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October 24 5:30-7 p.m. Commons Dining Area
 November 7 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 12th Man

Meet campus leaders, learn what SGA is doing for you, and eat with the S&P!

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October 29 5:30-7 p.m. Commons Dining Area
 November 12 5:30-7 p.m. Commons Dining Area

Let campus leaders serve you on campus and in the dining hall!

Attention All Members of

NSCS

National Society of Collegiate Students

OFF-CAMPUS MEETING

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When: October 25, 2001
 Where: Gattiland
 Time: 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact us at:
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 UCS hires non-tobacco users only

News

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THE BATTALION

Wednesday, October 24, 2001

Texas company wins INS contract to track visitors

WASHINGTON (AP) — A subsidiary of a Texas-based company has won a \$74.8 million contract to help the Immigration and Naturalization Service keep tabs on visitors to the United States.

The subsidiary, Affiliated Computer Services-Business Process Solutions of Lexington, Ky., will maintain a database of information gathered when visitors — students, tourists and business travelers — enter and exit the country.

A current system for maintaining this information has been criticized as too slow in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. Several of the suspected hijackers had entered the country on travel or tourists visas and overstayed them, INS officials have said.

"We are excited about this selection by the INS for this important processing work," said Tom Blodgett, president of the subsidiary of Dallas-based ACS Inc.

Blodgett said he plans to use new tech-

nology to make the process more efficient. Congress also is looking at other technologies and systems to keep track of foreign visitors.

Visitors must give INS a form containing personal information when they arrive at port of entry. That information is entered into a database. The visitors then present the form to INS when they leave. The system is supposed to help keep track of foreign visitors and when they overstay their visas.

ATTACKS

Continued from Page 1

Taliban headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar — said to be all but abandoned by its half million inhabitants after weeks of attacks.

In other developments:
 • The Pentagon said two U.S. helicopters came under fire in Pakistan as their crews tried to retrieve the wreckage of another helicopter that had crashed during a covert weekend commando raid.

• Three U.S. bombs went astray over the weekend, with two landing in a civilian neighborhood near Kabul and the other near a senior citizens' center

so-called senior citizens' center was the same building referred to in the U.N. report.

• Britain will send troops and equipment to join the U.S.-led military effort against Afghanistan, though just how much has not been decided.

• Italy offered the United States an armor regiment, attack helicopters, fighter jets and specialists in nuclear, chemical and bacteriological warfare for the coalition against terrorism.

• BBC-TV reported Tuesday that a U.S. bomb hit a house in Kabul Monday night that was used by the Kashmiri militant group Harakat ul-Mujahdeen. Citing sources inside the organization, the BBC said the bomb killed 22 members of the group which is linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist ring.

President Bush initiated the air campaign Oct. 7 after the Taliban repeatedly refused to surrender bin Laden, chief suspect in last month's terror attacks in the United States.

British Secretary of Defense Geoff Hoon said Tuesday that the military strikes on Afghanistan have destroyed nine of bin Laden's terrorist training camps and severely damaged nine airfields and 24 military garrisons.

"We should not allow the kind of atrocities that prevailed in Afghanistan to return."

— Pervez Musharraf
 Pakistani president

ter in Herat, the Pentagon said. The military said it had no information on casualties. The United Nations said a U.S. bomb struck a military hospital in the western Afghan city of Herat but said it had no information regarding casualties. Taliban rulers aid more than 100 patients and medical workers were killed Monday.

Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said a U.S. bomb went astray near a senior citizens' home in Herat, landing in a field between the home and a military vehicle storage facility. The 1,000-pound bomb was dropped Sunday by an F/A-18. She said it was not know if the

Israel defies U.S. demand to withdraw from towns

JERUSALEM (AP) — In a deepening confrontation, Israel defied a U.S. demand to pull its army out of six Palestinian towns Tuesday. President Bush later moved to ease tensions by urging the Jewish state to do it "as quickly as possible."

Only hours earlier, the State Department told the Israelis leave the towns without delay. The presence of the Israeli Defense Force "contributes to an escalation in violence, and it should be withdrawn immediately," spokesman Richard Boucher said.

The diplomatic dispute with Washington was the most serious since Ariel Sharon was elected prime minister eight months ago.

But comments by Bush following a meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel reflected an effort to ease the confrontation. "I did express our concern about troops in Palestinian territory and I would hope the Israelis would move their troops as quickly as possible," Bush said of the talks.

Israel sent its army into the West Bank towns after the assassination last Wednesday of ultranationalist Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi. The killing was claimed by the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian as vengeance for Israel's Aug. 27 killing of its leader.

Israel moved into Jenin Thursday then into Bethlehem and Beit Jalla on Friday, and finally Tulkarem, Kalkiliya and Ramallah on Saturday.

In the latest incident, Israeli troops shot and killed three Palestinians in Tulkarem early Wednesday. Palestinians said the soldiers ambushed the

three from a cemetery. Israeli military said the soldiers spotted Palestinians who were about to open fire, and shot them.

Also, Palestinians reported Israeli tank movements Wednesday near Nablus, the largest Palestinian city, which has so far not been part of Israeli operation.

On Tuesday, two Palestinians were killed in Tulkarem. Altogether, Palestinians, many of them children, have been killed during incursions.

Gunfire could be heard through the night in Bethlehem, where Israeli troops held positions a few kilometers (miles) from the Church of Nativity, marking the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

Israel stands firm in West Bank

On Tuesday, Israeli tanks continued to occupy some Palestinian controlled areas and surround others.

● Occupied ● Surrounded

SOURCES: Associated Press, ESR

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