

THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

Volume 103 • Issue 3 • 14 Pages

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

The Batt Online: <http://bat-web.tamu.edu>

U.S. launches second missile strike

Hussein's refusal to honor no-fly zones was a result of the first assault on Iraqi forces.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Air raid sirens blared in the Iraqi capital for a second day, as the United States launched a new missile attack against the forces of a defiant Saddam Hussein. Despite Saddam's vow Tuesday to retaliate, Iraq apparently mounted no defense against the 17 cruise missiles fired

▶ SEE RELATED STORIES, PAGE 7

from warships and a submarine in the Persian Gulf upon air defense sites in southern Iraq.

The United States said the attack was launched to pick off targets missed in the first barrage Tuesday.

The opening assault with 27 cruise missiles killed five people, and prompted Saddam to announce he would no longer honor the two no-fly zones that bar his warplanes from the skies of northern and southern Iraq.

Trucks loaded with fighters of the

Iraqi-allied Kurdistan Democratic Party headed out of the city in long convoys, some heading toward the city of Sulaymaniyah, 100 miles to the southeast.

"We will attack Sulaymaniyah tonight, God willing," said one KDP fighter, who refused to give his name.

Iraqi television showed men in the northern city of Mosul, within the U.S.-declared Kurdish safe haven, marching in the streets in support of Saddam.

Saddam claimed Iraqi forces shot down most of the missiles Tuesday. In Washington, Gen. Joseph Ralston said there was "no evidence" of successful Iraqi counterattacks.

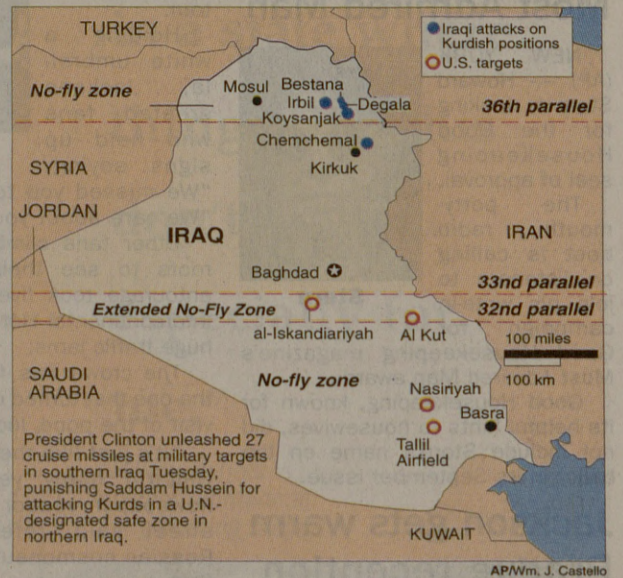
In addition to the missile strikes, Clinton also declared that the southern no-fly zone would be moved up from the 32nd to the 33rd parallel — a line that reaches the southern suburbs of Baghdad and places roughly half of Iraq inside the zones.

Iraq's deputy prime minister insisted Tuesday the American attack was unjustified, saying Saddam's forces had withdrawn from Irbil "several hours" before the missile strikes. He also derided U.S. claims that Saddam had violated U.N. Resolution 688, which prohibits the Iraqi leader from oppressing his people.

"We did not violate U.N. resolutions," Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said on CNN. "I challenge the American administration (to say) upon what basis of international law ... this aggression was being justified."

But U.S. and rebel leaders said Iraqi forces had not withdrawn from Irbil before the attack and fighting continued south and east toward Sulaymaniyah.

Iraq's ruling Revolution Command Council urged U.N. Security Council members to rein in the United States — and seemed to threaten them if they did not.



President Clinton unleashed 27 cruise missiles at military targets in southern Iraq Tuesday, punishing Saddam Hussein for attacking Kurds in a U.N.-designated safe zone in northern Iraq.

AP/Wm. J. Castello



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Under the Weather

Blinn student **James Rice** hurries to complete the 9th hole just as the storm rolls in.

Task force to examine racial issues

By BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK
THE BATTALION

A campus task force is searching for a research consulting firm to study racial climate at Texas A&M.

The Task Force on Racial Climate Assessment is a group composed of executive staff members and students appointed by Vice President for Student Affairs J. Malon Southerland.

Southerland formed the committee at the request of Texas A&M President Ray Bowen to determine if there is a problem concerning the racial climate on campus.

The outside research firm, once hired, will meet with students, faculty and staff to gather information about the University's racial atmosphere.

The cost of the study cannot be determined until the firms offer bids, Scott said. The committee will then determine how the study will be funded.

Felicia Scott, task force chairperson, has developed a proposal to submit to companies who specialize in such research.

Hiring an outside firm, Scott said, will prevent biased opinions from tainting the report.

"We are going to address several problems that have been brought up in the past," Scott said. "We want to bring in an outside consultant to meet with and talk to students who will be objective and neutral and recommend a catalyst for discussion for students across campus."

Once the research is complete, the committee will suggest how to improve the racial climate at A&M. The recommendations will be used to make each individual on campus feel like an integral part of the University.

"We are trying to be more pro-active in some of the things we do," Scott said. "We are going to use a variety of

methods while doing the assessment, then we can provide a comprehensive long- and short-term plan."

Leslie Briars, a senior accounting major and a student member of the committee, said the task force should eliminate any intimidation felt by ethnic minorities.

"Our long-term goal is to let everyone on campus feel they are an equal part of the community," Briars said. "We want everyone to know they can contribute to Texas A&M."

Kevin Carreathers, director of multicultural services, said the task force will answer questions raised by rumors about racial diversity.

"We're trying to legitimize some of the opinions around campus," Carreathers said.

"If we find out something negative, we will improve that particular area. If we find out something positive, we will know what areas are working."

Construction sites detour students

Plans for Special Events Center, library expansion pose inconveniences

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students received an unwelcome surprise this weekend as piles of rubble and numerous detours greeted them as construction and demolitions continued on campus.

Five projects are underway this fall, including the \$47.5 million George Bush Presidential Library Center, which is expected to open in November 1997. Other construction sites include the Library Expansion Project and the Special Events Center.

Though the construction promises to bring needed facilities to campus, students, parents, faculty and staff must cope with its inconveniences.

Students who are new campus particularly felt the brunt of the construction. Erin Parker, a junior geology major, said the construction

has made it difficult to adjust to a new campus.

"I didn't know exactly where I was going because I am a transfer student, and with all the detours, it makes it even more confusing," she said.

Closed roads have not been the only problem. A lack of parking has caused headaches as well.

Romeo Moore, a parking service officer, said student parking on the southside will be a bigger problem this year because of the loss of Parking Area 23 behind the Pavilion.

"Last year, PA 23 was available to students after 5:30 p.m., and now, with the (Evans Library) construction, it is strictly for staff parking only," he said. "Student cars will be towed 24-hours-a-day."

Though the Library Expansion Project has created parking problems, the facili-

ty additions will include a new student parking lot.

The project is 20 percent complete and is slated for completion in August 1998.

Other projects under construction include the Reed Arena, scheduled for completion in October 1997. The center will seat 12,000 people and will be used for

graduation ceremonies as well as sporting events.

Nine more projects, with a price tag of nearly \$50 million, are still under design and preparation.

But while many new buildings are being constructed, others are being

See **SITES**, Page 14



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

Puryear and Law residence halls are undergoing demolition which began in August.

THE BATTALION TODAY

Baring it All

Two A&M students who appear in Playboy discuss their decision to take it all off. Aggiefife, Page 3

Opposite Ends

A&M football players Brandon Mitchell and Erin Parker share the same goal — a title. Sports, Page 9

Wrong Focus

Students have placed too much emphasis on athletics and not enough on academics. Opinion, Page 13

Reed focuses on improving safety

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

Not many eighth grade boys call their congressman. But Chris Reed, speaker of Student Senate, called his for three years asking for a job on Capitol Hill.

Though a bold move for a teenage boy, Reed's efforts paid off after receiving a job as a page for the U.S. House of Representatives.

"That was probably the best time of my life," he said. "I met people from all over the country."

His job as a page was perhaps low on the totem pole, but Reed's experience launched his passion for politics.

Reed, a senior finance major, ran for student government positions in high school and continued in college. His motives for doing so are those of a true statesman.

"I don't like to be in a po-

sition, I like what you can do with a position," he said. "I really have a great deal of respect for those who use their position to help others."

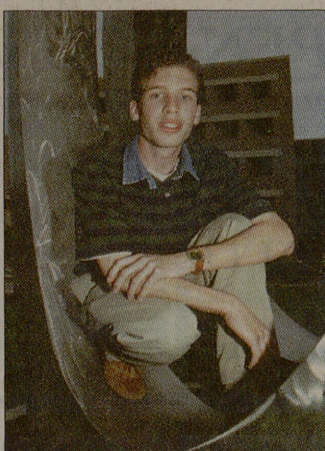
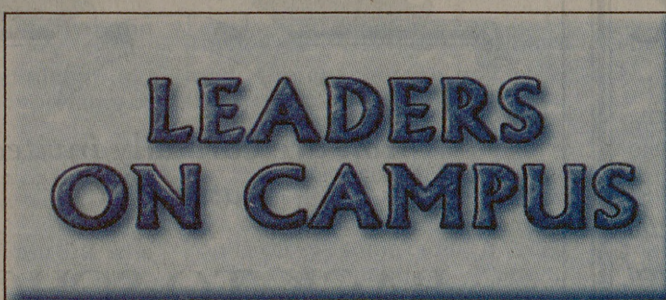
Reed's main goal for the Senate this year is improving campus safety. He said that if students feel safe, they will be better students.

The long-time student senator has already taken a step in that direction by proposing a special ad hoc task force that will investigate campus safety issues. The Senate will consider the proposal during its Sept. 11 meeting.

Reed also wants to enhance communication between students and the Senate.

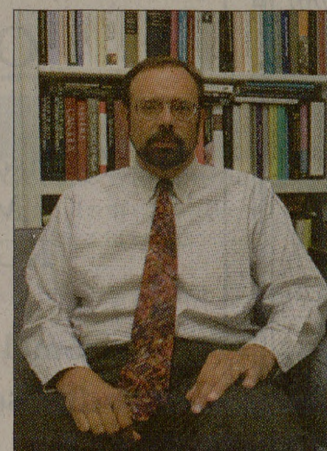
"One of the main problems of the Senate in the past is that it looks like a select group of people running things," he said. "But the

See **REED**, Page 14



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Student Senate Speaker **Chris Reed** proposed a task force to work toward his goal of campus safety.



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Faculty Senate Speaker **Steve Oberhelman** juggles a hectic schedule with policy-making responsibilities.

Oberhelman works to change policies

By WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

If you had to describe the life of Faculty Senate Speaker Steve Oberhelman, you could do it in one word — busy.

Cramping in 55 hours in a six-day work week, Oberhelman finds time to watch his four children several nights a week as his wife of 15 years nurses hospital patients.

He also coaches girls fast-pitch softball, helps out with youth soccer and baseball and sits on the College Station Little League Board.

Despite the hectic schedule, Oberhelman still has time to head the Faculty Senate, the faculty's policy-making body.

His plans for the future include a proposal for post-tenure review, which is an evaluation process for professors who have already been granted tenure. A vote

on the proposal, which would outline steps for faculty review and argue on behalf of tenure, is scheduled for October.

Oberhelman is well-versed in the work of the faculty, having served as a scholar at universities in the United States and Europe.

Oberhelman, a Kansas City native, graduated from high school in Edina, Minn. Working throughout college, he earned enough money to put himself through the University of Minnesota.

Originally planning to be a doctor, Oberhelman's studies were in medicine until, he said, he hit a personal snag.

"I realized how challenged I was in chemistry, physics and mathematics," he said.

He did, however, enjoy

See **POLICIES**, Page 14