



THE BATTALION

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U.S. troops stand ready Thompson discusses new System issues

Iraq accused Kuwait of an "act of war" for opening airfields to U.S. jets.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq and the United States moved closer to a showdown Thursday, with more U.S. firepower sent to the Persian Gulf, Iraq claiming missile attacks on American jets and both countries spitting harsh rhetoric.

After almost two weeks of conflict, each side seemed willing to raise the stakes but neither looked prepared to make a decisive move.

Iraq said it fired missiles at U.S. warplanes over a no-fly zone for a second straight day Thursday, hours after accusing Kuwait of an "act of war" for agreeing to open its airfields to American jets.

Pentagon officials confirmed that Iraq fired three

surface-to-air missiles Thursday, but said they were aimed at an area near the southern "no-fly" zone where allied aircraft were not flying.

"We had nothing in the area. Clearly he released them only to make a statement," a military official said on condition of anonymity. "There were no (radar) tracks," indicating guidance systems were not left on long enough to direct the missiles to an intended target. "It took a hard search to find them."

For days, Iraq has reported firing on U.S. and allied aircraft in the no-fly zones in the north and south. The only other confirmed attack

came Wednesday, when Iraqi forces fired a missile at two F-16s in the northern no-fly zone. That missile missed its target.

The United States responded by sending four B-52 bombers and eight F-117 fighter planes to fortify the region. The Pentagon also said a second aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, will join the USS Carl Vinson already in the Gulf.

Kuwait agreed to let the United States base some of the American jets on its territory, a move Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz called "a flagrant act of ag-

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Thompson discusses new System issues

BY BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK
THE BATTALION

Dr. Barry Thompson, Texas A&M University System chancellor, said the System's addition of three schools will benefit the schools, the System and the students involved.

Speaking via teleconference from Dallas, Thompson discussed a wide range of System issues, including the merger and post-tenure review.

The briefing was broadcast statewide to nine oth-

er sites in the A&M System.

Thompson began the briefing by giving a short history of the three universities that joined the System only two weeks ago.

The Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, along with Texas A&M-Commerce and Texas A&M-Commerce and Texas A&M-Texarkana joined the System Sept. 1. The Commerce and Texarkana schools were previously combined under the



Thompson

name as East Texas State University.

Referring to each new school, Thompson explained how each, as well as the A&M System, will gain from the merger.

"Baylor (Dental School) is one of the premier dental colleges in America," Thompson said. "It will be able to extend the opportunity for the System to improve as we

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Cadets get hooked up

Corps program extends e-mail access to 671 freshman cadets

BY COURTNEY WALKER
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets is not just about spit and polish anymore. Now, freshman cadets are marching straight onto the information superhighway.

A new program initiated by the Corps staff has every freshman cadet hooked into e-mail and other computer resources available at A&M.

The 671 freshman cadets were sent to computer labs on campus with upperclassmen to learn how to set up and use e-mail and use the Internet.

Charles Weekley, a freshman business major, said he had never used e-mail before coming to A&M.

Weekley said e-mail offers a quick and easy way to talk with others and he was glad the Corps gave him the opportunity to learn about it.

"Everyone should know how to use e-mail because it's easier to communicate with teachers or friends and is very valuable in today's world," he said.

Corps upperclassmen provided



ample aid to the novice computer users, Weekley said.

"The upperclassmen were real helpful because they walked us through it and gave us handouts if we needed them," he said.

Corps Commander Steve Foster, a senior political science ma-

major, said the idea was proposed last year by two senior cadets, Gordon White and Jim Andres.

"So many teachers use e-mail to give out notices and contact students now, so we wanted the freshmen to be prepared for their classes," Foster said.

Jason Bagley, a freshman business major, said he also had no experience with e-mail, and he probably wouldn't be using e-mail if the Corps hadn't shown him how.

Foster said the freshmen responded well to the program and having fellow cadets help them made it easier.

Cindi Ericson, deputy Corps Commander and a senior international studies and political science major, said the program helps round out the Corps experience.

"We're not only teaching them to shine shoes, we are preparing them for academic endeavors as well."

Bids to conclude fall rush

BY MATTHEW FLUME
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M fraternities will extend bids at the University Administration Building this afternoon to bring this fall's Interfraternity Council rush to a close.

Ric Kiersch, IFC rush chair and a senior management major, said a greater number of men have participated in rush this fall than in past semesters. The high numbers have created a positive outlook for the Greek community, he said.

Jon Price, IFC adviser, said that last fall, 183 men visited the informational booths set up near Rudder Fountain. Bids were received by 250 men that year.

This year, 250 men visited the booths, and Price expects at least 300 bids to be offered.

Bobby Glosson, Sigma Alpha Epsilon correspondent and a senior accounting major, said the increased numbers throughout the Greek system will allow more things to be accomplished for the school

and community.

The growth can be attributed to several factors, Kiersch said. The kickoff concert at the Texas Hall of Fame and publicity in several publications motivated male students for rush, he said.

Many chapters have been independently rushing men throughout the year, Price said. Some fraternities have outreach programs in their hometowns and hold events during the summer to recruit new members, he said.

Glosson said a big rush such as this semester's increases the size of the Greek system and improves its campus visibility.

He said Greeks have a negative image at Texas A&M and many people stereotype fraternities before making a fair judgment.

Each fraternity is responsible to watch its actions in order to earn and maintain a good image, Price said.

"It is hard to think that Greeks, at one time, would not even wear letters," he said. "Now Greeks know we are all Aggies first."

"It is hard to think that Greeks, at one time, would not even wear letters."

Jon Price
IFC adviser



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Bathing Beauty

Student Body President **Carl Baggett** gets soaked in the dunking booth at the "Life's a Circus" bash at Henderson Hall.

THE BATTALION TODAY

Bite the Bullet

Francis: Wayans, Sandler miss the target in the new comedy *Bulletproof*.
Aggielife, Page 3

Cajun Cookin'

After three weeks of waiting, the Aggie Football Team returns to action against USL.
Sports, Page 7

Keep Abreast

Saldez: People are upset over a nipple commemorating Olympic stamps.
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'Sketch' creator anticipates comic strip career

BY ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

Quatro Oakley has "sketched" his way through college and hopes to have a

career as a cartoon artist.

"Sketch" is the longest-running comic strip of the three currently in The Battalion.

Oakley, a senior manage-

ment major, started drawing for The Battalion in Fall 1994. The cartoon's original name was "Generation Y."

Oakley changed the name to "Sketch" because it is the name of the notebook he carries with him to jot down cartoon ideas.

The "etc" in "Sketch" is highlighted to emphasize et cetera.

"Etc," it's just kind of cute that it's in there," he said. "It's pretty versatile words, pretty ambiguous. It's like a comedy sketch, and you've also got a drawing sketch."

Variety is the word Oakley uses to describe his comic strip.

"I don't like to dawdle on certain subjects," Oakley said. "What I try to do is make the humor timeless."

Although Oakley occasionally uses Texas A&M events in his cartoons, he tries to avoid them. He said they are funny at the time,

but not in the future.

Mass appeal is a main aspect of his humor, Oakley said.

This is the last of a four-part series on the cartoonists of The Battalion.

"People can relate to it (the humor)," he said. "It's not too outlandish. It doesn't take a genius to figure

out the punch line or where the humor is coming from."

Ideas for his comic strip come unexpectedly, Oakley said. He carries around a notebook, and when he thinks of an idea, he writes down the dialogue.

"Sometimes it's things I hear and I visualize it," Oakley said.

"I've got a pretty imaginative brain. I like to twist things around, polish it and put in some concise, humorous language."

This fall, Oakley hopes

to publish a book of about 200 to 250 of his favorite cartoons.

He will also have a home page with cartoons that can be accessed on the World Wide Web by the syndicates and newspapers.

Oakley has also been published in the Austin American Statesman.

Oakley's two main comic influences are Gary Larson, the "Far Side" artist, and Berke Breathed, the artist of "Bloom County" and "Outland."



Photo Illustration by Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

"Sketch" cartoonist **Quatro Oakley**, a senior management major, started drawing for The Battalion in Fall 1994. His strip was originally called "Generation Y."

