


FORECAST
Wednesday
 Sunny High 80



OPINION
 "It is imperative that President Bush seize the initiative in bringing to fruition his domestic agenda."
 — Larry Cox
Column/page 2

SPORTS
Wilson column
 Kermit Davis Jr. was the wrong man for the A&M basketball coaching job in the first place
page 7

INSIDE
Green Week
 Battalion offers water conservation tips.
page 5

The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 112 USPS 045360 10 Pages College Station, Texas

"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

Tuesday, March 19, 1991

Kuwaiti leader claims rebel victory in north, south of Iraq

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Kurdish rebels said Monday the Iraqi army was using virtually every weapon it has to try to break the back of the rebellion in northern Iraq.
 Spokesmen for Shiite Muslims also fighting to topple President Saddam Hussein maintain their fighters are holding off a three-pronged assault by Iraqi troops on the southern cities of Basra, Karbala and Tannuma.
 Iraq's government-controlled newspapers claimed the army crushed the revolt in the south, despite attacks from Shiite rebels that had left cities in ruins. Kuwait's Crown Prince disputed

that, saying Iraqi resistance was winning in the north as well as in southern Iraq near Iran.
 Officials of the Shiite and Kurdish rebel groups in Damascus and London charged Iraqi forces were using napalm and phosphorus bombs to try to put down the twin revolts against Saddam.
 None of the claims could be independently verified.
 Refugees fleeing Basra told reporters with U.S. troops in southern Iraq that rebels still held parts of the city and were being pounded by Iraqi artillery.
 Tehran radio, monitored by the BBC in London, said 12,000 to 16,000 people

were reported killed on the highway between the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Karbala in the Iraqi south. It gave no source for the figure.
 In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said there was heavy fighting between Iraqi forces and Kurdish dissidents in northern Iraq.
 He said the dissidents "now appear to be in control of large portions of predominantly Kurdish areas of northern and northeastern Iraq."
 Fighting is also continuing in the south along the lower Tigris and Euphrates rivers and in the vicinity of Shia

holy cities, he said, adding there had been damage to holy shrines.
 In Kuwait City, Crown Prince Saad Abdullah al-Sabah told U.S. congressmen the Iraqi resistance has the upper hand in northern Iraq and in southern Iraq along Iran's border.
 Based on intelligence reports, al-Sabah said Iraqi forces "have not been able to control the situation, especially in the northern part of Iraq."
 "In the southern part of Iraq, especially the areas that are in the borderline between Iran and Iraq, this is some sort of no-man's land. It is not

under control of either the Iraqis or the Iranians."
 "There are a number of groups that are facing the armed forces and the authorities of Iraq. They have been able to take control of some of the police centers and the government buildings," he said, without specifying locations.
 In Damascus, Sami Abdul Rahman of the Kurdistan People's Democratic Party said Kurds fighting in the north retained control of a wide swath of territory along the Iranian and Turkish borders.



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Aston Hall fire

College Station firefighter, Tim Kinchloe, (left) carries fire hoses into Aston Hall to extinguish a blaze in an upstairs trash dumpster reported at 2:30 Monday afternoon. (below) Kinchloe walks past the dumpster that was set on fire. The blaze was brought under control quickly, but the extent of the damage to the hall was unknown.



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Soviet vote preserves federation

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his maverick rival Boris N. Yeltsin on Monday both emerged from the first referendum in Soviet history able to claim victory.
 In the nonbinding election held Sunday in 11 time zones across the Soviet Union, Gorbachev won overwhelming support for preserving a renewed federation with the majority of the population.
 But partial returns showed Yeltsin winning on a question that has been opposed by Gorbachev: Creating a strong presidency for the Russian federation, and filling it by direct election.
 Yeltsin was elected chairman by Russia's legislature in May. Known as the Russian president, he is in danger of losing that job. The hard-line members of Rus-

sia's Congress are planning a no-confidence vote on March 28. Even if Yeltsin lost that vote, he would be strongly favored in a popular election.
 Gorbachev's referendum won by margins of 70 percent to 95 percent in seven of the 15 republics: the Ukraine, Byelorussia, and in the five republics of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenia and Kirgizia.
 There were no final totals for Russia and Azerbaijan on Monday. Local counts were running strongly in favor of the union in the Russian countryside and many cities, but weak in Yeltsin's strongholds, Moscow and Sverdlovsk.
 In Lithuania, the count could be accurate only if there were at least 200,000 'no' votes, said parliamentary spokesman Harris Subacius.

Mobil Corp. creates scholarship program

By University News Service
 nounced Allen Murray, Mobil's board chairman, president and chief executive officer.
 Murray said the basis for the scholarships will be active-duty service during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm — from Aug. 2, 1990 to the official end of the war.
 See Mobil/Page 4

AggieCon activities begin Thursday

By Twila Waddy
The Battalion
 AggieCon, which begins Thursday and continues through Sunday, is open to everyone and is sponsored by MSC Cepheid Variable, a science-fiction fantasy horror committee.
 AggieCon began in 1969 with a one-day speaker presentation.
 "It was not called AggieCon then," he says. "It was Science Fiction Week, and it was sponsored by the English department."
 Author Harlan Ellison spoke during the first AggieCon and visited several English classes at A&M.
 About 400 people attended AggieCon 3 in 1972, but now more than 3,000 people attend.
 "The attendance every year averages around 3,200," he says. "This year we have 52 quests and six major quests."
 About half the AggieCon participants are from the local area, while many come from Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio. Another 10 percent come from out of state.
 "AggieCon is like the first big science-fiction convention of the year," he says. "We basically kick off the conventioning."
 David Mandebille, AggieCon program director, says the good weather helps AggieCon's attendance. During April and May, the weather still is bad in the Northwest
 See AggieCon/Page 10

Sherman sets top priorities as Corps Commander

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion
 Increased recruiting and better students for Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets are some of newly named Corps Commander John Sherman's top priorities.
 Sherman recently was selected as next year's commander by a board of military officers.
 Sherman says his main goal as Corps commander is keeping the upperclassmen motivated.
 "If the seniors and juniors don't keep a sharp appearance and carry themselves well, there's no way we can keep the subordinates motivated," he says.
 "The Corps' numbers are down right now, and I think we need to get them back up to what they need to be," he says.
 Sherman says cadets should keep academics as their first priority, as well as maintaining other Corps' standards.

"Of course, academics is always a first priority," Sherman says. "But so is retention, keeping people in the Corps."
 The junior history major from Houston has been in the Corps since his freshman year. He says he considered other military schools and academies before deciding on A&M.
 "But I figured we have what I guess you could call the military school of Texas right here," he says.
 Sherman says A&M offers the same commission as other academies but has a "social plus" that other military academies do not.
 "We (Corps members) can interact with others besides just military personnel," he says. "I think later in life if we ever decide to get out of the military, that will act as a real plus."
 After he graduates, Sherman says the military will "definitely" be a major part of his future, but he is not sure if it will become a career choice. Sherman says his other options include land management, politics, or oil and mineral law.
 The process of becoming Corps commander begins with several interviews during the second semester of a cadet's sophomore year.
 Interviewers evaluate the cadets' past performance in the Corps, leadership abilities and academics.
 From these interviews, cadets are selected for Corps sergeant major, an assistant to the Corps commander. Sergeant majors serve during their junior year.
 Eight individuals, usually Corps sergeant majors, are considered for Corps commander during the second semester of their junior year. They are interviewed by Corps officers who then choose the Corps commander.
 Sherman says he was more surprised to be chosen sergeant major than he is now.



FREDRICK D. JOE/The Battalion

A&M junior John Sherman found out about two weeks ago that he has been chosen as next year's Corps of Cadets commander. Sherman was selected for the position after a series of interviews and evaluations of his leadership abilities and performance in the Corps. Behind him is his staff.