

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Allies await 'go' order

Soviets propose compromise; U.S. ships damaged by mines

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — On call and on edge, U.S. and allied troops awaited the fateful "go" order Monday along the northern front. But the Soviet Union, at the 11th hour, handed Iraq a new peace proposal in a bid to head off a ground war in the desert.

American gunners pounded Iraqi positions with artillery fire. Iraqi mines afloat in the Persian Gulf damaged two U.S. Navy warships. And Air Force rescue helicopters plucked a downed pilot to safety from deep inside Iraqi-held territory.

"We are prepared to attack if necessary ... tomorrow," said Brig. Gen. Daniel Gazeau, deputy commander of the French contingent.

The allies were ready, too, to defend against any Iraqi pre-emptive attack aimed at disrupting their plans.

"Most of us believe he will try it," Marine Col. Carl Fulford said. "What option is left to him at this stage?"

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, met with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev in Moscow on Monday and was presented with what a Soviet spokesman described only as a "concrete plan" for settlement of the gulf crisis, based on an end to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Aziz immediately flew back to Iran, and from there he will head overland to Iraq on Tuesday. The Soviets said they expected a swift response from Saddam.

White House statements indicated the diplomatic shuttling would not affect the war timetable. But President Bush said "a lot of interesting things" were happening, and he wanted to learn the details of the Soviet plan.

"It's probably to our advantage to have the air campaign go on," said command spokesman Brig. Gen. Richard Neal, "because ... every day our aviation elements are in the air."

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UPD detains local businessman involved with placement of wreath on MSC lawn

By Bridget Harrow
The Battalion

A local business owner was detained by University Police Monday night after he and others placed a wreath shaped like a peace sign in front of the Memorial Student Center.

Hugh Stearns, owner of the Front Porch Cafe, said he was asked to go to the University Police Department for criminal mischief and defiling public property.

"They (UPD) asked if I had a permit, and the permit I told them I had was the Constitution," Stearns said.

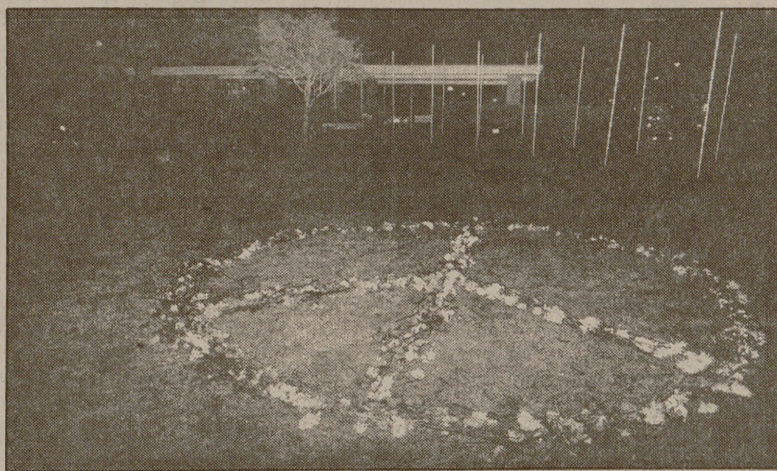
Stearns was handcuffed, taken to UPD, photographed and then released.

Sgt. David Villarreal of UPD said Stearns was detained because agitators verbally were interfering with the police officer's investigation.

"The subject was removed to determine if an offense had been committed," Villarreal said.

Villarreal said UPD has the right to move individuals to a more secure area to talk to them more extensively.

Villarreal said UPD received a call that people were tampering or damaging University property at the MSC. Stearns was released



KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

A flower wreath shaped like a peace symbol lies on the grass of the Memorial Student Center

Monday night. One local businessman was detained by University Police.

because no criminal charges were filed against him, Villarreal said.

Stearns said he did not defile property by placing the wreath on the MSC grass any more than people do when they tie yellow ribbons on University trees.

"In this country if we cannot go out and do something as innocuous as put a wreath or flowers on the ground, then where are our freedoms?" Stearns asked.

Stearns said he and others, in placing the wreath in front of the

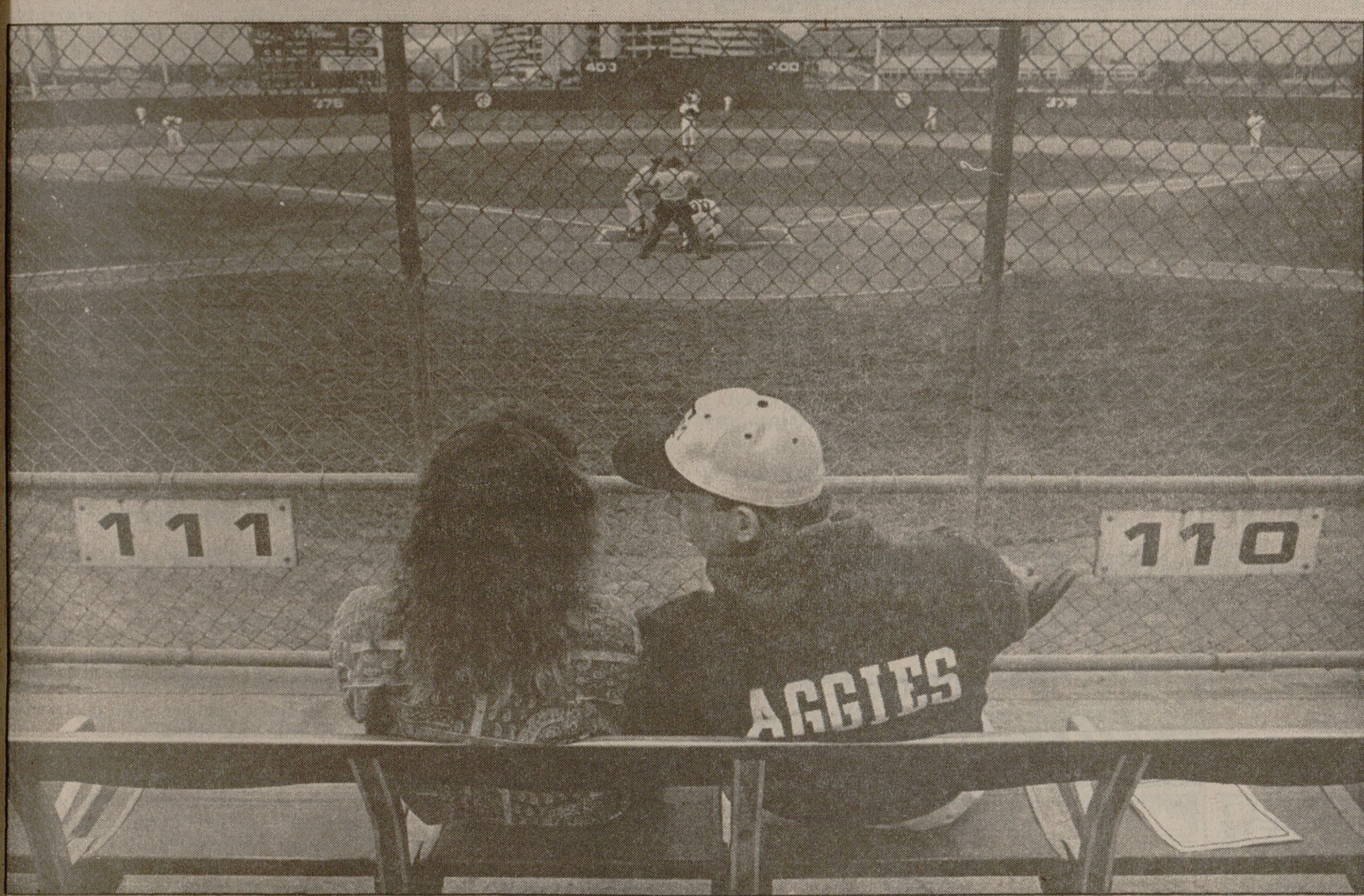
MSC, tried to remind students at Texas A&M they have a great opportunity to think about war because A&M was formerly a military institution.

"If A&M is going to recognize that these people died in war and not recognize the reasons they were fighting for, i.e. peace, — they were trying to establish peace — then A&M has missed the point," Stearns said. "We are a university. We are suppose to be a thinking group of people, and it is important that we get the point."

Stearns said the wreath was still in front of MSC when he was released. He said he and his group placed a statement on the wreath which said:

"This wreath of peace has been placed here as a reminder of the principle behind the supreme sacrifice of those honored here: the pursuit of peace. If we vacantly honor the dead without acknowledging their resolution, we make mere corpses of these great martyrs."

"Let us also remember the suffering of innocent humans on all sides when peace is lost. Peace is magnificently manifested in the freedoms of all Americans. Those inclined to interfere with this free act of expression defile the very foundation of this memorial."



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Karen Kalhoefer, the second baseman for the Aggie softball team and her coach Butch Edge take a day off from practice to watch

the A&M baseball team set five records against Westmont College Monday at Olsen Field. For complete coverage see page 7

31-2

Texas A&M sophomore shortstop Mike Hickey had the biggest day on an afternoon filled with big performances Monday. In A&M's 31-2 win over Westmont, Hickey accounted for almost a third of the Aggies' runs.

"I just had a good day," Hickey said. "You have to take your good days with your bad days. That's

how baseball is. Things just happened right. The pitches I saw today I haven't seen all season."

Hickey's record setting performance paved the way in A&M's largest offensive output in more than 50 years:

• **TEAM RECORDS BROKEN**
A&M's 63 at bats sets a school record.

The 31 runs were one shy of a school record (A&M scored 32 against SMU in 1936).

• **MIKE HICKEY'S INDIVIDUAL RECORDS**

10 runs batted in were the most in a single game (the previous mark was nine, set by Mark Hurdle against TCU in 1976).
6 hits were the most in a single

game (the previous mark was shared by five players, most recently former All-American Scott Livingstone in 1987).

21 total bases were the most in a single game (Kirk Campbell had 13 in 1976).

8 at bats tied a school record (former All-American John Byington had 8 in 1989).

Projected shortfall delivers budget cut to University System

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

The state comptroller will tell Texas A&M administrators by March 1 how much of its budget must be cut or returned to the state treasury, an A&M official says.

State Comptroller John Sharp must find a way to get \$77 million back from state agencies, including the Texas A&M University System, because of an expected budget shortfall this fiscal year, says Dan Parker, A&M assistant provost.

Parker says Sharp has not told A&M how much of its \$200 million in state appropriations must be cut or returned to the state, but it will probably be around 1 percent, or \$2 million.

The returned revenue will come in part from small cuts in many departments and by salary savings from unfilled positions at the University, he says.

Parker says cuts only will be necessary in departments funded by state money, and will not affect research grants, business services and most student services.

Several academic colleges already have begun examining where cuts in their budgets can be made.

A&M's 1991-92 budget, along with other state institutions and agencies, is on hold until the present budget crisis is resolved, he says.

Because of Senate Bill 111, which calls for the 1 percent cuts, the Legislature will not look at next year's budget until after the present budget situation has been addressed, Parker says.

The budget shortfall is predicted to be \$296 million for this fiscal year, which ends Aug. 31.

Gov. Ann Richards signed the budget cuts into law Jan. 31 after unanimous approval from both the House and the Senate.

The bill calls for cuts in most areas of the budget, but excludes Social Security, worker's compensation payments and retirement programs.

Groups help minorities adapt to TAMU culture

By Katherine Coffey
The Battalion

Many more Texas A&M black students are attending a counseling service meant to help them adapt to the University's unfamiliar environment, says A&M psychologist Dr. Bernadine Duncan.

"If you are from a certain culture, it feels good to get back within the culture because there is an unsaid familiarity," says Duncan, the psychologist who started the program four years ago.

"It is not that we are excluding anyone, but the purpose is to get reconnected with one's own sense of culture and that is basically what we are trying to do," she says.

Other support groups include the

Hispanic Issues Group, Hispanic Women's Group and Minority Assertiveness Training.

Duncan says she started the Black Support Group in 1986, but since primarily women were interested in it, she reorganized in 1987 to offer the Black Women's Group.

This year, Duncan and Kevin Carrethers, director of the Department of Multicultural Services, started a Black Men's Group, she says.

Duncan, who is also each group's discussion leader, says racism is the most-discussed issue during the meetings.

"We always talk about racism in these particular groups because even though a lot of people don't think it

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Students propose computer, study center

By Troy D. Hall
The Battalion

A 24-hour computer and group study center proposed to Texas A&M President William Mobley could significantly increase computer facilities and study areas on campus.

The proposal includes adding 500 computer terminals and increasing group study areas in a building probably on west campus, says Stephen Weber, an author of the propo-

sal. The University presently has about 600 computers available for student use.

"There is a definite need for the center and it will greatly benefit the student body," says Weber, a junior biology and chemistry major from Pilot Point.

Weber worked with Edward Muñoz, a sophomore business management major from Corpus Christi, and Thomas Taffinder, a junior biology and chemistry major from

San Antonio, on the project.

All three students are involved in A&M Student Government.

Muñoz says they began working on the proposal in mid-October and completed it in December.

The proposal evolved following the three students' examination of problems with A&M's computing facilities, Muñoz says.

"We were trying to find the problems and make solutions," he says. "This resulted in the

proposal.

Muñoz says group study areas and the learning resources department in Sterling C. Evans Library eventually will be taken out, causing an even greater shortage.

Each time there is a need to expand departments in a building, the first areas to go are group study, Weber says.

Administrators have been impressed with

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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.