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TUESDAY

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

THE BATTALION

NEWS BRIEFS

F-16 gunmen fire upon Muslim extremists

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — F-16 gunmen fired into the air and announced Muslim extremists Monday as 10,000 people rallied in support for peace with Israel.

Militant Islamic leaders called the rally a provocation likely to damage the peace worked out by Israeli Arab mediators.

"We support democracy, but we need security and stability to build our state," Arafat told cheering supporters in city square.

"We will not allow anybody to sow discord and we will not allow anyone to destroy what we have built," the Palestine Liberation Organization leader said.

Arafat is seeking broader public backing following bloody clashes Friday outside a Gaza City mosque between his police and Islamic activists opposed to negotiating with Israel.

C-Span asks GOP for more TV access

WASHINGTON (AP) — If Republicans really want Congress to be more accessible to the public, they should open more proceedings to TV coverage, the head of C-Span said Monday.

The cable network shows all Senate and House floor debate, but the cameras are controlled by Congress and restricted to tight shots of whoever is talking. The footage is then fed to C-Span and other TV networks.

C-Span wants to show viewers what else is happening in the chamber by installing and operating its own cameras.

"We'll present a full, honest and accurate picture of each day's events, and make our telecasts available to others in the news media," said Brian Lamb, C-Span executive director, in letters to Bob Dole of Kansas, in line to be Senate majority leader, and Newt Gingrich of Georgia, expected to be speaker of the House.

Urban traffic getting worse, study says

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The Texas Transportation Institute's annual study on traffic reports what commuters already know: roadway congestion is only getting worse in most of the nation's large urban areas.

In the 86-page study released Monday, Texas A&M University transportation engineer Tim Lomax puts together traffic data from 50 urban areas around the country. The data were from 1991, the most recent year available.

For the sixth consecutive year, Lomax determined Los Angeles is the most backed-up urban area in America with a roadway congestion index of 1.56.

An index of 1.00 indicates a desired amount of traffic. Anything over that indicates what Lomax calls "undesirable congestion" and is measured by percentages. Los Angeles' index, for example, indicates traffic is 56 percent more congested than engineers think should be on the roads.

P.A. system blamed for flight noise

CHICAGO (AP) — A strange "whooshing sound" aboard a USAir jetliner before the Sept. 8 crash that killed all 132 aboard apparently was nothing more than an open public address system, industry sources said Monday.

The report appeared to end speculation over the weekend that the mysterious sound could be a clue to the crash of Flight 427 near Pittsburgh, the fifth fatal crash of a USAir jetliner in five years.

Airline industry sources said the so-called whooshing noise had been traced to an open public address system. They said the pilot had made an announcement and did not turn off the sound system immediately.

They said the noise was confirmed by an off-duty pilot who was riding in the cockpit en route from Charlotte and got off the plane in Chicago.

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NATO retaliates, bombs Serbian airfield

Raid expected to knock Serb airfield out for thirty days

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — In its biggest airstrike ever, NATO retaliated Monday for repeated Serb attacks on a U.N. safe haven by bombing an airfield in a Serb-controlled section of Croatia.

NATO commanders said the raid knocked the Udbina airfield out of commission for 30 days. The airfield and its artillery batteries have been used by Serbs in recent weeks to terrorize residents of government-held areas of northwest Bosnia.

A Croatian commander tweaked his nose at the NATO raid, saying only two runways were damaged by the midday airstrike and could be repaired as early as Wednesday.

About 30 F-15s, F-16s, Jaguar and Mirage jets from the United States, Britain, France and the Netherlands crossed the Adriatic for the airstrike, NATO's seventh since the Bosnian war started in April 1992 and the alliance's first in neighboring Croatia.

The bombers struck the airfield 22 miles southwest of the U.N.-designated safe area of Bihać and reportedly took out its anti-aircraft guns and one surface-to-air missile

site, said Adm. Leighton W. Smith, NATO commander for southern Europe.

"Initial reports are that the strike was successful," Smith said. Serb surface-to-air missiles were fired at the NATO planes, but he said all warplanes and 20 support aircraft returned safely to their bases in Italy.

The U.N. commander for former Yugoslavia, Gen. Bertrand de Lapresle, requested the NATO warplanes target runways and taxiways — not destroy aircraft, Smith told reporters in Naples, Italy.

"Our intention was to try to limit collateral damage," Smith said. "We did not want to go outside of that airfield area, and we wanted to limit the number of people on the ground who might be casualties as a result of the strike."

Slobodan Jarcevic, an aide to Croatian Serb leader Milan Martić, asserted that two villages north of the airfield were destroyed, "and it is assumed that all civilians that were in those houses were killed." There was no independent confirmation.

The United Nations said some Czech peacekeepers, who were posted near Udbina, were taken hostage after the raid. Jarcevic said two peacekeepers were being held by Serb troops who are "threatening to kill them."

Smith said the raid wasn't meant "to put the airfield out of commission for an awfully long time. If we had wanted to we would have taken out all the aircraft, the ammunition."

Croatia's air force commander said the damage to two runways "could be repaired in 48-72 hours." The commander, Col. Imra Agotic, also said about 20 fixed-wing aircraft and 10 helicopters were "destroyed or considerably damaged."

The air strikes actually may play into the hands of Bosnian and Croatian Serbs. Since they have been attacking Bosnian government lands jointly in recent weeks, an escalating cross-border conflict might pressure Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to help the Serbs.

The Serbian leader cut off most aid to Bosnia's Serbs in August in exchange for eased international sanctions on Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. He continues to wield influence in Serb-held parts of Croatia.

Senior U.N. envoy Yashushi Akashi said Monday that he and Milosevic would meet Wednesday with Martić, head of Croatia's breakaway Serbs.

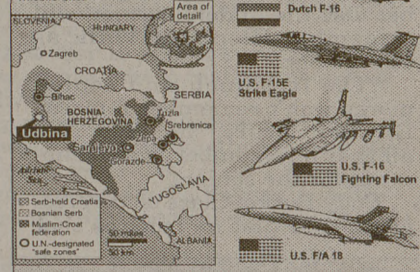
Martić condemned the bombing as "an insolent and vandal attack ... which we haven't provoked at all."

Akashi, the top U.N. official in former Yugoslavia, insisted the NATO air strike was a "necessary and proportionate response."

And President Clinton said: "It was a strong and entirely appropriate response. That airfield has been used to conduct the air attacks against the Bihać region. It was the right thing to do."

NATO bombs Serb airbase in Croatia

In the biggest NATO attack ever, 39 warplanes from the United States and three other nations bombed the Udbina airbase in Serb-held Croatia and a nearby surface-to-air missile site.



A&M, UH to manage TEXSHARE library resource sharing program

By Stephanie Dube THE BATTALION

Texas A&M and the University of Houston were recently awarded a joint contract to manage a library resource sharing program, TEXSHARE, for all public universities in Texas.

Mary Lou Goodyear, associate director of Sterling C. Evans Library, said the contract was awarded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and is funded by the Texas Legislature.

"The contract is meant to promote cooperation between the 52 academic libraries in Texas," Goodyear said.

The main facets of the contract include installing a system to aid document transmission between libraries, allowing all libraries electronic access to the Federal Register and developing a library card and standard procedures among the libraries.

The contract will last until Aug. 31, 1995. After the contract ends, the coordinating board will request further funding from the Texas Legislature.

Tom Putnam, coordinator of strategic projects, said access to the Federal Register, which provides information on all the activities and publications of the federal government, has already been established.

Goodyear said the contract will also involve working to make electronic database services such as the Wilson Indexes shared statewide. By sharing the services among all 52 public universities, the universities may be able to obtain a better deal with the companies.

Putnam said sharing the databases across

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Amy Browning/The Battalion

Run that by me one more time...

Andrea White, a speech communications major, practices sign language by teaching it to her friend, David

Lipinski, a senior management major, in front of All-Faiths Chapel Monday afternoon.

Task force seeks approval to conduct Honor Code survey

By Melissa Jacobs THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students may be asked to complete a survey next semester about academic dishonesty and the honor code.

The Student Government Honor and Integrity Task Force is working on a proposal that, if approved, would allow them to conduct such a survey.

The Honor and Integrity Task Force was created to look at changes that have taken place in the academic honor and integrity of Aggies over the years and to discover options for improvement.

Jeff Wilson, Student Government Association executive vice president of administration, said the task force wants to work from the students' perspective.

"We want to do this to get some awareness out there of what the problem is," he said.

Dr. Bill Kibler, assistant vice president for student affairs, conducted an academic dishonesty study in 1991 of 200 universities. He said a study of academic dishonesty has never been conducted on A&M's campus.

"I don't think the reason it's never been done before is fear of the results," he said. "It's just no one has ever taken the

time to do it."

Wilson said he wants to develop the task force and its objectives by the end of the academic year. Objectives the task force has already developed are continuity, the mission of the organization, a survey to assess the current status of A&M's honor code and a long-term plan.

"What we thought was most important is making sure this continues on," he said. Wilson said they have considered having a student government organization and a university committee dedicated to the issue.

"There are drawbacks and benefits to each of them," he said.

Kibler said long ago there was an honor council, or honor court, at A&M, and it was analogous to that which the Corps of Cadets now has.

"I got curious about it and started looking it up," he said, "and from year to year it disappeared."

David Hall, vice chair of the honor and integrity team, said there are different aspects the task force wants to assess.

"What is academic dishonesty? When are some situations

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Busy lifestyle normal for A&M's Parents of the Year

By Lisa Messer THE BATTALION

John and Donna Van Duyn didn't suspect they were about to be named 1994-95 A&M Parents of the Year as they sat at the Parents' Weekend award ceremony last spring.

They thought they were part of a secret plan to get their daughter Renee to the ceremony so that the committee could surprise her with the John J. Koldus Award, an award invented by the Parents' Weekend Committee specifically for the occasion.

Donna Van Duyn, who is assistant manager of Cain Dining Hall, said they did not think anything suspicious about the Parents' Weekend Committee's request.

"We went through this before with our oldest daughter when she received the Buck Weir Award," Van Duyn said, "so when they announced Parents of the Year, it was complete total disbelief."

Renee Appleton, the Van Duyn's daughter and a member of the Class of '95, said the committee's plan worked perfectly.

"They went through all the other awards at the assembly first," Appleton said. "Parents of the Year was the last award. My parents were waiting for my award to come up so they were so shocked when their names were announced."

"My mom started crying, and my dad just sat there. Finally, my grandmother said 'John, that's you. You have to go up there.'"

Donna Van Duyn said neither she nor her husband ever thought of winning the award while they participated in A&M activities.

"The things we won the award for are things you're just supposed to do," Donna Van Duyn said. "This is nothing you ever dream of. It's an honor to even be spoken of in the same breath



Tim Moog/The Battalion

Donna and John Van Duyn will serve as Parents of the Year until April 1995.

with the parents who have won in the past." Appleton and her sister Michelle Brechbuhl,

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