

A Soviet envoy, Yevgeny Primakov, ventured into bomb-battered Baghdad to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Tuesday about a Kremlin initiative to end the war. In Yugoslavia, representatives of 15 non-aligned nations began considering an Iranian bid to mediate an end to the conflict.

Before heading to Baghdad, Primakov stopped in Tehran to coordinate his activities with the Iranians.

Iraq fired two Scuds at Israel and launched a missile at Saudi Arabia, causing injuries and damage in both countries.

U.S.-supplied Patriot missiles destroyed the incoming Scud near Riyadh, but falling debris injured two people, officials said.

Early Tuesday, a missile with a conventional warhead hit a residential area in Israel, officials said. Army spokesman Brig. Gen. Nachman Shai did not say how many people were hurt but that "most of them are only slightly wounded. Perhaps one or two of them suffered moderate wounds."

Patriots were fired to intercept the Scud but it was not clear if they hit the Iraqi missile.

President says he will delay ground war with Iraqis

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said Monday he will hold off a bloody ground war against Iraq for now while allied forces continue pounding Saddam Hussein's forces with air strikes that have been "very, very effective."

"We are going to take whatever time is necessary to sort out when a next stage might begin," Bush said on the 26th day of the war after meeting with top military advisers just back from the Persian Gulf.

The White House complained that Saddam was reaping dividends by exaggerating civilian casualties from allied bombings.

"The propaganda and PR battle is where Saddam is scoring his points," presidential press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said.

Referring to Mikhail Gorbachev's weekend criticism concerning civilian losses in Iraq, Fitzwater said, "It's disturbing to find this evidence that somebody's buying it."

Iraq has been expressing impatience for a ground war, seemingly believing its modern tanks and artillery, equipped with chemical- and biological-tipped warheads, can inflict heavy casualties on the U.S.-led allies.

IFC inquiry Council finds rush breaches alcohol rule

By Elizabeth Tisch
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Interfraternity Council Judicial Board found one A&M fraternity guilty of violating the dry rush policy this semester and is investigating another for alcohol-related infractions.

Dr. Mike Leese, IFC's staff adviser, said complaints filed against the two fraternities for alcohol possession during dry rush led to the investigation by the IFC.

Russell White, chairman for 1991 IFC rush, said dry rush means fraternities cannot possess or consume alcohol during formal rush procedures, whether they take place in a fraternity house or at a private nightclub.

The fraternity found guilty of violating dry rush could face penalties ranging from a maximum fine of \$1,000 to chapter probation.

White said the IFC Judicial Board has not released the names of the two fraternities currently under investigation.

Wesley Ward, chief justice of the IFC Judicial Board, also refused to release the names of the fraternities and the penalties.

"That is confidential," he said. "The fraternities are guaranteed a confidential hearing."

Leese also declined to name the fraternities, stating that violations of dry rush legally do not have to be published, unlike hazing violations.

"If it was hazing, then I could release the names, but it would be inappropriate to give the names for violation of rush," Leese said.

He explained violation of dry rush is not illegal, but it is a breach of A&M's IFC policy. White said dry rush was implemented because of the many alcohol-related charges against University of Texas fraternities.

Several years ago, A&M's IFC created Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA), which is composed of volunteers from various fraternities who "go undercover" and report on rules violations during formal rush functions. The A&M fraternity found guilty was reported by a member of GAMMA.

Jason Manney, GAMMA chairman, did not return phone calls to The Battalion.

Regents narrow list of chancellor picks

By Julie Myers
The Battalion

The list of prospective chancellors has been narrowed to five people, said William A. McKenzie, chairman of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

McKenzie addressed the A&M Faculty Senate Monday during its monthly meeting.

"I am afraid I cannot share much more about our current search except to say it is proceeding," McKenzie said. "There is input from a variety of sources, and I am grateful to Interim Chancellor Ed Hiler for the fine job he is doing now."

Because he was asked to address the issue of faculty and student input concerning the chancellor search, McKenzie assured the Senate the Board frequently seeks opinions from students, former students, administrators, staff and faculty members.

"It can be argued that the selection of a chancellor is the single most important task a board should do as our performs," McKenzie said.

McKenzie, the first regent to address the A&M Faculty Senate, said one of the major challenges and responsibilities of the new chancellor will be to foster an envi-

Faculty Senate business meeting/Page 3

ronment that encourages cooperation between faculty members.

The four new institutions that have joined the A&M System in the past year and a half present new opportunities and new challenges, McKenzie said.

"The trick is to build on the strengths of those institutions and take advantage of the geographic differences and the new constituencies that these universities serve," he said.

If this integration is accomplished, all parts of the System will be in a far stronger position to serve the taxpayers of the state, McKenzie said.

"We anticipate that bright undergraduates in some disciplines at these institutions will have a greater interest in continuing graduate school at the main campus," McKenzie said.

"The real genius of a larger System will come from you and your colleagues at the other institutions," he said. "Individual scholars working on collaborative projects ... are the people who will truly justify a large, complex System such as ours."

Gramm, Barton address issues with constituents

By Mike Luman
The Battalion

Up to 1.8 million college students could be turned down nationally next year for student loans because of "staggering financial losses" in the Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm said Monday at Texas A&M.

Gramm, speaking to A&M officials and students in the Pavilion, introduced two reforms he will propose in the Senate to reduce the national loan default rate.

He said if all outstanding defaults were paid off, the GSLC could approve almost 2 million new student loans.

One of Gramm's initiatives is to eliminate student loans at "non-accredited" institutions, meaning trade schools that have a high default rate.

"We're trying to get rid of schools that are abusing the program," Gramm said. "Schools sometimes recruit people not capable of doing the work, and more often than not they default."

Gramm's other initiative concerns people who drop out of an institution. Under the plan, a portion of the refunded tuition automatically could pay the student's loan. These initiatives will work with other default reduction measures,

Gramm said.

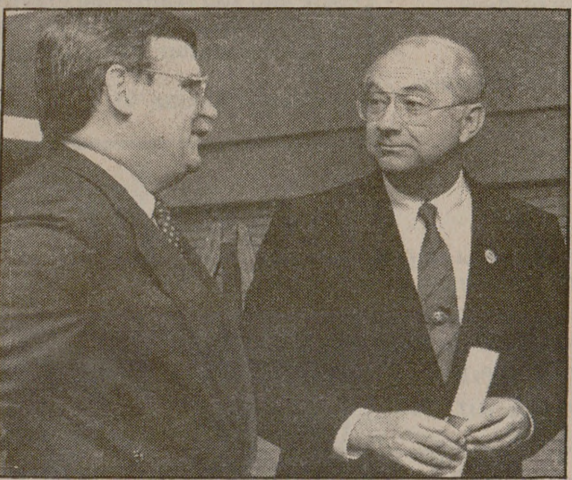
An Internal Revenue Service offset program presently allows GSLC to collect outstanding loans from a person's tax return.

"Instead of getting an income tax refund, people get a notice saying 'you'll be happy to know your debt has been reduced by such amount,'" he said.

A wage garnishment plan also allows GSLC to collect from the salaries of federal employees.

"I have no sympathy for someone who benefits from taxpayer's expenses, makes money of their own and doesn't feel an obligation to repay their loan," he said.

Joe McCormick, president of the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp., said he believes the Senate is



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

A&M President William Mobley and Sen. Phil Gramm talk after a press conference Monday.

doing a "respectable" job controlling the default rate.

TGSLC also is closing "problem" universities to guaranteed loans and has a toll-free number to advise stu-

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Barton says ground battle necessary

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

A land war against Iraq probably is necessary but will not include a frontal assault, U.S. Rep. Joe Barton said Monday in his College Station offices.

"There will not be a massive direct frontal attack that would result in mass casualties," Barton, R-Ennis, said. "I believe we can win without losing a large number of our troops."

Barton said he was one of the 250 members of Congress who voted to authorize the use of force against Iraq.

"I support our actions, and I've got every confidence we are going to win," he said. "I voted to allow the use of force because Iraq refused all peace efforts, and in society there are times when the use of force is appropriate."

Barton said, however, any major ground assault will be postponed until all other options have been exhausted.

If a land attack does occur, Barton said casualties will be kept low be-

cause of the allies' superior equipment and air cover.

He said the Patriot missile is a good example of the near-flawless weaponry at the allies' disposal.

Barton said about 150 to 200 Texas A&M alumni, along with many troops from Brazos County, have been exemplary in their courage and loyalty.

The Texas National Guard's 7-112th Armory-49th Armored Division and the Army's 420th Engineering Brigade are headquartered in Bryan.

Barton said neither unit has been called up but are only a phone call away from deployment.

Barton said public support for the troops in the gulf is almost universal, in contrast to the lack of U.S. support during the Vietnam War.

Barton said he does not believe public support will erode even in the event of larger numbers of casualties that could result from a ground war.

"If public leaders will support our forces and give them the means and authority to win, I don't think this support will change," he said. "In



U.S. Rep. Joe Barton

Iraq we have a clear-cut aim. In Vietnam it was always nebulous."

Barton also said that unlike Vietnam, attacks against military targets in Iraq and Kuwait are not restricted.

"Our military forces in Iraq have shown they are No. 1 in the world," Barton said. "We have the best equipment and people, and morale

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Weather Outlook

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|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | | |
| Wed Cloudy | Thurs Partly Cloudy | Fri Partly Cloudy |

BATTIPS

Anyone with story suggestions can call BATTIPS, The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3313.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.