

University charges 16 students with hazing

By ROBERT SMITH
THE BATTALION

Sixteen Texas A&M students face hazing charges by the University that came to light during A&M's judicial hearings for nine former Fish Drill Team advisers, the University said Wednesday.

A&M said the charges stem from hazing incidents that may have occurred while the 16 students were on the Corps of Cadets' Fish Drill Team.

The students were mailed letters yesterday informing them of the charges.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, said the University is taking the charges seriously.

"We have always articulated that we have a zero-tolerance for hazing violations," Southerland said.

If the students are found guilty by a University judi-

cial hearing board, punishment could range from a warning or letter of reprimand to suspension or expulsion from the University.

Maj. Gen. M.T. "Ted" Hopgood, commandant of the Corps, said he was disappointed by the charges.

"It is disheartening any time a student is charged with violating University rules," Hopgood said.

Southerland said he was "not surprised" that additional students were charged with hazing.

"In many cases there are only one or two being charged, but when there are nine there is a lot of potential [for future charges]," Southerland said.

Of the 16 students facing hazing charges, six plan to be in the Corps in the fall, and two of those six are enrolled in summer school. The remaining 10 are enrolled in the University but are no longer cadets.

The students enrolled in summer classes will have three

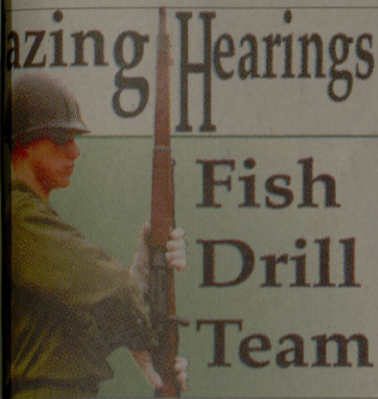
class days to schedule a hearing. The students enrolled in the fall must schedule a hearing by the end of the first week of the fall semester. If the students choose not to enroll, they will be blocked from future registration until they schedule hearings.

Hearing officers in the cases will be Kim Novak, coordinator of Student Judicial Services, and Col. Lee McClesky, chief of operations and training in the Commandant's office. They also served as hearing officers in the nine other cases.

Brazos County Attorney James Kuboviak said the county is not investigating the charges against the 16 students at this time.

"At this time, we have received no information, no victims and no reports," Kuboviak said. "Nobody has told me anything."

Brazos County brought criminal charges against the nine advisers.



GRAPHIC: Brad Graeber

Texans caution Congress on budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — As an unusually unified Congress moved in bipartisan fashion to pass passage of sweeping legislation committing to a balanced budget by 2002, some Texans in Congress warned Wednesday the plan isn't done.

"I think, on balancing the budget, it is important to remember an age that Abraham Lincoln used to fond of," Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said in a floor speech Wednesday. "Abraham Lincoln once said 'The wisest of all birds. She never cracks until the egg is laid.'"

Gramm said he hopes his colleagues will commit to living up to the budget as they are to doing it.

Similar caution was voiced by deficit hawks.

The committed balanced-budget supporter, Rep. Charles Stenrath, D-Stamford, said he would not pop the champagne corks until the budget actually is balanced. That said, he added: "This is a tremendous step for the future of our country."

The legislation, laboriously crafted by congressional Republicans in the White House, claims to cut spending by about \$130 billion over five years, helping achieve a balanced budget for the first time since 1969.

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TODAY IN BATTALION

LIFESTYLES

Dining and dining: Messier Hof brings something different to Aggieland.

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OPINION

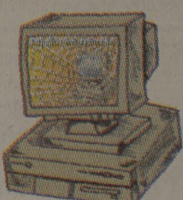
Recent attempts to separate crack, cocaine crime sentences proves racial bias.

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ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Check out the Wire, a 24-hour news service.



Flying high



PHOTOGRAPH: Shannon Castle
Drew Robbins, a graduate aerospace engineering student, operates the 'smart cockpit' flight simulator in the Bright Building. The simulator is made from a T-37 fuselage.

A&M helps develop piloting software

By JENARA KOCKS
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Departments of Aerospace Engineering and Electrical Engineering and Knowledge-Based Systems Inc., of College Station, are making a "smart cockpit" program take off.

The General Aviation Pilot Advisory and Training (GAPATS) program uses computer hardware and software to tell pilots the best way to perform flying operations.

Dr. John Painter, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, and Dr. Don Ward, associate professor and interim head of the aerospace engineering department, head the project.

Painter said the GAPATS is composed of a flight mode interpreter (FMI), a navigation module (NAV), a head-up display (HUD), a head-down display (HDD) and a pilot advisor (PA).

The FMI identifies how a pilot is trying to fly a plane, using sensors that keep track of such variables as the plane's altitude and speed.

The PA determines how a pilot should respond to FMI's findings and then displays words such as "advisory" or "warning" on the HUD, the glass in front of the pilot. These words signal the pilot to look at the HDD, a computer screen on the control panel, for further instruction.

Students in aerospace engineering worked on the HUD, and students in both aerospace and electrical engineering worked on the HDD.

Please see SIMULATOR on Page 2.

Two bombs kill 14 in Jerusalem market

Militant Islamic group took responsibility for blasts

JERUSALEM (AP) — Carefully synchronizing their attacks, two men carried briefcases packed with explosives and nails into the heart of Jerusalem's most crowded outdoor market Wednesday and blew themselves up, sending body parts and blood-soaked vegetables flying.

The double blasts killed 14 people — including the two bombers — and injured more than 150, striking at the teetering Mideast peace process at a time when renewed progress seemed plausible.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet met in emergency session to suspend peace talks with the Palestinians — which resumed this week after a four-month deadlock — until Arafat acts against the militants "with determination," Israel TV said.

A leaflet claiming to be from the militant Islamic group Hamas took responsibility for the blasts, which went off in an alley about 50 yards apart from each other. Mahane Yehuda, Jerusalem's main fruit and vegetable market, was packed with shoppers when the bombs went off at 1:15 p.m.

"People flew in the air without legs, without arms, without clothes," said one witness, 43-year-old Sarah Yamin.

Soot-covered bodies lay on the ground, their blood mixing with smashed watermelons, torn clothes and shredded newspaper. Green awnings covering the alley were torn apart and vegetable stands and clothing displays overturned; scraps of clothing dangled from telephone lines.

The attackers — whose overall aim has been to scuttle the peace process — achieved a short-term goal: President Clinton postponed a new peace initiative by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, who was to arrive in the region Thursday. No new date for the trip was set.

The attacks came just days after Netanyahu appeared on TV to highlight his success in preventing the deadly suicide bombings that bedeviled his predecessors and led to his election last year.



Shortly after the bombing, Yasser Arafat called Netanyahu to express his condolences, resulting in what Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak termed a "tough conversation."

Later, at the emergency session of the Israeli Cabinet, Netanyahu said Palestinians' condolences were not enough: "What we expect is action."

One senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel might resort to commando strikes or limited military offensives in Palestinian-controlled areas to try to stop the attacks.

Arafat, speaking in the West Bank city of Jericho shortly before declaring a state of emergency, said he "strongly and completely" condemns the violence, which he said "is not only aimed at Israelis but at the peace."

Arafat said he hoped Israel would not use the attacks as a pretext for further delays in peace talks, which collapsed in March over Israeli building into disputed territories and Israeli demands for a crackdown on Palestinian militants.

Storms cause minor flooding, power outages in Brazos Valley

Rains expected to continue through Friday, Saturday

Stephanie Hayes knew if she left her umbrella at home yesterday, it would rain.

"It happens every time," Hayes, a junior journalism major, said, "but this time I'm not mad about getting drenched in the rain. I actually played in it for a while."

The Brazos Valley saw July's first major rain yesterday, which prompted the National Weather Service to issue a flash flood watch through last night.

The National Weather Service said rainfall in the Brazos Valley will continue through Friday and possibly Saturday. High temperatures will be in the middle 90s with lows in the middle 70s.

Thunderstorms brought heavy rain and wind gusts up to 50 mph, causing minor damage and flooding.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said some basements on campus flooded. He also said a construction sign near the Zachry Engineering Center fell on a parked vehicle.

The thunderstorms erupted because of a combination of a slow-moving cold front in the southeastern United States and an area of low pressure that developed in the Gulf of Mexico just south of Louisiana.

The National Weather Service said the low pressure area may develop into a tropical depression by the weekend.

KBTX-TV meteorologist Bob French said the much-needed rain caused some street flooding and lightning.

"We are getting some very beneficial rain in the Brazos Valley," French said, "but it certainly calls for careful driving, and those who do not have to should not be out in it."

Power outages were reported in the area. College Station Utilities said College Station experienced more than 100 power outages yesterday, mostly caused by lightning. Some car alarms were activated by thunder.

Bryan Utilities reported no incidents, but some lights flickered, and car alarms were activated by thunder. Dan Wilkerson, director of electrical utilities at Bryan Utilities, said the biggest problem was keeping employees indoors and not watching the rain.

Sgt. Mike Dean of the College Station Police



PHOTOGRAPH: Shannon Castle

Karen Netherland, a senior political science major, ventures out onto the flooded sidewalk in front of the Chemistry Building Wednesday afternoon.

Department said electrical disturbances set off alarms and minor street flooding occurred. "If the rain continues," Dean said, "that's when we may see some major problems."

—Joey Jeanette Schlueter, John LeBas and Erica Roy contributed to this story.