

Bush has no regrets on war

By BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the coalition of forces that fought Iraq during the Gulf War in 1991, said Friday that, with the condition of the U.S. armed forces today, the United States would be incapable of launching the same military attack it did just 10 years ago.

His response to a question about the present-day U.S. ability to fight the Gulf War again was simple.

"No," he said.
Schwarzkopf was one of five panel members who spoke to a standing-room-only crowd of approximately 2,400 at Rudder Auditorium on the 10-year anniversary of the U.S. strike against Iraq.

Former President George Bush led the panel discussion. He was joined by Schwarzkopf and John Major, former prime minister of Great Britain. Also in attendance were Robert Gates, former CIA director and deputy national security adviser, and Marlin Fitzwater, press secretary for presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush. Gates currently serves as interim dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Bush said he underestimated Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in 1991 by assuming the Iraqi government would not survive the military pounding and economic sanctions the coalition inflicted on Iraq.

But, Bush said, "He did."

"He did it through brutality," Bush said. "We underestimated the tyranny."

Bush and Major agreed that they have no regrets about taking action in 1991.

"It was a series of reasons — I think moral reasons — why we had to take action," Major said.

Bush was asked by an audience member if he foresaw a day when the economic sanctions against Iraq could be lifted.

Bush laughed and said he could not offer an opinion.

"I don't want to get number 43 mad at me," he said, referring to his son, President George W. Bush.

Major pointed out that the war was against Hussein and his government,

not the people of Iraq.

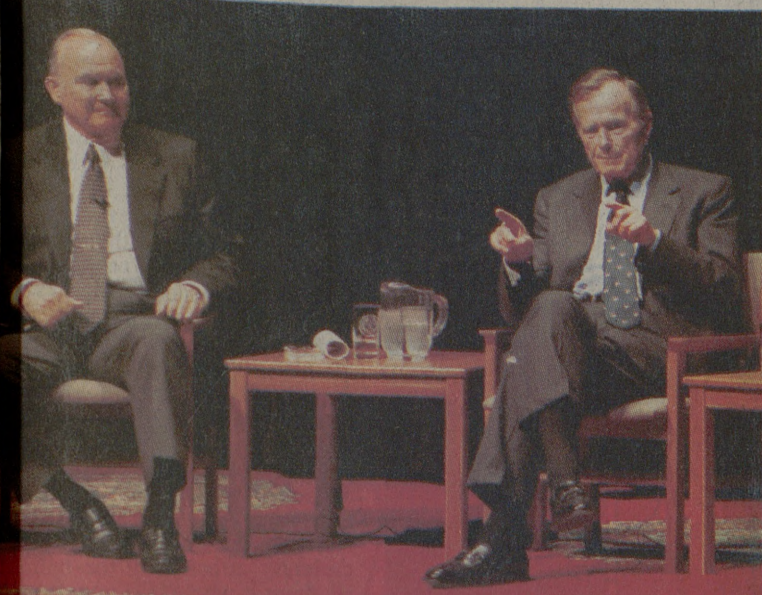
Bush and Major said, although they have drawn sharp criticism in the past 10 years for their decision not to go into Baghdad and kill Hussein, they contend that they made the right decision.

"A turkey shoot is not what professional armies much like," Major said. "Suppose the coalition had gone in and gotten Hussein. What would they do then? How long would they stay there?"

Major said British forces entered Cyprus "temporarily" with a similar motive 30 years ago. They are still there, he said.

"I personally believe the right decision was made to stop the war at

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CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and Former President George Bush speak to a standing-room-only crowd at Rudder Auditorium Friday.

Railroad relocation remains undecided

By AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

The fate of the railroad tracks dividing the Texas A&M campus remains uncertain after the MPO Policy Committee, in the face of public pressure, tabled possible alternatives and voted Friday to do more research.

The MPO Policy Committee was expected to recommend three alternatives from a proposed 23 routes.

However, the committee returned the issue to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to look into concerns voiced by residents, including the effects of the proposed routes on landowners and businesses, safety improvement costs, and vehicle traffic counts.

Michael Parks, MPO director, said the outcry from the residents and the problems cited by the policy committee are an indication of a need for further research.

"We know which routes are unacceptable to the public," Parks said. "The question is which routes we need more study on to determine the best route."

The MPO Policy Committee, which consists of College Station Mayor Lynn McIlhane, Bryan Mayor Lonnie Stabler, Brazos County Judge Al Jones, A&M Vice President for Administration Charles Sippial and a state transportation department representative, began researching the railroad issue in 1998.

The committee hired Carter and Burgess consulting firm and HDR Engineering to consider the feasibility of the current Union Pacific route and 22 alternative routes.

From their recommendations, TAC and the Rail Advisory Committee (RAC) submitted three routes and the existing route to the policy committee. However, the routes originally recommended by TAC and RAC ran into Burtleson County,

where county residents heavily protested.

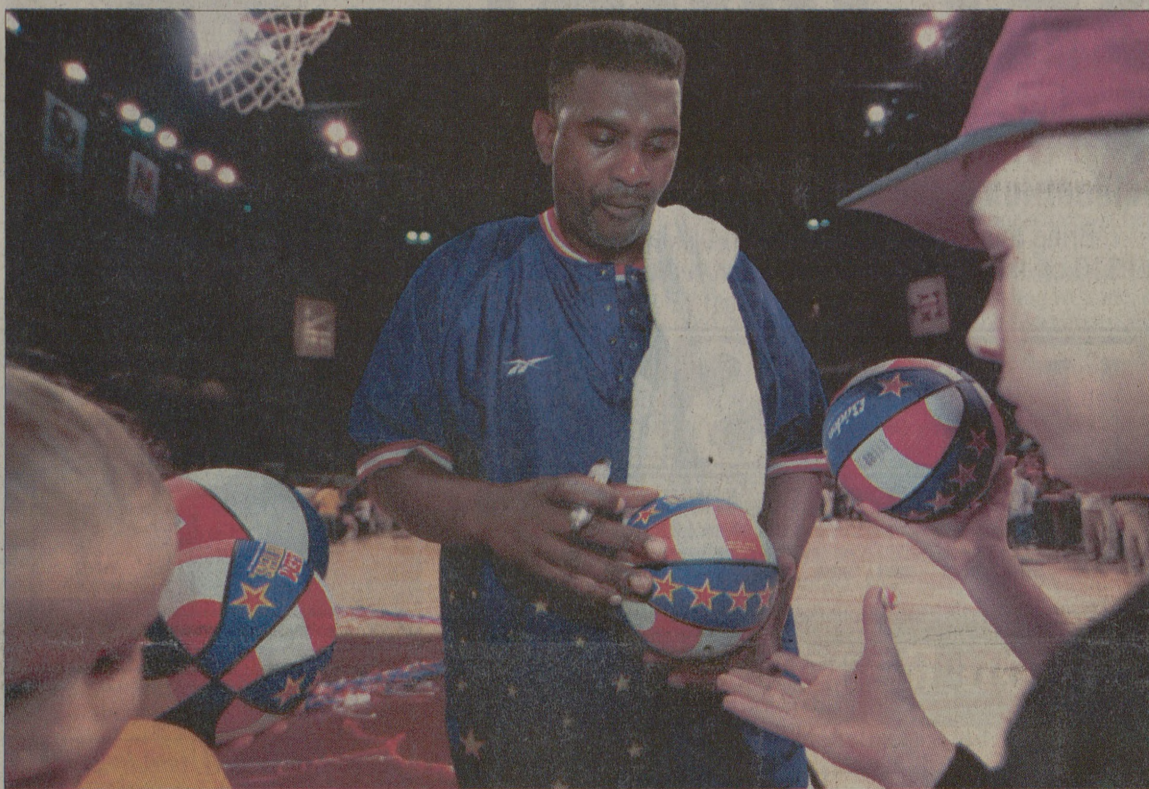
However, the policy committee's vote allowed for continued research on the following: maintaining the current track and adding a grade separation at Villa Maria Road and a pedestrian underpass at A&M, a proposed route leaving the existing track in Wellborn and following the west side of the Brazos River to north of FM 60, adding another track from University Drive to Wellborn Road and placing grade separations where the tracks overlap six major streets, and a currently unspecified route decided by the policy committee.

McIlhane said the policy committee needs more information for a fair assessment of the rail situation, including proposed alternatives outside Brazos County.

"If we are truly going to get some comparative data in order to have a fair assessment, we need to look at some other

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How sweet it is



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

"Sweet" Lou Dunbar, center for the Harlem Globetrotters signs autographs after the game against the New York Nationals. Dunbar has played with

the Globetrotters for 22 seasons and is famous for his comedy routines on the court. The game was Saturday at Reed Arena.

Help given to students to improve their grades

By EMILY HENDRICKSON
The Battalion

Students aiming to improve their grades and get study tips now have the option to join Academics Anonymous, a new group started by the Student Counseling Service (SCS). Through Academics Anonymous, students can increase self-awareness and get honest feedback from other students, said Patti Collins, a professional counselor for SCS academic and career services.

"The main focus of the group is to provide support for students who are motivated to do better and learn how to balance their social and academic lives," Collins said.

The first meeting, Thursday, Feb. 22, was a great success, said Betty Milburn, associate director of counseling at SCS.

"We are off and running with this group, and I think it will be really beneficial to everyone who is participating," Milburn said.

SCS offers Academics Anonymous meetings every Thursday night for 90 minutes. In order to participate in Academics Anonymous, students first must be screened by a professional counselor at SCS.

"The group is closed, but, if we find a demand for a similar group, we can start up another one," Collins said.

The group provides a social benefit as well. Academics Anonymous provides an atmosphere to talk about problems, and share experiences

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Pastor fighting to have portrait displayed

By MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

A portrait of Gibb Gilchrist containing an image of Gen. Robert E. Lee and a Confederate battle flag was removed last summer from the lobby of the Gibb Gilchrist building, which houses the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). Since then, Rev. Dan Bates, pastor of Heard's Prairie Baptist Church in Robertson County, has been fighting to have the painting restored to its original location.

"The administration lied to *The Battalion*," Bates said. "The administration said a minority student went to West Campus and was assaulted by the awful portrait and told TTI Director Dr. Herb Richardson to take the portrait down. That's not what happened."

Bates said he was told by a friend who works at Texas A&M that a fe-

Picture removed because of Confederate flag, Lee

male professor in the political science department was offended by the portrait. He said he also was told the professor told students in one of her classes to view the portrait and let her know if the picture offended them.

Bates said the professor found a majority of the students were offended, and "she dispatched a female student who told Dr. Richardson that the majority of students who viewed the portrait were offended — to take the portrait down, and it was removed."

Dr. John Robertson, a political science professor, said the administration's story is the truth and that one of his students voiced her own opinion about the portrait to University officials. Robertson said

when he first saw the portrait he noticed the prominent image of Lee and the Confederate battle

"The Confederate battle flag is the wrong symbol for the University."

— Dr. John Robertson
political science professor

flag. After thinking about what he had seen, he said he decided to give two extra-credit points to students in one of his classes for going to the Gilchrist building and looking for symbols that are inconsistent

with A&M policies of and Black History Month.

Robertson said he did not remember the exact number of students who thought the portrait and images contained in it were inconsistent with the values of the University, but there were a few. One female student sent an email to A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, expressing her opinion about the portrait, Robertson said.

"It was my initiative that got this started. Students took the initiative to move this thing along," Robertson said.

Robertson said the Confederate battle flag pictured in the portrait is an insensitive symbol at odds with the University's values.

"The Confederate battle flag is the wrong symbol for the University," Robertson said. "We are insensitive on this campus to symbols which might be seen as moderately racist."

Richardson said Lee was one of Gilchrist's heroes, which is why he chose to have Lee represented in his portrait.

Gilchrist was A&M president and the first chancellor of the Texas A&M University System.

"This whole thing happened at a bad time," Richardson said. "It was right when Bush ordered the Confederate battle flag to be taken off of the courthouse in Austin. There is a lot of sensitivity to this issue. This issue created lots of controversy."

Bates said regardless of the Lee image, taking down the portrait is a

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Committee aims to combat dishonesty

Study shows 88 percent of students have broken Aggie Code of Honor

By AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

There is evidence that Aggies do lie, cheat, steal and tolerate those who do, as the administration continues to look at violations of the long-standing Aggie Code of Honor.

Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for Student Affairs, said the findings of a 1997 study have captured the administration's attention. The study indicated that 88 percent of Texas A&M students have engaged in some form of academic dishonesty.

Last week, a newly formed Academic Integrity Assessment Committee met to propose

plans to combat some of the dishonesty on campus.

"We really have a problem," Kibler said. "Currently, there are not a lot of things to make the Aggie Code of Honor seem real to students. It must become a high priority for the school, if things are going to improve."

The Academic Integrity Assessment Committee, chaired by Kibler, consists of four students, four faculty members and four administrators or staff members.

The committee will administer a survey shortly before or after spring break, and it will be similar to the survey administered in 1997. In addition, a fac-

ulty survey will be administered to gain additional information related to academic dishonesty among A&M students.

By Fall 2002, Kibler said he hopes the committee will be able to make recommendations to the administration, based on the survey's results and the current research on what has been successful at other universities addressing issues of academic dishonesty.

"Schools across the country are doing a lot of things to combat academic dishonesty," Kibler said. "These schools are successful because they are talking about it before students come to their university. It becomes part of the

introduction to and immersion into a university."

Kibler said events like new student conferences and Fish Camp are prime opportunities for educating students on the Aggie Code of Honor and the consequences of violating the rules.

Rob Ferguson, student government executive vice president and a senior political science major, said the Aggie Code of Honor needs to be addressed in a more meaningful way to reduce the number of academic violations on campus.

"I think it is pretty clear we are in need of making improvements," Ferguson said. "This

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FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

A UPD officer was hired to monitor the MSC Bookstore at the beginning of the semester.