

FORECAST



Scattered T-storms. High in the low 80s.

OPINION

Page 7

The annual war of words over bonfire begins.
Columnists Christina Maimarides and David Nash clash on the issue.

LIFESTYLES

Page 3


AGGIE COTTON
A&M researchers develop maroon-colored cotton.



SPORTS

Page 5

Two high school basketball players sign letters-of-intent to play for Texas A&M next season.



The Battalion

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Soviet stability depends on army's loyalty, A&M expert says

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

A Soviet Army disgusted with the present anarchy and economic collapse in the Soviet Union could support a dictatorial strong man, possibly Russian president Boris Yeltsin, a Texas A&M foreign affairs expert fears.

Dr. Ronald Hatchett, deputy director of A&M's Mosher Institute for Defense Studies said he hopes his visit to Moscow next week will shed some light on the mood of the Soviet military.

"It should be a good opportunity to

see the army's disposition," Hatchett said. "The army is the key to the future of the Soviet Union."

Hatchett said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's central government can only continue to exist as long as the army remains loyal.

"Gorbachev's government has just about ceased to exist," he said. "Over the weekend, the last central controls over the economy were removed."

He said Yeltsin will now take over the exchange rate of Soviet currency and all enterprise, including military affairs.

Yeltsin, however, is scarcely more secure in his position, Hatchett said.

A 177-to-4 vote by the Russian republic's parliament reversed a decree by Yeltsin that had placed troops in the Chechen-Ingush region of the republic. The troops were part of an attempt to temper a flaring independence movement in the region.

"This move by the legislature was a direct blow to Yeltsin," Hatchett said. "They are trying to let him know this decree was an authoritarian measure that will not be tolerated."

Hatchett said rule by decree, or "ukaz," was a favorite of the Russian czars historically.

"The legislature is letting Yeltsin

know he must coordinate his policy with them before taking any action," he said.

Hatchett said, however, the legislature was not saying Yeltsin's policy was wrong.

"They did not vote to show support for the autonomous regions of the republic being allowed to leave," he said. "That would leave huge holes in the republic, and deplete Russia's population and resources."

The Russian republic contains 27 separate autonomous political entities including Chechen-Ingush, he said. Ten of the regions consist of more than one million people each.

"To allow the break-up to continue to this level would open a whole new Pandora's box," Hatchett said. "If one gets independence, they all might, which will cause some severe problems."

The trend toward fragmentation, developing now at the republic level, could easily get out of hand, Hatchett said.

"The Tatar republic, and Khazakistan are autonomous regions with similar aspirations," he said. "The Tatar region is larger than Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. If they can exist as independent nations, why can't the Tatar republic?"

See Russian/Page 2

Female cadet files criminal charges

County attorney to handle complaint

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

A female ROTC student has filed charges against a male member of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets whom she claims kicked her in the back while she was administering a physical fitness test to him Thursday.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said UPD has investigated the incident and turned its report over to the Brazos County Attorney's office.

"We turned that investigation over to the county attorney, and he will accept the complaint on behalf of the female," he said.

The same report was given to Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, who will use the report to determine if disciplinary action by the University is necessary, Wiatt said.

"This action is separate from the criminal charge," he said.

The county attorney's office has taken the case and will determine what charges will be filed this week.

Rod Anderson, an assistant district attorney, said the office is reviewing the UPD report.

"Right now we're looking at criminal assault charges," he said. "We'll have the paperwork ready and charges will be filed later this week."

Koldus said A&M will also look into the incident.

The investigation by A&M will make a conclusion about whether disciplinary action is necessary as it relates to the University, not to the courts, he said.

"The University acts separately and apart from the county attorney," he said.

"We're not bound by the legal and technical rules of the courts," Koldus said.

He added that the University's investigation will proceed regardless of what happens with the case in the courts.



Spur of the moment

Freshmen members of G-2 outfit attach their makeshift fish spurs Monday outside the MSC. The bottlecap spurs are worn to raise spirit the week before the A&M-SMU football game. Cadets must wear the spurs before they can earn the privilege of wearing senior boots.

Captors release hostages

Sutherland, Waite gain freedom; six Westerners remain detained

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Shiite Muslim kidnappers freed British hostage Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland on Monday, and Waite said the remaining three Americans held hostage in Lebanon would be released by month's end.

"Terry Waite and I are very happy to have received our first gulps of Lebanon and Syrian fresh air, but we have to wait to tomorrow to meet the sunshine," said a joyous Sutherland on his arrival from Beirut.

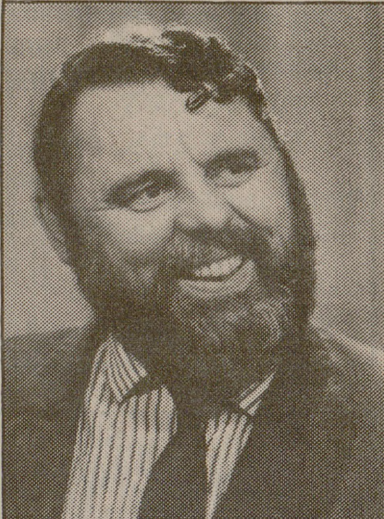
Their release by the group Islamic Jihad, or Holy War, was a dramatic advance toward ending the hostage ordeal. The United Nations has been leading diplomatic efforts to gain freedom for Western hostages in Lebanon in exchange for the release of Arab detainees held by Israel.

Sutherland and Waite's release raised speculation that the Israelis may have made a commitment to free Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid.

Waite said at a news conference that his captors told him before they set him free that American hostages Joseph Cicciopio and Alann Steen would be released within the next five days, and Terry Anderson by the end of the month.

He said he did not know when the three remaining hostages — two Germans and an Italian — would be released. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said all should be freed by Christmas.

Waite and Sutherland indicated they had been chained to a wall day in and day out for most of



Terry Waite, 52, was held captive for almost five years. He was taken hostage while on a mission to negotiate the release of Westerners held by the Islamic Jihad.

their captivity, and that they depended on each other for comfort and company.

Waite said one captor came to tell them Monday afternoon they would be released. "He also said to me, 'We apologize for having captured you.' They recognize that now this was the wrong thing to do, that holding hostages achieves no useful, constructive purpose."

Sutherland said he and the others were "humbled" by learning over the past few months of the support the hostages had worldwide.

See Shiites/Page 6

Multicultural conference focuses on ending discrimination, racism

By Melody Dunne
The Battalion

A conference at Texas A&M will put the University on the right tract toward a discrimination-free campus environment, says an A&M official.

The event, entitled "Drive-in For Diversity," will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday in Rudder Tower. "Drive" is sponsored by Student Services and the Department of Student Affairs.

Materials, a luncheon and break refreshments are covered by

a \$10 registration fee which is due by Wednesday. Admission is free for A&M students and faculty who do not attend the luncheon.

The one-day conference will focus on multicultural issues.

Gloria Flores, coordinator of the Office of Student Development and Multicultural Programs, said the meeting is a great opportunity for A&M.

She said she hopes the conference will motivate students to take on the multicultural challenge of conquering discrimination.

The conference also is designed to bring residence hall and

other student leaders together with experienced staff members who have handled problems of racial discrimination.

Most of the students attending the conference will be from Texas and Oklahoma schools, although students from Louisiana and Arkansas were also invited.

Last year almost 150 student leaders attended the conference, and about 50 of the participants were from A&M.

For more information on the conference, call the Office of Student Development and Multicultural Programs at 845-9804.

Arab-Israeli forum

A&M students, faculty to debate conflicts

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

Texas A&M students and faculty will toy with possible answers to internal conflicts in the Middle East in an informal discussion at 7 tonight in 229 MSC.

Sponsored by the International Students Association (ISA), the event will feature an Arab, a U.S. and an Israeli delegation. The forum is open to the public. The three delegations will each be composed of four or five A&M students and faculty from the perspective regions.

Edward Killerman, director of the ISA discussion series, says the event will be unique from most panels because it will center on views held by average

citizens, instead of experts, and will not be "lecture-style."

"We wanted to get the views of people who have actually lived in these areas, rather than CNN's view," says Killerman, a senior physics major.

Issues to be debated will focus on future options for peace in the Middle East, not past issues such as the Persian Gulf War. Killerman hopes the event will not turn into "finger-pointing" about past issues.

"The delegates may take a completely different path," he says. "Who knows, we may have some radicals."

Killerman says ISA-sponsored discussions in the past have been rather heated.

"There hasn't ever been any physical blows be

See Israeli/Page 2