

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Israel fights back as bombs continue

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops backed by armor intensified an offensive across the West Bank Monday, pounding a Ramallah building with anti-aircraft guns, briefly pushing into Bethlehem and sending a deafening echo of tank shells through Palestinian streets.

Spurred by a wave of bloody suicide attacks that claimed more than 40 lives in five days, Israeli leaders said the military drive was meant to smash a Palestinian terrorist infrastructure. Palestinians, for their part, said Israel's tactics amounted to a campaign of state terror against the civilian population.

Troops searching for Palestinian militants and weapons caches carried out house-to-house searches and engaged in running battles with gun-

men. In the center of Ramallah, soldiers used vehicle-mounted anti-aircraft guns to pulverize the facade of a building where Palestinian gunmen were holed up, sending chunks of masonry plunging into the street.

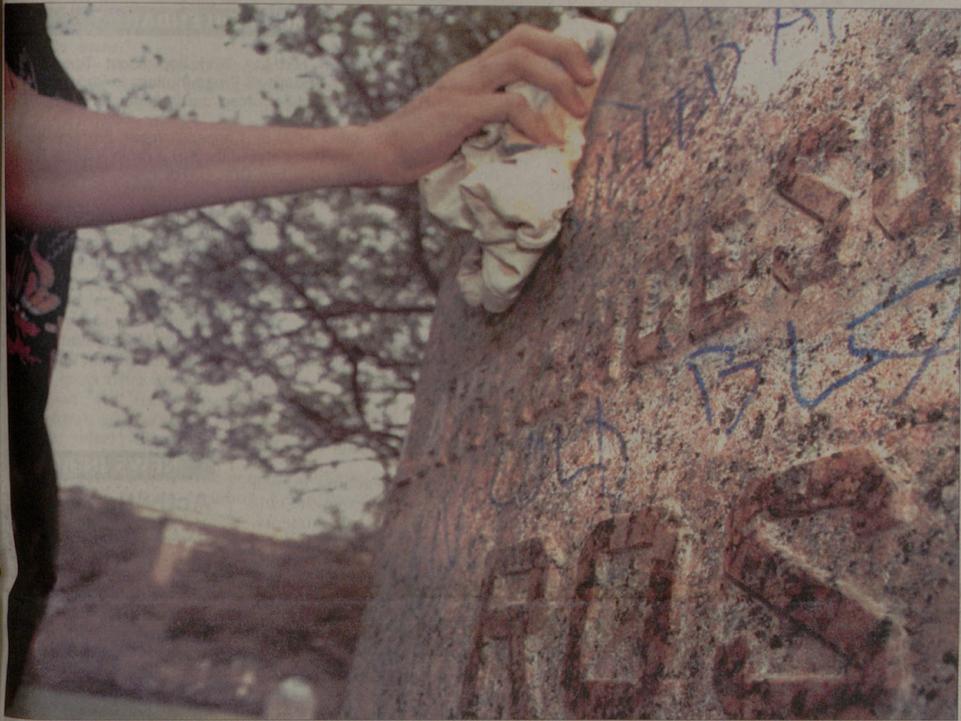
Israeli forces also moved into the northern Palestinian towns of Qalqilya and Tulkarem on Sunday night and Monday.

In the sixth Palestinian attack in six days, a car bomb exploded near downtown Jerusalem. Police said a policeman stopped the car and the driver, a Palestinian, set off the bomb. The Palestinian was killed and the policeman seriously injured. The Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility.

Sporadic gunfire rang out after dark in Ramallah, a few miles to the north, where a tight curfew and continued fighting have turned a busy commercial center into a ghost town. The boom of tank shells was heard after night fell. Eight Israeli soldiers were injured — two seriously — in Ramallah and

See **Israel** on page 6

Clean up



Graffiti was found early Monday morning on the Sul Ross Statue outside the Academic Building. Members of the Corps volunteered their class time to clean the statue

before a professional was called in. The University Police Department said it received several vandalism calls on campus, but did not release further details.

JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Faculty member performs in protest

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Emerging from a metal trash can dressed as a homeless person with dirt on his face and a bottle of alcohol in his right hand, music professor Dr. Howard Fredrics performed a protest performance of "The Mockingbird" in his class Thursday afternoon.

Fredrics was scheduled to perform the piece at the faculty talent show on March 22, but due to the dramatization it contained, the Memorial Student Center Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS) put a disclaimer on it, saying it contained subject matter that would be inappropriate for young audiences.

In protest of the disclaimer, Fredrics withdrew his performance from the program.

"No one [in OPAS] saw it. They had the program notes and the text and I told the organizers it was an 'in-your-face' performance because I came into the audience and I was wearing a disgusting costume," Fredrics said. "I think they should have seen it with unbiased eyes and ears and judge it for themselves."

"The Mockingbird" is a theatrical setting of Charles Bukowski's poem scored for baritone voice, actor and electronic tape.

"The reason why we put the disclaimer on it was because of the description he provided and how he intended it to be vulgar, intense and shocking," Elaine McClurken, coordinator for OPAS said. "We encouraged him to still perform and it would have been great if he did."

Other themes portrayed during the show included adultery and suicide, however, organizers chose to put the disclaimer only on Fredrics' performance, he said.

"Someone could have been offended with anything performed," Fredrics said.

Fredrics has performed this piece several times, most recently at Southern Methodist University, which is known for its conservative atmosphere. He said there were no problems with the performance at the Ft. Worth campus.

"I think instead of saying it was inappropriate for young audiences they should have said it depicted alcoholism and homelessness and it contained audience participation in some ways," Fredrics said. "I didn't know this was supposed to be a family event."

However, McClurken said several faculty members could have brought

See **Censorship** on page 2

Plasma-etching could improve semiconductors

By Brittany Hooten
THE BATTALION

The computer industry has been searching for years to better its most basic component, the semiconductor, and a Texas A&M chemical engineer says he may have the solution.

Dow Professor of Chemical and Electrical Engineering Yue Kuo has worked in the semiconductor field for more than 20 years. He said he has worked periodically during those years to find a way to plasma-etch copper.

Semiconductors, key elements in computer

processors and other electric circuits, need tiny components, transistors, connected to each other with wire lines to operate.

As computers process information faster and faster, the number of transistors and number of wire connections has increased, meaning that smaller and thinner lines are needed to etch the transistors together. Scientists have been looking to integrate copper into the connection system using plasma-etching.

Today chips are being made more and more powerful, Kuo said. Advanced chips can contain tens of millions of transistors, and as more tran-

sistors are added to each microscopic chip, more lines are needed to connect them.

For many years the lines were made of aluminum because of its high conductivity. Kuo said that as aluminum is made smaller it becomes more resistant instead of continuing conducting.

The most common solution is to use copper, he said. But to make the copper lines smaller, plasma-etching must be used.

"When we come to very small geometry, we can only use the plasma-etching," Kuo said.

In 1998, IBM disclosed a method that can make a very fine copper line, but not by the

plasma method. This method, chemical mechanical polishing, is the most common method used by companies today although it is problematic, Kuo said.

"This method has a lot of problems that need to be constantly or continuously be studied. It's a very tedious process," he said.

The chemical mechanical polishing method involves many steps, requires constant attention and uses expensive equipment, he said. Another potential problem is that the process can have a

See **Semiconductor** on page 2

Gov. Perry thanks reservists

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry thanked military reservists and National Guardsmen and praised them Monday for temporarily giving up their jobs to help protect America in the war on terrorism.

"The enemies of America have gotten a powerful dose of the full fury of a freedom-loving people. I am proud of the work you have done to protect America from this evil we now know as terrorism," Perry told a group of mostly Texas reservists.

He delivered his remarks from a podium near where his helicopter landed to bring him to the post. Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, Texas Adjutant General, stood nearby as the soldiers sat in bleachers and listened.

Perry said he wanted the troops to know that he was proud of them and said he wanted to remind their employers of the work the soldiers were doing.

See **Perry** on page 6

Gay Awareness Week to support diversity

By Tanya Nading
THE BATTALION

Several organizations at Texas A&M say they are going to spend this week reminding students that homosexuals live, work and go to school in Aggieland.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Aggies (GLBTA) and other campus organizations will sponsor Gay Awareness Week this week. The week will celebrate its 18th year of recognition at A&M with a collection of activities,

demonstrations and discussions. "The point of this week is to try and let people know that there are gay people on this campus," said Justin Anderson, a senior psychology major and president of GLBTA. "We just want to be treated like everyone else and be respected for who we are."

The week begins with a diversity workshop with facilitator Magdalen Hsu-Li, who will be speaking on diversity and sexuality, Monday

See **Awareness** on page 2

Bluebonnet Drive



JENNIFER WIDENER • THE BATTALION

As spring arrives, Bluebonnets begin to grow on the corner of Wellborn Road and University Drive across from Northgate.

INSIDE



Sports Pg. 7
Terps outlast Hoosiers, 64-52
Dixon leads Maryland to first NCAA title

Opinion Pg. 11
Public accessibility?
CIPA should not be enforced

WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 82° F
LOW 60° F

WEDNESDAY

50% HIGH 84° F
LOW 54° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.collegeweather.com

SILVER TAPS

JON BRIAN BOROWIEC
Teaching, Learning and Culture

PAIGE TAYLOR MIXON
Economics

CARMELA BEATRICE IZAGUIRRE
Psychology

10:30 p.m.
ACADEMIC PLAZA

12.99