

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

► **Nation**

Female Marines in combat training

AMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) — The first women to undergo Marine combat training alongside their male comrades threw live grenades and fired big guns Monday on a remote corner of this sprawling base.

Camp Lejeune is the home of the Marine Corps' infantry school for the eastern United States. The Corps said the training is designed to prepare non-infantry Marines for port or airport security missions.

"We have to protect our post. It's kind of valuable to know what to do," said Pvt. Rheanna Stebbins, 19, of Las Vegas. Previously, women in the Marines received only limited combat training as part of boot camp. They are still banned from combat assignments in the Marines, which have been the most restrictive policy on women in combat.

The Army, Air Force and Navy allow women in combat aircraft; the Army and Marines bar women from serving in infantry, artillery and armored units.

Soldier's trial for hate killings begins

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Now that an ex-paratrooper has been sentenced to life in prison for the hate killings of two blacks, attention turns to the trial of the man prosecutors claim was his accomplice.

Former Fort Bragg soldier Malcolm Wright will be tried on charges that he killed a black couple in Fayetteville, with jury orientation today and selection of the panelists scheduled to begin Tuesday.

Wright, 22, could face the death penalty if convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the 1995 slayings of Jackie Burden, 27, and Michael James, 36. Prosecutors claim Wright was a racist skinhead who chose his victims at random.

James Burmeister II was convicted in the slayings earlier this month and sentenced to life in prison.

The deaths prompted an Army-wide investigation of white supremacy in the ranks. The probe found 22 soldiers at Fort Bragg, including Wright and Burmeister, with extremist sympathies.

Prosecutor Calvin Colyer said new evidence about the crime could come to light during Wright's trial.

"It isn't necessary to show that Wright intended specifically to kill Michael James and Jackie Burden," Colyer said. "All we have to show is that Wright intended for them to die."

Earhart enthusiast takes to skies again

MIAMI (AP) — Saying farewell to hundreds of fans lining the taxiway, the woman retracing Amelia Earhart's steps took off from the U.S. mainland today on the first overseas leg of her journey around the globe.

The goodbyes and a faulty radio delayed Linda Finch's departure from Kendall-Tamiami Airport for about an hour.

The 46-year-old Texas millionaire started her mission March 17 in Oakland, Calif., the same day Earhart took off in 1937. She's made stops in Burbank, Calif., Tucson, Ariz., New Orleans and Miami.

Finch plans to pay tribute to Earhart by dropping a wreath in the ocean after taking off on July 2 from New Guinea, the last place Earhart was seen.

Hopwood plaintiffs seek damages

AUSTIN (AP) — David Rogers, who plans to go to law school this fall, wants the state to pay because he was not able to pursue that dream five years ago.

Rogers and three other white plaintiffs — who successfully challenged a 1992 University of Texas law school admissions policy designed to boost enrollment of black and Mexican-American students — were back in court Monday seeking damages in their case.

Together, the four are asking for about \$5.5 million in damages from the state. That does not include attorneys' fees.

Rogers' share is nearly \$383,000, chiefly to make up for wages he said have been lost to him as a consequence of not being admitted to UT law school and not becoming a lawyer.

The average lawyer makes \$53,000, said Rogers, 33, "and I haven't cracked 26 (thousand dollars) yet."

Rogers, who until recently managed a Relax The Back store in Ar-

lington, Texas, wants to enter law school this fall.

A federal appeals court last year found that UT law school's former admissions policy, in use when the four unsuccessfully sought to enter the school, discriminated against whites.

That decision, allowed to stand by the U.S. Supreme Court, has led to discontinuation of affirmative action policies at universities around the state. The case was returned to U.S. district court to decide damages concerning the four plaintiffs.

Rogers has applied to the University of Houston Law Center and to UT law school. More than likely, he said, he will end up at UH.

"I don't think the University of Texas is going to let me in unless there's a court order" to do so, which he also is seeking in the case, said Rogers. He also plans to write a book about the lawsuit.

Cheryl Hopwood, the lawsuit's lead plaintiff, is asking for \$2.8 million for alleged economic and emotional harm.

Plaintiff Douglas Carvell is asking for \$2.2 million for alleged economic and emotional harm, while Ken Elliott is seeking \$66,000 in wages and \$30,000 in the loss of tangible benefits of attending the school," according to court records.

Lawyer Harley Clark, a state district judge helping represent the state in the case, said the UT's defense against paying damages is simple.

"These people wouldn't have ten into the school in a race-admission system anyway," he said.

A UT law school professor has served on the admissions committee testified to that effect in hearing began before U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks.

Rogers said he expected the arguments, but that he and the plaintiffs deserve to be paid.

"We were damaged, and we lost years of our lives," he said. "We should have been earning the money that a lawyer makes, but I've been earning the money a storekeeper makes."

► **This day in history**

Today is Tuesday, April 1, the 91st day of 1997. There are 274 days left in the year. This is April Fools' Day.

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. House of Representatives held its first full meeting in New York City. Frederick Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania was elected the first House Speaker.

In 1853, Cincinnati, Ohio, became the first U.S. city to pay its firefighters a regular salary.

In 1873, composer Sergei Rachmaninoff was born in Novgorod Province, Russia.

In 1918, the Royal Air Force was established in Britain.

In 1933, Nazi Germany began persecuting Jews with a boycott of Jewish-owned businesses.

In 1939, the United States recognized the Franco government in Spain following the end of the Spanish civil war.

In 1945, American forces invaded Okinawa during World War II.

In 1946, tidal waves struck the Hawaiian Islands,

resulting in more than 170 deaths.

In 1947, Greece's King George II died.




In 1960, the first weather satellite, TIROS-1, was launched from Cape Canaveral.

In 1970, President Nixon signed a measure banning cigarette advertising on radio and television, to take effect after Jan. 1, 1971.

► **Today's birthdays**

Today's Birthdays: Author William Manchester is 75. Actor George Grizzard is 69. Actress Debbie Reynolds is 65. Actor Gordon Jump is 65. Country singer Jim Ed Brown is 63. Actress Ali MacGraw is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rudolph Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 58. Singer Arthur Conley is 51. David Eisenhower is 50. Reggae singer Jimmy Cliff is 49. Jazz musician Gil Scott-Heron is 48. Actress Annette O'Toole is 44. Tennis player Magdalena Maleeva is 22. Actor Sam Huntington (*Jungle 2 Jungle*) is 15.

► **Weather**

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected: 68°F
Cloudy with a 70 percent chance of rain. Southeast winds 5-10 mph.	Cloudy with a 60 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms. Southeast winds at 5-10 mph.	Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms. Gusty southeastern winds.	Tonight's Expected: 58°F
			Tomorrow's Expected High: 70°F
			Tomorrow Night Expected Low: 63°F

Information courtesy of TAMU

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7:30pm MSC 206
FREE ADMISSION

Linda L. Baughman CEO USE Credit Union
Dr. Lesia L. Crumpton Professor, Industrial Eng. Mississippi State Univ.
Kathy Haden Partner Andersen Consulting

A PRESENTATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH WOMEN'S WEEK BY:
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MSC GREAT ISSUES
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Social Insecurity and Medicare:

An Economics Perspective

With panelists from the Department of Economics

Tuesday, April 1st
8:30 P.M.
MSC 212

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

Memo

ATTENTION ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTS

The deadline to cancel your housing contract for Fall 1997 and Spring 1998 and receive a \$200 (100%) deposit refund is:

APRIL 1
by
5:00 P.M.

Cancellation forms can be filled out in 101 YMCA. Letters of cancellation can be faxed (409)-862-3122 or mailed to the Housing Assignments Office 101 YMCA Building College Station, TX. 77843-1258 (409) 845-4744

Deadlines to receive a portion of your deposit:

April 2 - May 1	\$150 (75%)
May 2 - May 15	\$100 (50%)
May 16 - June 1	\$50 (25%)

After June 1 Deposited forfeited

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5/7 The Aggie Final w/ Jackpierce

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