

# THE BATTALION

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## Everybody was kung-fu fighting



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Junior civil engineering major and black belt fighter on the Texas A&M Judo Team Roy Carniato throws junior international business major and black belt Judo fighter Alex Arredondo during a practice session in G. Rollie White. The A&M Judo team won the state championships for the past ten years and has been top five in the national championship as well.

## Search goes on

### Officials expected to announce candidates for new Provost, VP

By Lauren Smith  
THE BATTALION

The Search Advisory Committee for the Executive Vice President and Provost will hold its second meeting today to start identifying candidates.

University President Dr. Robert M. Gates attended the first committee meeting on Sept. 12 to give the group its charge.

"Dr. Gates has asked the committee to conduct a national search, review candidates, and provide a short list of the committee's recommendations to him for consideration," said Dr. Herbert Richardson, associate vice chancellor of engineering and search committee head.

The University needed a seasoned administrator with experience in leading at the department head and dean levels, Richardson said.

The committee announced the qualifications for the position, which include an earned

doctorate degree in the candidate's field of study and the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and ethics.

"Dr. Gates also indicated his intent that the incumbent oversee all University functions and serve in effect as his deputy," Richardson said.

Following Dr. Gates' comments, the committee discussed drafts of advertising, the position description and a flyer that will be used in contacting candidates, Richardson said.

The committee encourages nominations and applications from University faculty and staff.

Following the first meeting, the committee set a target appointment date for Feb. 1, 2003; however, the search will continue until the position is filled.

The process for seeking additional candidates will be specifically discussed at today's meeting.

## Weapons inspection agreement may be reached

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — U.N. inspectors reached agreement with the Iraqis Tuesday on logistics for a new mission to reassess Saddam Hussein's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq said it expected an advance party in Baghdad in two weeks.

The Iraqi representatives said "that they accept all the rights of inspections that are laid down" in previous U.N. resolutions, said Hans Blix, the chief inspector.

The negotiations resulted in "assurances from the Iraqis that we will have unconditional access to all sites," except the so-called presidential sites, said Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the Vienna-based Atomic Energy Agency, the site of the talks.

That apparently was an Iraqi concession, in that Baghdad had put a number of other sites off limits to surprise visits, including the headquarters of the Republic Guard and Defense Ministry.

The United States demands that all sites be open to surprise inspections and wants the United Nations to adopt a new inspections resolution outlining that stance as well as the threat of military action if Saddam does not comply.

The Iraqi chief negotiator, Gen. Amir

Al Sadi, said the issue of surprise inspections of Saddam's palaces and other presidential sites was "not a subject on the agenda."

"Quite honestly I don't understand why it is so critical," Al Sadi said.

Immediately after the Vienna agreement was announced, the State Department said any inspections should be deferred until a new resolution outlining the mission is approved by the U.N. Security Council. However, spokesman Richard Boucher said the Bush administration had no objection to inspectors making arrangements in advance.

As promised, the Iraqis handed over four CDs containing a backlog of monitoring reports for suspect sites and items, spanning June 1998 to July 2002, Blix said. Although that information was not yet analyzed, it would provide important clues about Iraqi weapons activity, he said.

Blix was asked if the results of the two-day meeting were a rebuff to the United States and its close British ally.

The chief inspector said he would not be so "presumptuous," as to rebuff anyone and that he would report in "all humility" to the

Security Council Thursday.

Blix further said restriction on access to the eight so-called presidential sites — encompassing about 12 square miles — remained in effect.

The restriction on inspecting presidential sites would have to be lifted by the Security Council, something U.N. representatives in Vienna had emphasized throughout the two days of talks.

Blix said the Iraqis were serious about allowing the return of his team, saying: "There is a willingness to accept inspections that has not existed before."

Before the inspections resume, the Americans are expected to push the Security Council for a new resolution to include the threat of military action if inspections fail. But Russia, China and France oppose issuing threats before inspectors can test Iraq's sincerity.

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said Monday that France was still interested in a first resolution demanding a return to inspections, followed by a second resolution threatening military action if Iraq fails to comply.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair issued a strong statement Tuesday backing the United States.

"Let us lay down the ultimatum. Let Saddam comply with the will of the U.N.," Blair said in a tough speech to a convention of his governing Labor Party.

"If we lose our collective will to deal with it, we will lose the authority not of the United States or of Britain, but of the United Nations," Blair said.

At a regular weekly Cabinet meeting led by Saddam in Baghdad, senior Iraqi officials discussed the American efforts toward a new resolution.

"If those evil people think that the war drums that are beating can force Iraq to give up its national rights, its rights according to the U.N. charter and to the (past) Security Council resolutions, they are under an illusion," Iraqi TV quoted the unidentified spokesman as saying after the meeting.

In Ankara, Turkey, meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said the delegation in Vienna had been under instructions to cooperate fully.

"Iraqis will totally assist U.N. inspectors," Aziz said. "That way, those inspectors will be able to fulfill their mission and uncover the fact that there are no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq."

Aziz was in Turkey trying to persuade Ankara not to take part in any U.S.-led military action against Baghdad, as Turkey did in the Gulf War.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the full success of Blix's mission would await Security Council comes up with new guidance or additional resolutions that might require him to modify his plan.

"I'm pleased that he is in that state of readiness and we'll have to see how things develop over the next couple of weeks with respect to a resolution with new requirements," Powell said in a television interview with PBS Monday night.

Nearly four years ago, inspectors withdrew from Iraq on the eve of U.S.-British airstrikes amid allegations that Baghdad was not cooperating with the teams.

By the end of the 1991 Gulf War, IAEA assessments indicated Saddam was six months away from building an atomic bomb. Inspectors discovered the oil-rich nation had imported thousands of pounds of uranium, some of which was already refined for weapons use, and had considered two types of nuclear delivery systems.

## Equal access to tax dollars needed for equal education, Sen. Ogden says

By Eric Ambrose  
THE BATTALION

Equality in education for students can be ensured by providing all students with equal access to tax dollars, said State Sen. Steve Ogden (R), co-chairman for the legislature's Joint Interim Committee on Education Funding.

Ogden said he wants to simplify the system, especially the method of finance. The percentage of state budget going toward public education is dropping, Ogden said.

School districts are relying more on local property tax revenues and less on income tax revenues, Ogden said health care costs are "eating us alive." The College Station School System does not qualify for surplus federal aid because less than 28 percent of its students do not receive free lunches.

"We need to be more creative with the money that we have," Ogden said. "The Federal Government clearly discriminates against states that rely on a higher sales tax instead of income tax. My first priority is to maintain a constitutional public finance system which means that all school children must have access to equal amounts of revenue and similar tax systems."

Ogden said he believes that all children can learn, but sometimes at different rates. Ogden plans to introduce a bill that will continue the customary 180 days of school, but will give school boards 15 extra days to educate children that need more help.

In his plan, only students that do not meet certain academic requirements will have to come to school during these 15 days.

Ogden said this will give the schools more flexi-

bility in order to help students in need and create a fair learning environment.

"One of the problems with the current system is that it doesn't reward efficiency," Ogden said. "I want to work on some sort of program to reward teachers that do a good job. Also, we need to use new money to hire new teachers and improve the teachers that we have."

Several members of the audience thanked Ogden for sharing his knowledge and discussing issues with them.

"Enormous progress has been made in the last ten years," Ogden said. "Texas has become a model and leader for the nation as far as evaluation and accountability of its public schools. Fourth-graders are scoring the highest in the nation and public school spending has almost doubled in the last ten years. Spending in College Station is up about 50 percent."

Ogden represents 110 school districts, 10 percent of the districts in Texas.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION SPENDING:**  
 Around \$29 billion in Texas  
 Spending in College Station is up 50%  
 • Public school spending has almost doubled in the last 10 years  
 • Percentage of state budget devoted to public education: 43% and dropping  
 Ogden represents 110 school districts or 10% of the districts in Texas

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

## Hurricane Lili gains strength

Texas (AP) Texas officials were preparing for what could become a hurricane with winds around 115 mph as Lili churned its way toward the Gulf Coast, with landfall possible Thursday.

"It's a little bit early to tell that but I think areas there in the northwestern Gulf, say from Houston to New Orleans, should be monitoring the progress of the storm very carefully," said Frank Lepore of the National Hurricane Center.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management raised its alert status to Level Two on Tuesday morning. Only Level One is a higher state of alert on the four-level system.

"We move our level of readiness up according to the threat to the state," said Jack Colley, state coordinator for emergency management.

A hurricane watch was declared for the northern U.S. Gulf Coast in Texas to the mouth of the Mississippi River in Louisiana, meaning hurricane conditions were possible within 36 hours. A tropical storm watch was in effect from the Mississippi River to Pascagoula, Miss.

At 7 p.m. CDT Tuesday, the eye of the storm was 560 miles

southeast of New Orleans, moving toward the northwest near 15 mph, a general motion that was expected to continue for the next 24 hours, taking the center farther away from western Cuba and into the open Gulf of Mexico.

Maximum sustained winds were near 105 mph, with higher gusts, making Lili a Category Two hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Winds were expected to strengthen during the next 24 hours.

The scale ranges from Category One to Category Five. A Category One hurricane has winds from 74 to 95 mph, and a Category Five hurricane has winds over 155 mph.

The National Hurricane Center prediction puts the landfall of Lili in south Louisiana, around New Iberia, about Thursday afternoon.

Lepore noted that the average prediction error is 150 miles on either side of the hurricane's projected path.

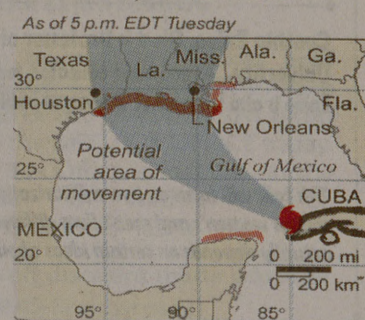
"The hurricane is very much like a pinball being moved around between the large bumpers of clockwise and counterclockwise rotating air, so it depends in the high and low pressure systems," he said.

In Galveston, officials were

### Lili now a Category 2 hurricane

Position: 22.7 N, 85.0 W  
 Sustained winds: 105 mph  
 Movement: NW 15 mph

— Hurricane warning  
 — Hurricane watch  
 — Tropical storm watch



SOURCES: National Weather Service; ESRI

urging residents to prepare for a possible evacuation.

Tony Myers, chief operating officer of East Texas Medical Center in Tyler, said his hospital was sending eight ambulances to Beaumont Tuesday night to evacuate nursing home and medical facility patients. They will be brought to Tyler about noon Wednesday, he said.