

The Battalion

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Croat, Muslim fighting halts air relief to capital

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Fighting Wednesday between Croats and Muslims, nominal allies in Bosnia's civil war, halted relief flights to the besieged capital, U.N. officials said.

Bozo Rajic, a senior Croat leader, said at least 22 Croats were killed and as many wounded in the clashes northwest of Sarajevo. No estimates of Muslim casualties were immediately available.

A British and a Canadian plane delivered supplies to the capital in the morning. But the fighting, in territory below the air corridor leading to the airport, prompted the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to cancel the 12 remaining shipments, said Michael Keats, an agency spokesman in the Croatian capital, Zagreb.

Surrounded by Serb rebels for six months, Sarajevo could suffer tens of thousands of deaths from starvation and exposure this winter unless hostilities cease enough for supplies to arrive by plane and truck, aid officials say.

A French U.N. soldier was shot through the shoulder and through the head Wednesday while escorting a relief convoy through the city's Nedzarici district along a front line. He was evacuated to Croatia, the French military information office said.

It was not clear what started the fighting that began Tuesday night in the mixed Muslim-Croat towns of Travnik, Novi Travnik and Vitez, about 35 miles north of Sarajevo.

Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, blamed radical Croat factions for starting the fighting.

"Some radical forces on the Croatian side are trying to provoke a conflict there, some radicals who

are trying to make a state within a state," he said in Geneva, where ongoing U.N. and European Community peace talks are being held.

Bosnian and Croatian radio reports quoted Muslim forces as saying Croatian Defense Council troops started the fighting. The defense council is the military arm of the ethnic Croatian administration that controls about 30 percent of Bosnia.

Word of the clashes between Muslims and Croats came after an eight-person U.N. relief crew in Vitez said it was trapped by the fighting and called for help.

The workers reported shelling and heavy street fighting, with at least one bullet striking the UNHCR warehouse complex, said Marc Vachon, an officer with the U.N. agency in Sarajevo.

Three French armored personnel carriers and an armored ambulance arrived in Vitez shortly after 6 p.m., and the workers were driven to safety in Croat-controlled Kiseljak. No one was injured.

Rajic, the Croat leader, said "merciless attacks by Muslim extremists" on Croatian forces in Travnik and Novi Travnik continued Wednesday. He said the attackers used mortars and anti-aircraft guns. However, by Wednesday afternoon Vitez was under the control of Croatian forces, he said.

Meanwhile, Croatian radio claimed that Serb helicopters fired rockets Wednesday at the northern Bosnian town of Gradacac, violating a U.N. ban on military flights over Bosnia-Herzegovina. The report could not be verified. The radio also said ethnic Croat and Muslim forces battled Serb rebels at the northern city of Bihac and had retaken the Serb-held town of Orasje, also in the north. Bosnia's northern border with Croatia has been the scene of some of the heaviest recent fighting.

Bosnian conflict not just religious, local leader says

By MARK EVANS AND ANAS BEN-MUSA

Staff Writers of THE BATTALION

The Bosnian conflict revolves not only around religious differences between the Serbians and the Muslims but around political and cultural pressures as well, said local and national Muslim leaders.

The differences between Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox (both practiced by the Serbs) and Islam are minor, said Kamran Memon, editor of a magazine published by the Islamic Society of North America. All of these religions teach justice and compassion, he said.

"The only reason the Serbians attacked the Bosnian-Muslims is because the Serbian government is imperialistic," Memon said. "They wanted more power, and they wanted more land."

The conflict has not been in response to Serbian charges of a fundamentalist Islamic movement in Bosnia, Memon said. It is not a religious war.

Islamic fundamentalism, in

Western terms, refers to extremist groups who advocate violence and other coercive means to spread their Islamic philosophy.

"Because (the Bosnians) are Muslims, the Serbians feel that they can play the Islamic fundamentalism card and get rid of the sympathy for the Bosnians," Memon said.

"That's the Serbian way of interpreting things and giving it color," Dr. Selina Ahmed, spokeswoman of the Islamic Society of Greater Houston, said. "They are trying to justify the killing by portraying an Islamic fundamentalist movement."

Historically, Bosnia has not been the site of Islamic fundamentalism, said Dr. Richard Stadelmann, associate professor of humanities. The Bosnian-Muslims have not practiced Islam zealously, he said.

"I do not think this is a part of the world where Muslim expansion has been aggressive in trying to take over the area," Stadelmann said.

Ironically, the continuing fighting in Bosnia may cause a backlash, giving rise to a Islamic

fundamentalist movement, said Hisham Moharram, educational officer of the Texas A&M Muslim Student Association.

"What the Serbs claim started the war might end up happening as a result of the war," Moharram said. "In many ways, the crisis the Bosnians are going through now is bringing them back to their faith."

The cause of the Islamic revival in Bosnia has arisen because of the attention and support the Muslim countries have paid to the region as a result of the war, said Memon.

"A number of mujahedin (Muslim soldiers fighting for the sake of God), who fought in Afghanistan and Sudan, have gone to Bosnia to help the Bosnians defend themselves," Memon said. "They are also training the Bosnians to defend themselves. The mujahedin have won the admiration of the Bosnian people." The West has left a vacuum that is being filled by the mujahedin who care about Bosnia, said Memon.

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System pledges \$80,000 to United Way campaign

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University students, faculty, staff and employees of the Texas A&M University System have pledged more than \$80,000 to the 1992 Brazos County United Way Campaign, according to a summary of the pledges distributed to the various campaign leaders Tuesday.

Texas A&M president and 1992 Brazos County United Way Campaign chairman Dr. William H. Mobley said that the Texas A&M totals are part of countywide pledges to date totaling \$281,373.15, which is 38.57 percent of the \$729,433 campaign goal.

In the past, Student Government and the Greek System had independent United Way committees to raise money, but because of Mobley's involvement with the Brazos County campaign, Texas A&M organizations are working to gather money as a whole this year.

Texas A&M students have already raised more than the \$5,000 pledged at the beginning of the drive, and have doubled the student goal to \$10,000, ac-

ording to Texas A&M Student Body President Steve Beller. The \$5,000 in student pledges was not included in the summary report.

"We've already raised about \$8,000 for the campaign," Beller said, "and a good reason for that is the contribution from the fraternities and sororities. They're very service-oriented, and they've helped us well exceed our original goal."

Drives are currently under way in the residence halls, the Memorial Student Center and other student organizations.

The MSC has contributed to the campaign by placing collection canisters in the Aggie Cinema; the Off-Campus Aggies are working with Bus Operations to put canisters on busses; and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity has also been contributing to the campaign.

"Eppright Hall is holding a date auction on Oct. 22, and Davis-Gary had a penny collection that raised almost \$200 in pennies," Beller said. "Many of the residence halls have held their own fundraisers, so there's been a competition among the residence halls, and I'm really glad to see this much student involvement."

Environment focus of debate

Representatives of Democratic, Republican, Independent parties define candidates' positions at TEAC forum

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University students heard environmental issues discussed by representatives of the Republican, Democratic and Independent parties in a combination debate and forum held Wednesday night in Rudder Theatre.

The program, which focused strictly on environmental issues, was sponsored by the Texas Environmental Action Coalition.

"This debate was designed to bring environmental issues into focus in the 1992 election," said Michael W. Gillenwater, TEAC project coordinator.

Speakers for the program were Brian Donovan of the League of Conservation Voters and representative of the Democratic Party; Stanley Kubicek, treasurer of the Washington County Republican Party; and Lou Zaeske, chairman and founder of the Independent Texan Network and an unofficial representative for Ross Perot. Dr. Gary Varner, assistant professor of philosophy and humanities at A&M, and a re-

search associate in the Center for Biotechnology Policy and Ethics, served as moderator for the program.

The program began with opening statements from each of the three speakers to define their candidate's position on environmental affairs in the election.

Zaeske introduced the fundamental ideas of dealing with greed, laziness, and self-gratification in society. Donovan discussed Clinton's top priority as the economy, with focus on creating jobs to preserve the environment, and Kubicek stressed George Bush's "direct action" environmental record.

The forum continued with follow-ups to the opening remarks that gave the speakers a chance to respond to each other's comments. The speakers also answered questions from the audience that dealt with landfills, the automobile industry in the United States, endangered species, rain forests, and possible energy sources for the future, as well as questions that dealt specifically with Bush and Clinton's platforms and past performance records.

Those questions spurred at-

tacks from Kubicek on Clinton's performance as governor of Arkansas.

"Clinton is under a tremendous burden in trying to solve the problems in Arkansas," Donovan said in defense. "He has experience dealing with difficult situations, which gives him valuable insight in dealing with the problems America may face."

In closing statements, the speakers paraphrased their opening remarks and ended with positive overall statements about their candidates.

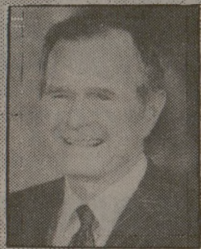
"We need proven world leadership to solve the world's problems," Kubicek said. "George Bush has proven himself as a world leader and is the man to solve those problems."

Donovan stressed the importance of the country working together to solve its problems.

"Compromise is the key, and Bill Clinton is the man," he said.

Zaeske emphasized that America needs a leader who will deal with problems in an authoritative manner.

"We need a bully pulpit to tell us as a country what we're doing wrong," he said, "and Ross Perot is the man to be in that pulpit."



Bush



Clinton



Perot



BILLY MORAN The Battalion

Clint Cooper grinds a joint on a new handrail in G. Rollie White. The renovations are scheduled to be completed before the start of basketball season. See story on Page 2.

Residence hall changes 'Date Auction' format

By GARY P. CARROLL

City Editor of THE BATTALION

In the interest of cultural sensitivity and awareness, officials in the Department of Student Affairs and the Department of Multicultural Services decided that the format of Eppright Hall's Date Auction, scheduled for 1 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Flag Room today, should be changed.

Kevin Carreathers, director of multicultural services, said the change is a positive step.

"I have no problem with it - it's a good step," he said.

Originally, the event was supposed to auction off six students and President William H. Mobley to raise money for the Brazos County United Way.

The new format includes selling \$2 raffle tickets; the winner receiving a dinner with President Mobley. And instead of auctioning people, dinners will be auctioned. The buyers of the dinners will then draw, raffle style, for their dinner dates.

The dates include Student Body President Steve Beller, Miss Texas A&M Jill McClure, National Miss Black and Gold Erica Davis, Cadet Commander of the Corps of Cadets Matt Michaels, Columnist of The Battalion Stacy Feducia, and Head Yell Leader Tim Isgitt.

Gloria Flores, coordinator of student development and multicultural programs, said that the idea of selling people is not in the best interest of A&M. "People need to understand the connotation be-

hind selling people," Flores said. "The important thing is that people need to be sensitive."

In the past, date auctions have been very successful. One contestant at the MSC All Night Fair last spring went for more than \$300. However the reformatting of the event may put an end to that according to Eppright Hall Resident Adviser Doron Chosnek.

"I think people are less likely to bid on a dinner at a local restaurant than they are to bid for people they might not otherwise ever meet," Chosnek said.

Chosnek said that the Eppright Hall dorm council is very culturally diverse and during the planning stages of the Date Auction no one had any problems with it.

"We're a very culturally diversified group, and no one ever imagined that anyone would take offense," Erica Davis, National Miss Black and Gold, 1992, said she understands how people might view the event negatively, but her understanding of the event as a fundraiser did not include any hints of cultural insensitivity.

"I have participated in one of these (auctions) before and I don't have a problem with it," Davis said. "I hope (the format change) will not hinder people's donations."

Davis said that recent events at A&M may have brought on the format change.

"Sometimes when certain things happen they bring other things to light. Maybe that's what happened here."