

# STATE & LOCAL

## U.S. emphasizing cooperation over force in keeping the Somali peace

By Eloise Flint

THE BATTALION

The present mission in Somalia is to enforce cooperation rather than coercion, said Robert Oakley, U.S. ambassador to Somalia.

Oakley said if Somalis aren't willing to assume responsibility in their own country then the international community should take care of other problems.

"We will stay to work harder because we don't want to lose what has been done and don't want the idea of United Nations peacekeeping killed," he said. "The problem now is spontaneous acts of violence and armed robbery because there are no jobs."

The crisis in Somalia began when they entered into a civil war and couldn't stop the fighting on their own, Oakley said.

"They were depriving each other of food, fields weren't being cultivated and clinics and hospitals were being closed," Oakley said. "Close to 300,000 Somalis died, and whole towns were wiped out."

Oakley said President Bush had a strong humanitarian streak in him.

"We weren't willing to take on Bosnia because it looked open ended," Oakley said. "Somalia was a smaller problem and the mission was simple: protection for humanitarian operations."

Oakley arrived in Somalia Dec. 7, 1992 and had the first meeting with Somali leaders Dec. 9 to assure the Somalis that the United States

was there to help put the country back together.

Oakley said the goal was to stop disease and hunger, not to interfere, and the United States was welcomed by Somali leaders.

Local town councils began emerging and old military leaders were replaced, he said.

"We made it clear that the barrel of a gun wasn't the ticket to political success," Oakley said.

Oakley said General Mohamed Farrah Aidid believed he had earned the right to play a dominant role in any future government in Somalia, but the United States saw him as a troublemaker.

Because Aidid was seen as an obstructionist and was pushed to the side, Oakley said Aidid began replacing weapons in Somalia.

Aidid began an anti-United Nations propaganda campaign with his radio station. When the United States threatened to take the radio station away from him, Aidid saw it as an attack on him. Somalis then began mass demonstrations and Oakley said the whole United Nations effort spiraled down.

Oakley said it then degenerated to a state of war with thousands of Somalis killed by the peacekeeping forces.

On Oct. 5, President Clinton called for a full scale review of the policy.

Oakley said after the announcement, Aidid portrayed himself as a victim of the United Nations, and he unilaterally declared a cease fire that holds to this day.

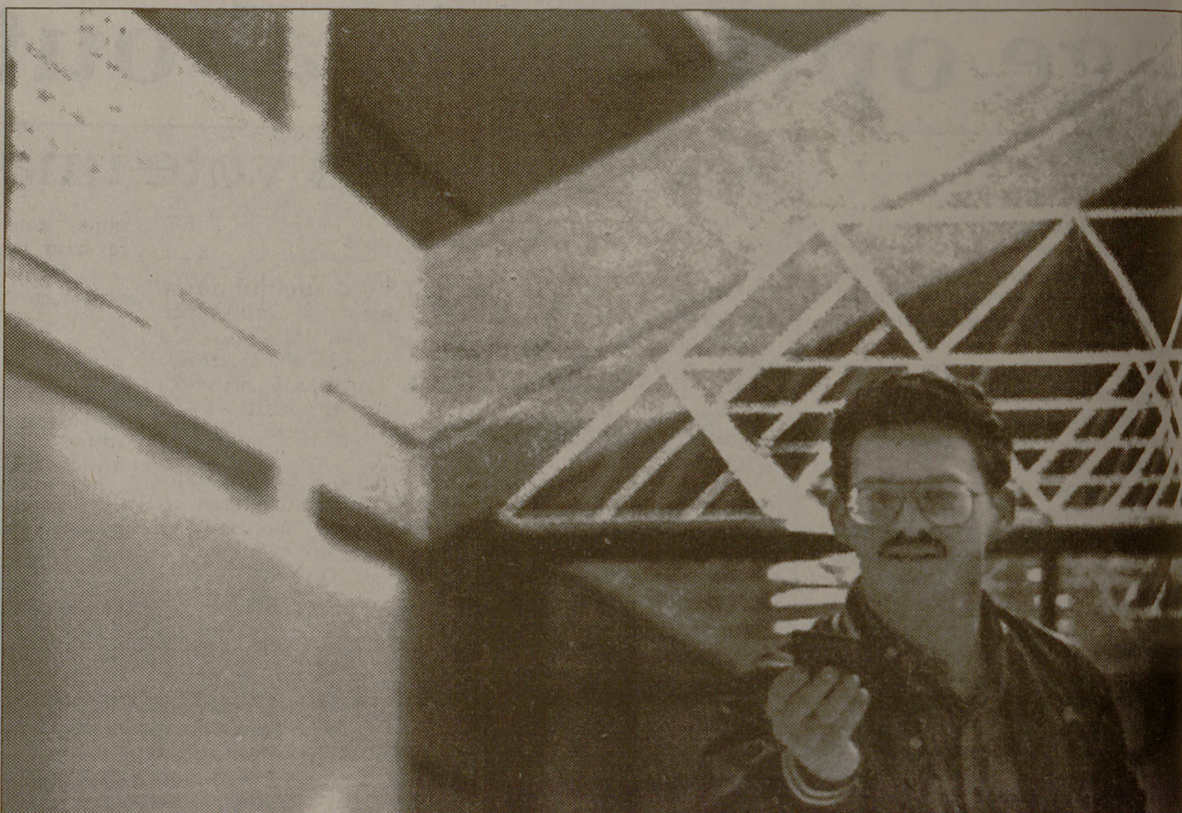
Oakley said Aidid now wants peace with the United States, but he isn't concerned with the remaining countries of the United Nations.

"Aidid wants to win the United States rather than have them as an enemy," Oakley said.



Oakley

## Throwing it all away



Blake Griggs/The Battalion

Wilson Waldrop, a senior computer science engineering major from Lake Jackson, takes careful aim in the Calculator Toss in order to win the Hewlett-Packard 48GX calculator.

## Corps to host Military Weekend

Representatives from ten of the nation's leading military colleges will be on the Texas A&M campus today through Saturday during Texas A&M's Military Weekend.

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets is hosting the event, which will include representatives from The Citadel, New Mexico Military Institute, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, North Georgia College, Norwich University, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Tech and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Participants will discuss issues of concern to students, faculty and staff, including honor codes, military training, vs. hazing and the increased role of women in the military at traditional all-male schools.

Events include conferences, a military review, an Aggie Band concert, a barbecue and an Aggie baseball game.

## Work program to benefit welfare recipients

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Amy Collum goes to work Monday to help other people — while helping herself.

As one of the first members of the Texas VISTA Health Corps, she'll work in the Amarillo area to help improve health care for needy women and children. At the end of a year, she'll get \$4,725 so she can go back to college and pursue her dream of working with computers.

"I want to get off welfare, and I want

to make it on my own. Going to college will make it better for myself and my kids," said Collum, 27, who has two children.

Collum is among 105 volunteers sworn in Wednesday by Gov. Ann Richards. The governor also issued an executive order establishing the state component of President Clinton's national service program, and accepted \$480,000 in federal funds for it.

Texas' volunteers are the first VISTA workers eligible for the education money — which was proposed by Clinton during

his 1992 campaign and approved last year by Congress — according to the Corporation for National and Community Service created to bring together federal domestic volunteer organizations.

The aid comes either in the form of scholarship or loan forgiveness.

Seventy-one members of Texas' program were sworn in last week. Eli Segal, assistant to Clinton and head of the Corporation for National and Community Service, said at Wednesday's ceremony it's the largest number of volunteers on one project in VISTA's 30-year history.

Office of the Vice President for Research and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, the Office of Graduate Studies, and the Black Graduate Students' Association.

## Graduate Tuition, Fee, Book & Research Awards

Applications are now being accepted for scholarship awards to be used for graduate tuition & fees, books and graduate research. If you're classified as a G7 or G8 and enrolled at Texas A&M, you're eligible to apply.

For information or an application, stop by the Office of Graduate Studies in Rm 125 Teague Building or call 845-3631

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The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone number is 845-3313. Fax: 845-2647.

Advertising: For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

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