

State & Local

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The Battalion

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The Battalion encourages its readers to contribute story ideas and suggestions by calling BATTIPS. The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm

A&M plans to honor own Gulf War vets

By K. Lee Davis
The Battalion

Texas A&M's planned celebration will honor all students, faculty, staff and former students who served on active duty during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The activities on Sept. 28, planned in conjunction with the A&M home football game against the University of Southwestern Louisiana, will start early Saturday morning and last until after the game.

Among the dignitaries expected to attend the day's activities are Maj. Gen. John Tilelli Jr., commander of the 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood which was deployed to the Persian Gulf in October 1990 and Air Force Maj.

Gen. Thomas Olsen, Class of '56, Commander in Charge of Gulf Theatre Air Operations during the conflict.

U.S. Rep. Joe Barton (R-Ennis) and Greg Laughlin are also expected to attend. President George Bush, Gov. Ann Richards, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen and Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf have neither accepted nor declined their invitations at press time.

A representative from Sen. Phil Gramm's office said Gramm will decline his invitation.

Along with the Aggies being honored, participants in the operation from USL will also be saluted during the game.

Included with the group being honored are ten Aggies selected as recipients of Mobil Oil Corporation's Desert Shield/Storm Scholarships and 50 students se-

lected to receive Texas A&M's Association of Former Students' Desert Shield/Storm Scholarships.

Game-day activities will begin at 9 a.m. in the recently completed Fish Pond Park across from Sbis Dining Hall with a dedication ceremony honoring the three Aggies who gave their lives during the conflict.

The classmates of Maj. Richard M. Price, Class of '74, Lt. Danny V. Hull, Class of '81, and Capt. Thomas Clifford Bland, Class of '86, have donated funds to name three benches in the park in their honor. Two other benches in the park, honoring fallen Aggies from World War II and the Korean War, will also be dedicated.

At 10 a.m. a memorial ceremony to add the names of the three fallen Desert Storm Aggies to the

Parachute Club. At 3:30 p.m., President Mobley will host a pre-game buffet for all Aggies who participated in the campaign and for all of the visiting dignitaries. The Singing Cadets are expected to perform around 3:40 p.m., and President Mobley is expected to speak at 4 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., just before game time, there will be a special pre-game ceremony honoring all participants in the operations.

At halftime, special music will be presented in line with the rest of the day's festivities by the University of Southwestern Louisiana Ragin' Cajun Band and the Aggie Band.

A fireworks display expected to last at least three minutes will start within seconds of the end of the game.

Man thanks supporters, dies by lethal injection

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Convicted killer James "Sugarman" Russell was executed early Thursday after thanking his supporters, expressing love to his family and lashing out at the death penalty.

Russell, 42, was given lethal injection by prison officials for abducting and fatally shooting Thomas Stearns, an electronics store manager who had identified the two-time robbery convict to police as the man who held up his shop.

He was pronounced dead at 12:20 a.m., five minutes after the lethal drugs began flowing into his arms.

"Wherever the death penalty is, there will be no civilization. There will be no respect for human life," he said at the conclusion of a three-minute final statement.

He made no reference to his

1974 crime in Fort Bend County during his last comments.

When told that the execution had been carried out, Robert Stearns of Round Rock, father of the victim, responded, "Good, good. I guess we go on to the next stop of our lives now."

The day before Russell was to go on trial for the robbery of Thomas Stearns' Radio Shack store in Houston, Stearns was abducted and taken to a rural area of Fort Bend County, southwest of Houston, where he was sexually abused and shot twice in the head at point-blank range.

Russell, from Sugar Land, contended he was a victim of racism, since his trial was heard by an all-white jury. Russell was black. His victim was white.

Audubon society links population with environmental problems

Group wants to limit births

AUSTIN (AP) — Mention the National Audubon Society, and most people think birds, not birth control. But leaders of the environmental group Thursday said limiting the human population is vital to preserving the planet.

"Really, this is the ultimate environmental issue. If you think of any classical environmental problem, you can't think of a single one that would not be less severe if population pressures were less," said Peter Berle, society president.

Berle attended the society's southwest regional conference, "A Vision for 2020: Population and the Environment," which ends Sunday.

The conference is meant to help people make the connection between population growth and such issues as wildlife and habitat, as well as food supply and health care, said Patricia Waak, Audubon's director of population programs.

"Family planning is important to bring about what our vision is of the future... Let's save wildlife, and let's save the planet for humans as well," Ms. Waak said.

Berle said, "Environment and wildlife is where we start, but we don't deal with wildlife issues without dealing with the threats to habitat which

make wildlife possible... You cannot deal with an environmental problem in isolation."

He said other environmental groups also are involved in the push for population control.

"This is one of the core issues that the whole environmental community ought to be concerned about," Berle said.

According to a handbook that the National Audubon Society helped to prepare, it is "just barely" possible to stop short of doubling the world's 5.4 billion population.

If the share of fertile couples practicing family planning is increased from about 55 percent now to about 75 percent in the year 2000, most population growth would stop by about 2050, it said. World population would then be about 9 billion.

Increased U.S. foreign aid funding for family planning is a priority of the National Audubon Society and other population and environmental groups, the handbook said. They want to increase it from the current \$300 million to at least \$570 million next year.

Ms. Waak said the National Audubon Society also is working on public education.

A&M organization recruits highschool students

By John Lose
The Battalion

A Texas A&M student organization called High School Public Relations and Recruitment (HSPR²) has been reactivated in earnest this semester under the direction of sophomore chemistry major Lisa Rodriguez.

HSPR² is a group of A&M students who work with the University's Office of School Relations and the Student Government by visiting high schools and explaining what it is like to be an Aggie.

"We've had a huge response," Ro-

driguez said. "Right now, we have about 150 involved, but sign-up is still open. The more people we have, the better. And we're really looking for people from out of state."

Rodriguez said there is no interview involved in becoming a member of HSPR². All an interested student needs to do is sign up in 221 Pavilion and undergo a short training session.

"In the training session, we show the recruiters the video and explain that they are not going to have to talk about tuition, SAT scores and so forth," Rodriguez said.

"Instead, what we will have them do is

discuss things like bonfire, yell practice, Twelfth Man, what to do and what not to do, and stuff like that. If the high school students do ask about admissions, we will have brochures and information available, and we can let them know who to call with their questions."

Rodriguez said while A&M recruiters usually attend All-University Nights and college days at high schools, HSPR² recruiters will visit the schools this semester during Christmas break and talk to the students at lunchtime on a more informal basis.

"What we'll be doing is more of a stu-

dent-to-student kind of thing," Rodriguez said.

HSPR² is made up of two subcommittees. One is the group of student recruiters that is open to everyone, and the other is a group of about twelve operations officers who will handle the training sessions. Officers for the organization will be appointed from the operations committee.

"We've been around for a long time," Rodriguez said. "But the group's been kind of inactive."

"Right now we're trying to get it started up again and so far we've had a great response."



presents

Why we won the War
featuring
LTC Jimmy Dunham '70
Assistant Professor of Military Science

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7:00 pm
7:00 pm

Student "Y"
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