

NEWS BRIEFS

Sh library to host symposium today

The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum will host a symposium titled "China-U.S. Higher Education: Sharing Experiences and Lessons" from 2 to 4 p.m. today in the conference center.

The symposium is open to the public and will be telecast statewide as part of the Lockheed-Martin World War II Memorial-Residence Program of the national center.

The keynote speaker will be Min Tang, executive vice president and dean of Peking University in China. Tang is here as the first participant in the world scholar-in-residence program, which brings academic leaders and experts in various fields to Texas A&M. While visiting, these scholars interact with faculty and students through seminars, teaching and research.

Graduate programs ranked top in U.S.

Two doctoral programs in Texas A&M's College of Liberal Arts ranked in the top 35 nationally in the U.S. News and World Report rankings. Both the political science and economics Ph.D. programs ranked in the national survey. Charles A. Johnson, professor and head of the Department of Political Science, says this is an especially notable accomplishment for his department.

Student group website wins award

Students at Texas A&M Hillel recently received a "most creative" award for their web site. Texas A&M Hillel, the Jewish club campus, competed against all other university Hillels in the nation for the best web site. Other universities winning the "gold" medal for the three best web categories were Overall, Harvard University; and Most Engaging, George Washington University. Texas A&M Hillel's web page can be found on the Texas A&M web site under Campus Life and Student Organizations.

MSC Hotline off to smooth start

By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer



MSC program information can now be as close as a phone call with the introduction of the MSC hotline. Dr. Stephen Biles, associate director of the MSC, said the purpose of the hotline is to give easy access to MSC programs.

"We hope the MSC hotline will increase the awareness of the programs, services, facilities and student development opportunities available at the Memorial Student Center," he said.

The service can be accessed by calling 847-LINE (847-5463.) The

hotline is updated weekly. MSC program information is also available at wwwmsc.tamu.edu.

The idea for the hotline began two years ago, but is only now being implemented because of the time spent doing research, Biles said. Ricky Allen, MSC technology director and a junior business administration major, said the hotline is run by MSC Computer Operations and uses Phone Maker by Macintosh. The hotline will go through future improvements, including increasing the speed of the recording, Allen said.

out how many people are going to use, it we may add more lines." Gina Miori, vice president of external marketing and a junior speech communications major, said the MSC hotline can make the 26 MSC organizations more accessible. "I think that it has amazing potential and will be a great promotional tool since it is free to the student body," she said. The hotline menu contains three options including programs for the week, leadership opportunities and services.

Where's the beef?



Amber Boucher, a junior animal science major, unwraps a meat sample in the sensory kitchen in Kleberg. Boucher is participating in the National Beef Tenderness Survey. Cities from across the United States are sending in beef samples to be tested for tenderness.

JAMES FRANCIS/THE BATTALION

U. S. troops to receive anthrax inoculations

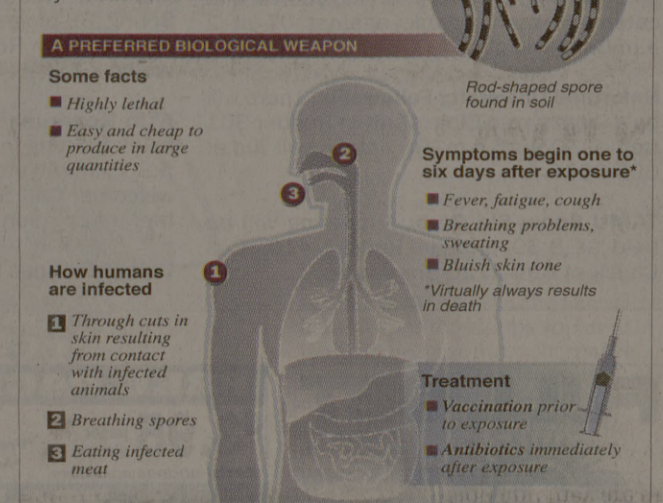
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said Tuesday that Iraq "should be under no illusion" about the meaning of a U.N. Security Council resolution warning of the "severest consequences" if Baghdad fails to allow free inspections. "It provides authority to act," the president said. Clinton issued his latest warning as the Pentagon stepped up plans to inoculate troops in the Persian Gulf against anthrax. The administration also said it views the Security Council vote as a "green light" to attack Iraq if it fails to permit unlimited access to weapons inspectors.

"No promise of peace and no policy of patience can be without its limits," Clinton said during an East Room ceremony about combating drunken driving. He said Monday's vote sent a clear message to Iraq that it must allow inspections of suspected weapons sites "without obstruction or delay, any place, any time, without any conditions, deadlines or excuses."

"The government of Iraq should be under no illusion," he said. "The meaning of 'severest consequences' is clear. It provides authority to act if Iraq does not turn the commitment it has made into compliance."

Deadly bacteria

Anthrax is a naturally occurring disease in plant-eating animals which can infect all warm-blooded animals. The disease is caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*.



Source: DefenseLINK, AP research

AP/S. Hoffmann, J. Klamzn

force that the Security Council has taken since this crisis began last year."

Even the resolution adopted before the war against Iraq in 1991 did not explicitly call for using force to reverse the annexation of Kuwait, Rubin said. "The world is now supporting a strong, clear threat that military force will ensue if Iraq violates this agreement, and that's why we think this resolution was so important," Rubin said.

Defense Secretary William Cohen has decided that the 36,000 U.S. troops in the Gulf should undergo anthrax vaccinations starting this month

as a "prudent action." Anthrax is a biological weapon that can kill so quickly that by the time any symptoms show up, it may be too late to treat victims.

Also today, Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni, the U.S. commander in the Persian Gulf, told a Senate committee that U.S. forces, their morale high, remain ready to act if necessary. "They understand the mission and they are prepared to do what it takes,"

Saddam "will continue to test us and the international community," Zinni told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "It is important to keep the noose tight."

Notorious El Niño

Recent rains cause havoc for allergy sufferers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California's El Niño rains have brought a bumper crop of allergy-producing mold and pollen, and people are suffering.

Doctors' waiting rooms are clogged with the sniffling, wheezing and itchy-eyed. "I have patients who haven't had allergy attacks for 15 years coming in with 10 days of horrible allergic symptoms," Dr. Bernard Geller, a Santa Monica allergist, said Tuesday. "They have mountains of tissues alongside their bed and are being chased out of the bedroom by their spouses because they are sneezing all day long."

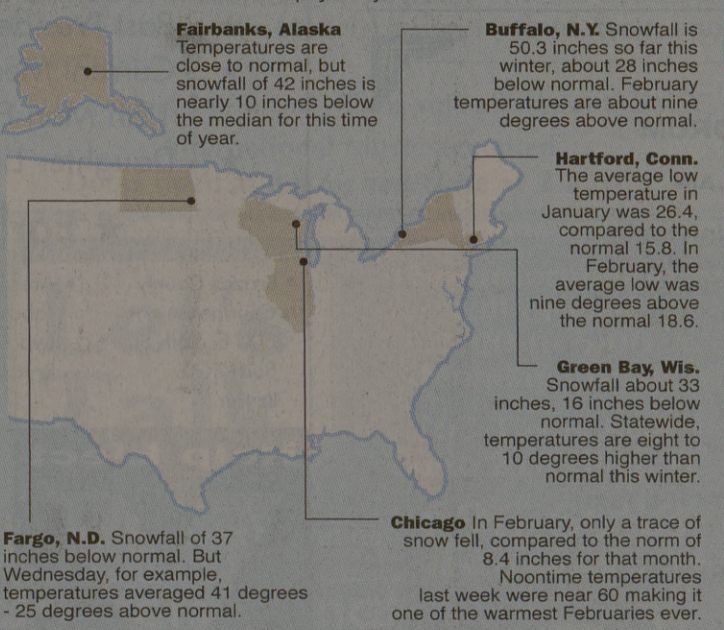
Los Angeles had its wettest February on record with 13.68 inches of rain, topping the 1884 record of 13.37.

The rain is stimulating the growth of mold, trees and grass. More misery lies ahead in the summer when weeds and flowers blossom. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the incredibly green hillsides," Geller said.

He thinks rye grass planted to hold back mudslides in fire-scorched areas is a major culprit. He advises the allergy-afflicted to keep their windows closed and

Mild winter

Unseasonably mild temperatures in parts of the northern United States have hurt businesses dependent on cold and snow and given garden centers, paint stores and movie houses unexpectedly strong winter sales. A look at some of the topsy-turvy weather.



put high-efficiency particle air filters in their bedrooms.

Among his new patients is Darlene Martin, 38, a registered nurse from Santa Monica whose asthma has spiraled out of control with the rains.

"I'm having asthma attacks

every night. Something in the air is making breathing more difficult," she said. "I can get short of breath and I'm fit."

A series of allergy tests revealed she's sensitive to several grasses and molds, which thrive in moisture. She is now taking five medications.

Gates says monopoly not his game at work

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bill Gates, with competitors at his side and U.S. senators in his face, was forced to make his case Tuesday that Microsoft Corp. is not a monopoly out to crush rivals in the Internet software market.

The exploding software industry, he said during testimony on Capitol Hill, is "an open economic opportunity for any entrepreneur in America." But he got plenty of argument on that point.

"Some are concerned that where there's a lot of money to be made, or where competition could threaten Microsoft's dominant position, Microsoft exploits its monopoly power — virtually guaranteeing that no one entrant has a realistic possibility of succeeding," said Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

Gates mounted a vigorous and spirited defense during a Senate Judiciary hearing that stretched over 4 1/2 hours. The meeting was called to investigate competitive issues in the software industry, but it focused almost entirely on Microsoft.

Besides fielding sharply worded questions from Hatch and others, Gates also was questioned by his fellow witnesses, the CEOs of rivals Sun Microsystems Inc. and Netscape Communications Corp.

Netscape chief executive James Barksdale enlisted the audience's help to challenge Gates' view of

the industry. He asked audience members to raise their hands if they had a personal computer at home or work. Several dozen did. He then asked them to keep their arms up if they were among those without a Microsoft Windows operating system. Only a handful remained.

"Gentlemen, that's a monopoly," Barksdale said.

Gates asserted that lower prices and vastly improved features in computer software are evidence of an open and thriving market, not one beset by a monopoly.

"Anybody who is doing great products in this business can do very, very well," Gates said.

Hatch quickly replied: "Well, Mr. Gates, not if there's predatory pricing. And not if there is improper, monopolistic control."

"I point it out because, it isn't just the business of selling software. It's the business of selling it fairly," the senator said.

The appearance of Gates, the world's richest man, packed the hearing room. Long lines of spectators stretched outside through much of the proceedings.



Gates

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online
<http://battalion.tamu.edu>
Look up with state and national news through The Fire, AP's 24-hour online news service.