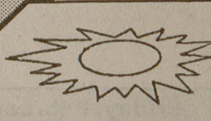
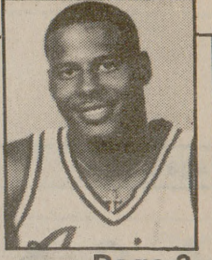


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FORECAST

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OPINION
GAY RIGHTS PROTEST
Violent demonstrations are not necessary and are detrimental to their cause.
- The Battalion editorial board
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Bucky Richardson fetches the second highest bid in charity 'Dream Date'
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Freshman basketball player Damon Johnson returns from a injury

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The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 103 College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" 6 Pages Friday, February 28, 1992

Former Soviet troops riot over food in Kazakhstan; 3 killed

MOSCOW (AP) — Poor food, hazing and beatings helped set the stage for riots by hundreds of soldiers at the former Soviet Union's main space center, newspapers said Thursday.

Three people were killed in the violence Monday and Tuesday at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, where angry soldiers reportedly looted supplies and burned barracks.

The unrest reflects deep problems in the former Soviet army, including falling morale and mistreatment of recruits.

Because the space program was among the Soviet Union's proudest achievements, the riots also were a poignant demonstration of how far the country has fallen into disorder.

The rioting at the 37-year-old space center in the barren steppes of central Kazakhstan did not disrupt operations or affect the flight of the Mir space station, where cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev and Alexander Volkov remain in orbit. They are scheduled to return next month.

The riots involved several hundred of

the 17,000 soldiers assigned to construction jobs at the cosmodrome, about 1,560 miles southeast of Moscow. Construction troops traditionally are the worst fed, housed and clothed units in the army.

The soldiers stole 17 cars, looted food supplies and warehouses, and burned four barracks, according to the Nezavisimaya Gazeta (Independent Newspaper) and Interfax news agency.

Inside one charred barracks, three bodies were found. Two were identified as Kazakh conscripts, and one remained

unidentified Thursday, the reports said.

The spark that set off the rioting was the arrest of a recruit on charges that his fellow soldiers considered unjust, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. "The reasons for what happened go much deeper," the agency said.

Last December, construction troops began running away from Baikonur because of hazing, beatings and extortion of money by older soldiers and officers, ITAR-Tass said, citing a report in the Yegemen-

di Kazakhstan (Independent Kazakhstan) newspaper.

"Frequently, soldiers were deprived of hot food and water," the newspaper wrote. "Troops were forced to pay for uniforms out of their own pockets. No attention was paid to protests."

Russian parliament members and mothers of Soviet servicemen who died in peacetime have alleged that hazing of recruits is widespread in the army, and one of the main causes of falling morale and rising desertion.

Serb ruler responds to outrage, ends war

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, who led his republic into a ruinous conflict with Croatia in a failed attempt to hold Yugoslavia together, declared the war over Thursday.

He appeared to be responding to mounting opposition inside Serbia over the war's human and economic toll. Many Serbs have turned against the once popular leader and are demanding his resignation.

"Today we can say that most of the agony in our country is over, and that conditions now exist for the peaceful and democratic solution of the Yugoslav crisis," Milosevic told Serbia's parliament as a U.N.-mediated truce stretched to nearly two months.

In a rare public speech, Milosevic also seemed to move away from previous insistence that Serb-dominated regions in other republics be united with Serbia. He said Serbia's union with tiny Montenegro in a smaller Yugoslavia was "the best option."

Croat leaders had vowed to fight giving up any territory. The Serb issue also is an explosive one in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has a divisive mix of Muslim Slavs, Orthodox Serbs and Roman Catholic Croats.

It remained to be seen whether Serb militants would go along with Milosevic. Most of the insurgents are dependent on Serbia for supplies and the federal army is dominated by Serbia.

Milosevic acknowledged for the first time that his republic armed the Serb insurgents whose revolt against Croat authority escalated into full-scale war after Croatia declared independence on June 25.

Up to 10,000 people died in six months of fighting before the truce took effect in Croatia on Jan. 3.



Once upon a time . . . Kathleen McCulloug (left), age 2, Laren McCullough (center), 3, and Nylah Lummer, 4, snack while listening to Kathleene and Laren's mother, Etvette Correa, read them a story at the University Center Thursday. Correa is Kathleen and Laren's mother.

False story fuels anxiety, resentment

Americas clash over strategy in drug war

MEXICO CITY (AP) — For Latin Americans, some of the biggest news out of the six-nation drug summit was the death of a proposal that didn't even exist.

Newspapers in Mexico, Peru and Bolivia headlined the rejection of a multinational drug force, despite the fact the United States hadn't suggested it in the first place.

But the seriousness with which the phantom proposal was treated revealed deep anxiety about a drug war largely fought on Latin American soil.

"Fujimori said 'No!' to George Bush: Anti-Drug War Must be Without Bullets or Hunger," said a headline in the Peruvian daily La Republica.

Peruvian Alberto Fujimori was portrayed as a hero at home for telling the Americans they didn't understand the poverty and other problems that lead people into the drug trade.

Fujimori has fought proposals to militarize the drug war, fearing the 200,000 cocoa farmers would be pushed into the arms of leftist rebels in areas like the Upper Huallaga Valley. The valley produces 60 percent of the world's supply of cocoa, the raw material for cocaine.



Alberto Fujimori, president of Peru

From the Latin American perspective, the heart of the problem is the voracious U.S. market for drugs and the poverty that prompts Latin Americans to produce and ship them to the wealthy U.S. market.

The United States was widely criticized for not spending more to attack the roots of the drug problem.

Military leadership won war, veteran says

By Matari Jones
The Battalion

The Persian Gulf War was a success because political leaders allowed military professionals to make the decisions, a Texas A&M professor and Desert Storm veteran said at a rally Thursday.

"Today's army is more qualified, professional and all-volunteer," said Lt. Col. Jimmy D. Dunham, an assistant professor

of military science. Dunham volunteered to go to Kuwait and in September 1991 earned a bronze medal.

Dunham said he credits the success of Operation Desert Storm to better equipment and well-trained troops. Dunham said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein misunderstood the capabilities and the will of the American people.

"The bottom line is Saddam picked the wrong army to go to war with," he said. "We had smart soldiers."

America learned three major lessons from the Gulf War, Dunham said.

First, the Commander-in-Chief, Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff must set clear, definite objectives and then let military professionals achieve those objectives. Then, the will of the American people must be followed. Finally, the United States military must be trained to act for the American people

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Students tackle realistic U.N. issues

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

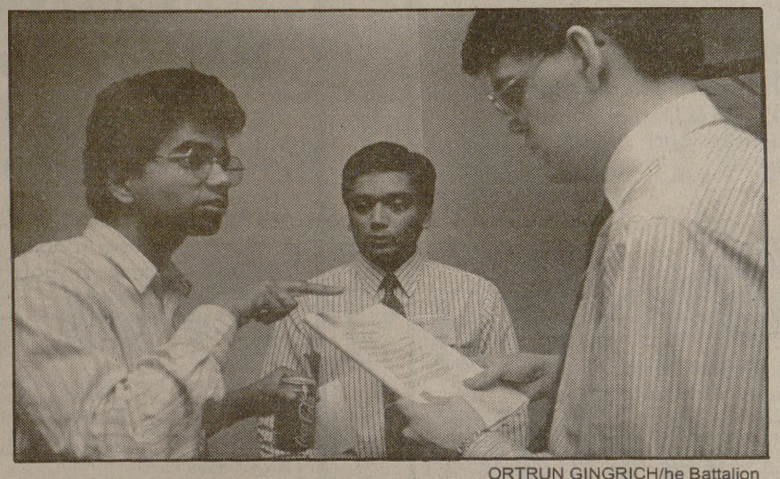
Texas A&M students were faced with a variety of international situations on the final day of International Week's second annual Model United Nations.

The primary purpose of the Model U.N. program is to show college students how international decisions and processes are handled, said Brian McDaniel, president of the Model U.N.'s security council, sophomore political science and computer science major.

"In the United Nations, you have to negotiate a lot," McDaniel said. "The main lesson to learn here is why international decisions are made the way they are."

Approximately 115 delegates participated in the Model U.N., which included a General Assembly and Security Council.

In the Security Council meeting of the Model U.N., delegates introduced solutions and resolved a crisis situation. The mock situ-



Indian, left, and Argentinian delegates debate environment issues.

ation involved the kidnapping of U.N. observers by military units from Morocco.

Another issue that was debated included the possibility of admitting Taiwan into the Model U.N. Taiwan was rejected, however, because China threatened to veto.

The Security Council also

ly this year.

"It was a lot more professional this year," he said. "We had handbooks printed up and practice sessions for the delegates, which made the whole thing more polished."

McDaniel said international students who served as delegates added flavor to the Model U.N.

"They really knew their positions well since they were actually from the country they were representing," he said.

Jack McKown, a freshman mechanical engineering major who participated in the event, said the event was a good learning experience.

"It really helps you understand the dynamics of politics," McKown said.

A national Model U.N. for college students across the nation will be held in New York City in late April. McDaniel said at least one A&M student will attend.

The event was sponsored by the International Student Association (ISA), Student Government and the MSC Jordan Institute.

College Station fields seasoned police chief

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

The College Station's new chief of police brings a high level of expertise to the job from his 27 years as a police officer, but a career in law enforcement was not exactly what he had in mind after playing professional baseball for six years.

Maj. Edgar Feldman will officially become police chief March 1, replacing present Chief Michael Strope, who served as police chief since 1987.

"I was very, very happy about being chosen and getting the opportunity to do some things I've wanted to do," Feldman said. "It's a very humbling feeling once you think about all the responsibilities the police chief has. I'm elated and very honored to have this position."

Feldman was officially chosen after a series of interviews with law enforcement inside and outside the College Station department.

There was a consensus from personnel at all levels in the de-

partment that Feldman would be the best choice to take over the position, said Tom Brymer, assistant city manager, who has administrative responsibility for public safety.

"We also talked with leaders of the law enforcement community, and they confirmed the consensus," he said.

Brymer said Feldman was first considered for the position about a year and a half ago because city officials knew Strope would soon be retiring as police chief.

"When Strope was hired, he indicated he would stay about five years, so we've tried to plan for a transition," Brymer said.

He said Feldman was given more responsibility within the department, such as being appointed assistant police chief last September. Also, the department was evaluated in its direction, needs of the future and the quality of leadership.

Feldman said he has no immediate plans to change anything in the department.

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