

# The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## Justice Department incorrect on crime report, director says

By TODD STONE  
Reporter of THE BATTALION

A new Justice Department survey on campus crime incorrectly reported violent crime statistics at Texas A&M University, said University Police director Bob Wiatt.

University Police officials gave the FBI the incorrect figures but were unable to correct the numbers before the survey was released.

The survey mis-reported violent crime statistics for the years 1991 and 1989. A violent crime is any aggravated assault or robbery that involves serious injury or the presence of a deadly weapon.

The survey reported nine violent crimes in 1991 when only seven actually occurred. The survey included an attempted rape, which is not an aggravated assault, as a rape in its 1991 figures.

The other error came from an aggravated assault charge made last September by a female member of the Corps of Cadets. The charge was included in the survey although the cadet later retracted the charge, saying she was verbally harassed but not physically assaulted.

Also, the survey reported 17 violent crimes occurred in 1989 although University Police records show only nine. Wiatt said it was a simple mistake.

"We submitted some assault cases that should have been simple, not aggravated, assaults," Wiatt said. "It was a clerical error basically. Once it was already published, there was nothing we could do about it."

"The milk is spilled so there's no specific way to correct it."

Colleges and other police organizations contribute crime statistics to the survey. The survey is published annually, and the statistics are from the

Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports. In the past, colleges voluntarily released crime statistics to the FBI.

This year's survey contains figures that are required by law according to the Student-Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act. The law states that colleges must provide students and prospective students information about crime.

Wiatt said University Police have corrected the inaccuracies over the years, but since the incorrect figures have been published, there's little point in trying to correct them.

"We just make sure our records are kept up to date for anyone who needs to know," he said.

FBI officials declined to comment about the accuracy of this year's survey regarding A&M or other universities.

During 1992, violent crime has been down at Texas A&M. According to University Police records, there has been one sexual assault, no robberies and three aggravated assaults from January through July. August's crime figures were not available.

Wiatt said increased crime awareness among students, faculty and staff has contributed to the decline in crime for 1992.

"We've had two officers since May 1989 working full-time trying to improve crime prevention," Wiatt said. "Other officers do the same but not on a full-time basis."

Although violent crime is down at A&M, Wiatt warns that everyone on campus should still be alert to crime.

"We've been telling people over and over again the campus is a microcosm of society at large," Wiatt said. "We're not in a protected bubble. Crime happens at A&M."

## Job placement available

### Career center encourages students to register early

By JULI PHILLIPS  
Reporter of THE BATTALION

Quit procrastinating! Job placement assistance is available now through the Texas A&M Career Center's Placement Services on the second floor of the Student Services Building.

The career center is encouraging all students and alumni to use the services offered in the center to get the edge in these tough hiring times, and according to placement center officials, the sooner a person registers the better.

Jay Wheeler, an associate director of the career center, said students cannot afford to wait until later in the year to register.

"A lot of people wait until the end of the month and even by then they are way behind the eight ball," Wheeler said.

Wheeler said the application process and ensuing orientations take up valuable time when students' resumes could be being re-

viewed by prospective employers. Daniel Orozco, another assistant director in the career center, agreed with Wheeler.

"We do have a problem getting students to register early," Orozco said. "Ideally, we would like to have students register in the first week of school, so they will not miss the first round of interviews."

He said these interviews are the most important because chances for jobs are better during this time of the year.

Even though the rush is on to get students into the program, the new process of pre-screening the resumes for the visiting companies has shifted some of the process from "first come, first served."

The pre-screening process involves students filling out invitation cards, offered by recruiting companies, which are then sent to the companies with a copy of each student's resume.

The companies then contact the students they want to interview

and those students return to the center to sign up for an interview.

Companies may request up to 50 percent of their interviews come from pre-screened resumes, with the rest coming from the "bid method" used by the career center over the years.

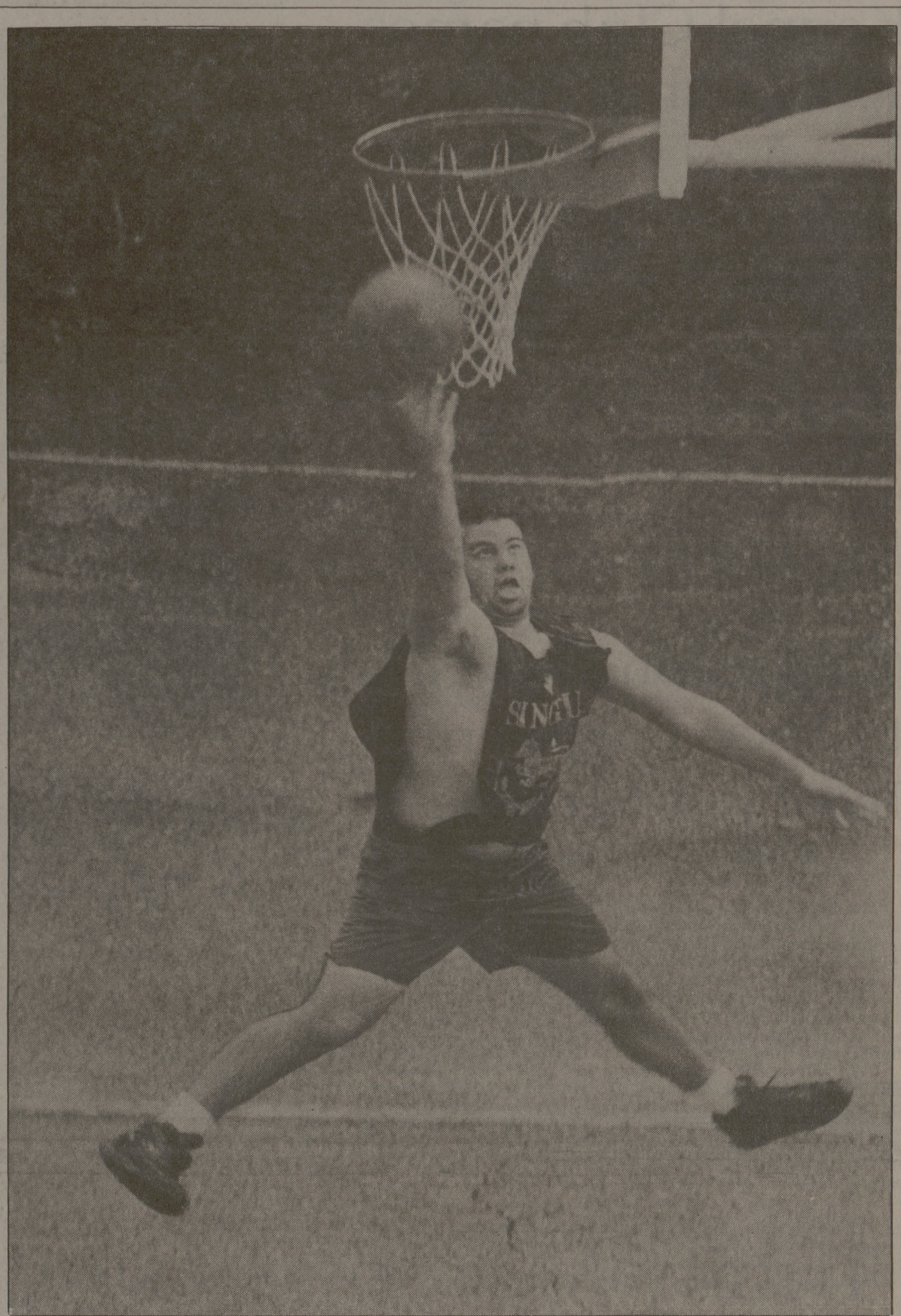
The bid process involves students bidding points allotted to them at the beginning of the semester. It is much like an auction in that the highest bidder gets spots on the interviewer's schedule.

The center has stayed away from letting companies pre-screen all applicants.

Some in the center believe the pre-screening process would not be fair to students who do not have the highest grade point average.

Still, the career center maintains that job experience is crucial in today's job market.

For more information regarding placement procedures call the Texas A&M Career Center's Placement Services at 845-5139.



Marcel LeJeune, a sophomore general studies major from San Antonio, leaps for the basket while practicing in the rain outside Walton Hall on Tuesday.

DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

## Defense receives boost

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush's swing through Texas on Wednesday is expected to provide

a boost to a battered Fort Worth defense industry that has been hurt by military cutbacks in recent years.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said Tuesday he was "reliably informed" that Bush would reverse the administration's freeze on the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan.

The decision could save 3,000 of the 5,800 jobs General Dynamics Corp. is planning to pare from its Fort Worth division by 1995. The layoffs, announced in July, are attributed in part to dwindling F-16 sales.

A White House spokesman confirmed Bush would visit Fort Worth and Lubbock but wouldn't release details of the president's agenda. General Dynamics officials didn't return several telephone calls from The Associated Press.

But, said Bentsen: "I've been reliably informed that President Bush is going to announce approval of the sale of the F-16s to Taiwan."

"I am gratified obviously that he has finally done so, but it sure took a lot of pressure in an election year by me and the Texas delegation to persuade him," said Bentsen, D-Texas.

Taiwan has sought unsuccessfully for the last decade to purchase up to 180 F-16s, which cost \$20 million per copy.

But the Reagan and Bush ad-

### Bush visits state; plans to reverse freeze on sale of F-16 fighter jets

ministrations nixed the deal, citing a 1982 agreement with China limiting weapons sales to Taiwan.

Opponents of the Taiwanese deal contend it might trigger an arms race between mainland China and Taiwan.

But proponents say it would allow Taiwan to maintain a balance of power with communist China, which recently has bulked up its own air force.

Bentsen predicted China initially would protest the sales to Taiwan, but said the deal might be more palatable because the F-16s in question are less attack-oriented than later generations of the fighter.

"I think that will give enough cover for the Chinese to feel like they can go along with it and save face," he said.

The apparent shift on F-16 sales comes as polls show Bush trailing in his adopted home state behind Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton. Texas, with 32 electoral votes, is crucial to the fortunes of both candidates.

In recent weeks, the administration also has dropped its long-standing opposition to the V-22 Osprey, another military program with significant Texas ties.

Bush indicated, in July, when General Dynamics announced its planned layoffs, that he would reconsider his opposition to the sale of F-16s to Taiwan.

The transaction, valued at over \$3 billion up front, could be worth more than \$10 billion over six years.

Taiwan, put off by the U.S. delays, now is negotiating with France to purchase up to 120 Mirage 2000-5 jets in a deal valued at

up to \$7.2 billion.

The Mirage sale could spur further Franco-Taiwanese deals — totaling \$18 billion — in nuclear reactors and high-speed railroad equipment, Bentsen has said.

A congressional source familiar with the proposed Taiwanese deal said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity, that Taiwan has indicated its preference for the F-16 over the Mirage.

Rep. Pete Geren, D-Fort Worth, said the deal would be "tremendous news in many different ways."

"Most importantly it's 3,000 North Texas families that are not going to lose their livelihoods," he said.

Geren said the Taiwanese orders would account for about 10,000 jobs nationwide over six years, including thousands in Connecticut where Pratt & Whitney manufactures engines for the F-16.

Pratt spokesman Robert Carroll said he was unaware of Bush's planned announcement but said it had been anticipated since Bush first hinted he was considering a policy change.

A reversal would mean good news for General Dynamics, which has lost about 10,000 jobs since 1990. The Fort Worth division currently employs about 20,000 workers.

Defense workers aren't the only Texans in line for good news Wednesday.

While visiting a cotton gin near Lubbock, Bush is expected to announce federal disaster relief for cotton producers whose crops have been decimated by adverse weather conditions.

## President pledges federal reimbursement for cleanup

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — President Bush took an emotional tour Tuesday of Hurricane Andrew's worst ravages and cheered Florida officials by pledging 100 percent federal reimbursement for eligible costs of the massive cleanup and rebuilding effort.

He also announced that Homestead Air Force Base, which was ripped apart by the furious storm, will be rebuilt "to show our commitment to south Florida."

"We're in this for the long haul. We won't leave until the job is done," said Bush in the courtyard of Homestead Middle School, now serving as an emergency medical center.

There were complaints last week from some Dade County, Fla., officials that Washington had been slow to respond. Bush canceled a weekend vacation and West Coast campaign trip to show Florida he cared — and to avoid the political fallout that could cost him the state's 25 electoral votes.

But he heard no recriminations, only thanks, from Andrew's victims, as he, his wife Barbara, and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney viewed the devastation, comforting those who suffered and applauding the efforts of the military and other rescue workers.

"If it wasn't for the federal government getting involved here, we'd be in big trouble," said Rick Prave, 33, an electrician from Leisure City, Fla.

The Bush party later flew from Florida to Louisiana for a look at the lesser disaster there from Andrew's second U.S. landfall and wound up in Jeanerette, La.

There, Bush visited a battered sugar cane farm — announcing he would not raise the sugar cane import quota despite crop damage — and a food distribution center where he shook hands with vol-

unteers and people lined up for free groceries.

"I'm not impressed," said one volunteer, Bryan Thompson, 31, of Lafayette, La. "The people in line out front probably appreciate the food more than seeing the president."

The federal government normally pays 75 percent of the cost of rebuilding the infrastructure in disaster areas. Bush last week said Washington would cover 90 percent in the path of destruction that Andrew cut through Florida.

But now he promised 100 percent funding in the wake of the costliest disaster in U.S. history. Florida officials estimate the total damages as high as \$20 billion.

Asked if the government could pay for such an effort, Bush said, "It's going to have to afford it."

It was Bush's second trip to both states since Andrew tore ashore eight days ago and left 250,000 Floridians without homes. His previous stop was in Miami, which missed the brunt of the storm.

Homestead, 30 miles south of Miami, looks like it was carpet-bombed, from the twisted, skeletal hangars at the air base that entombed two F-16s and a C-130 cargo plane to the trailer park nearby reduced to splinters and debris. Mrs. Bush called the scene "indescribable.... It's like a war zone."

Bush said he was invoking authority under the Stafford Emergency Relief and Assistance Act to provide "full federal reimbursement for 100 percent of all eligible public assistance, including projects such as debris removal, to eliminate immediate threats to public health and safety, and repair and reconstruction of (uninsured) non-profit facilities."

Transportation Secretary Andrew Card, who is overseeing the relief effort, said that will cover disaster costs that are "not covered by private insurance ... mostly governmental infrastructure."

Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles praised Bush's actions, saying, "Everybody's been terrorized that the base would be closed."