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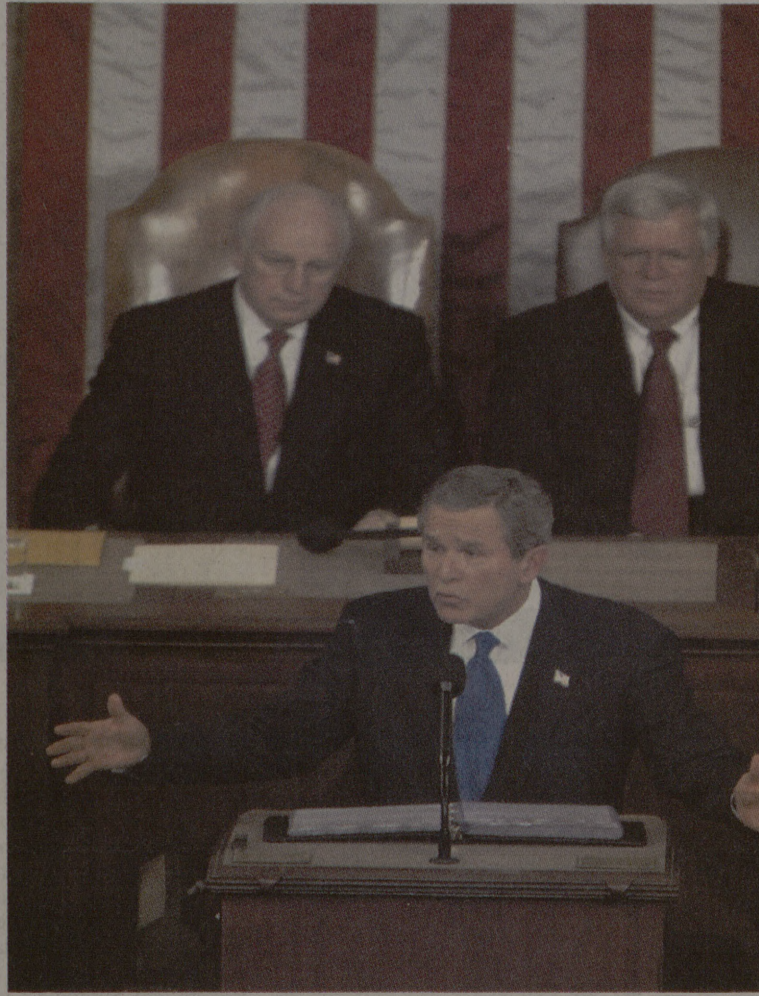
STATE OF THE UNION

Saddam 'deceiving not disarming'

Bush juggles war message with domestic issues, tax cuts

Prof: War rhetoric drives speech

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION



President George W. Bush, backed by Vice President Dick Cheney, left, and Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, addresses a joint session of Congress as he delivers his annual State of the Union address on Tuesday.

By Ron Fournier
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Building a case for war against Iraq, President Bush said Tuesday night he has fresh evidence that Saddam Hussein seeks to "dominate, intimidate or attack" with weapons of mass destruction that he could share with terrorist allies. Bush pledged to "fight with the full force and might of the United States military," if necessary, to disarm Iraq.

"A future lived at the mercy of terrible threats is no peace at all," the president said in a State of the Union address that also put forward tax cuts, Medicare changes and other domestic policies geared

toward his 2004 re-election drive. For the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks transformed him into a wartime president, Bush faced the nation amid serious questions about his leadership. Most Americans don't approve of his handling of the economy, polls indicate, and only a bare majority support his policies on Iraq — an area where the president enjoyed support of more than 80 percent a year ago.

The first half of Bush's hour-long address was devoted to domestic policy, a reflection of his desire not to let Iraq overshadow domestic issues dear to Americans. The heart of his package is a \$674 billion plan to revive the economy, mostly with tax cuts, and a \$400 billion, 10-year proposal to overhaul Medicare, sprinkled with initiatives to combat AIDS, produce energy-efficient cars and give religious groups access to federal community service money.

After an address interrupted 77 times by applause, Democrats challenged Bush's efforts both at home and abroad.

"Tonight, the president used all the right rhetoric, but he still has all the wrong policies," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said he would introduce a resolution requiring Bush to present "convincing evidence of an imminent threat" before sending troops to fight Iraq.

"Instead of rushing down the path to war with Iraq, the American people deserve a full debate," Kennedy said.

Top GOP congressional leaders sounded eager to get to work on Bush's legislative agenda. "We're about to get this ball rolling," said

House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois. "We're ready to go," agreed Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

Bush offered no new evidence to support his charges against Iraq, but said Secretary of State Colin Powell will go to the U.N. Security Council next Wednesday to present the U.S. case.

"We will consult, but let there be

no misunderstanding: If Saddam Hussein does not fully disarm for the safety of our people, and for the peace of the world, we will lead a coalition to disarm him," the president said. Key allies, including France and Germany, oppose military action in Iraq and want Bush to

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President George W. Bush's State of the Union speech Tuesday contained classic war rhetoric when referring to Saddam Hussein, said Dr. Kurt Ritter, professor of communication.

"It was a characterization of the opponent. We've heard the same talk going into World War I and World War II," Ritter said. "He characterized Saddam Hussein as savage, irrational and aggressive. He used the philosophy of might makes right."

Bush summarized the threat the White House sees from Saddam and tied him into the ongoing war against terrorism.

"The gravest danger facing the world is outlaw regimes that seek and possess nuclear, chemical and biological weapons," Bush said. "These regimes could use those weapons for blackmail, terror and mass murder. They could also sell those weapons to terrorist allies."

Bush's speech was mostly concerned with the war against Iraq, Ritter said.

"The first part of the speech (concerning issues like the economy) was a prelude and he did not really have a summary tying together the domestic policies," Ritter said.

In detailing the threat posed by Saddam, Bush cited a link between Iraq and al-Qaida during the latter part of the speech.

Mark Vernon, a member of Corps of Cadets Company I-1 and a senior recreational park and tourism sciences major, said he is ready to go to war if called, and agrees with the comments made by Bush during the speech.

"I support the president because it is our duty to support the leaders who are trying to act in all our best interests," Vernon said. "Iraq has been breaking rules and regulations, all while mocking the U.N. and those countries trying to enforce them. I fully support the decision, should it be made, to go to war."

Bush said that Saddam has shown "utter con-

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Emergency vehicles allowed to bypass security gates

By Hedish Connor
THE BATTALION

The Bryan City Council decided Tuesday to allow emergency vehicles and buses to enter gated communities without having to pass through security systems.

Several Bryan residents expressed concern for the safety of residents inside gated communities, worrying that time delays could be the difference between life and death.

One resident described a horrific

instance of the consequences a matter of minutes could make. He said a friend who resided in a gated community died in a fire before help from the fire department was able to gain access to his neighborhood.

According to the Bryan-College Station Eagle, Bryan has no gated communities, but the City Council decided to discuss the ordinance before developers approach the city and accessibility becomes a problem.

Councilman Paul Madison said the change will create an "ideal situation" because emergency workers will not

have to be dropped off outside the gates to enter the community.

The council also postponed until Feb. 11 discussion of a zoning request for a planned development on 17.163 acres located at Coulter Drive. More time was allowed for contractors of the development and residents of surrounding areas to gain support from those involved.

Local residents expressed concern that the development would be built on a flood plain where drainage problems would arise.

Sharon Anderson, a Bryan resident who lives near the proposed neighbor-

hood, said an increase of 400 cars on the road would cause a significant change in traffic flow on Coulter Drive.

The council heard the complaints, but said it did not want to impose on the contractors.

Recently, there have been complaints made by community members about Bryan Police Chief Ken Burton.

Police officers spoke in defense of Burton at the meeting, responding to complaints voiced about Burton by community members prior to the meeting.

Mary Kaye Moore, city manager of Bryan, said that a survey within the

police department showed "overwhelming support" for Burton.

"Burton increased the morale of investigators and police officers in the department," said John Mann, a detective in the Bryan Police Department.

Moore said it was good to hear the officers publicly support their boss.

"We knew support was there but it had been quiet while the opposition's (side) was heard," said Moore.

As city manager, Moore acts as Burton's employer and has the authority to terminate employment of a police chief at any time.

System headquarters to move Courts give ticket amnesty

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

The lack of funding that led Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates to issue a hiring freeze this week hasn't hindered the remodeling of a \$9.6 million facility intended to house the A&M University System.

The new system headquarters will be located in the College Station Business Park at 200 Technology Way, south of Greens Prairie Road on the eastern access road to Highway 6. The project will consolidate system administration, staff and agencies and save on rent, said Tim Donathan, executive director of facilities and planning for the A&M System.

"This decision was carefully evaluated by the Board (of Regents) and System before construction began," Donathan said.

Construction project manager Steve Smith said the project is on track and expected to be completed by June 2003.

According to Systems Communications Director Bob Wright, the construction will save money by moving four of the System's agencies into current system headquarters, eliminating the rent those agencies are now paying to private companies.

System Headquarters Building

Cost: \$9.6 million
Location: 200 Technology Way
Construction began: Nov. 2002
Expected completion: June 23, 2003

SOURCE: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICE
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"Rent is the number one reason (for the construction)," Wright said.

The Health Science Center, Texas Forest Service, Technology Leasing Office and Internal Audit are currently paying a combined total of more than \$60,000 a month in rent, he said.

"The idea is not to keep paying rent forever; most years the rent goes up," Wright said.

Centralizing the agencies to the John B. Connally Building, located off Tarrow Drive in College Station, will aid interagency

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By Esther Robards-Forbes
THE BATTALION

Students who have not yet taken care of outstanding warrants from traffic and moving violations, disorderly conduct, failure to appear in court or minor in possession charges could face arrest beginning Monday, Feb. 3, if they do not take care of unpaid fines by Friday, Jan. 31.

Officials from Brazos County have teamed up with the cities of Bryan and College Station to offer an amnesty period so students would have extra time to clear their records.

More than 4,000 outstanding Class C warrants have not been acted upon by officials in the two cities for the past month. On Feb. 3, a "warrant roundup" will begin, said Ken Burton, the Bryan Police Chief.

"This is a golden opportunity for people to take care of busi-

ness and avoid being arrested," Burton said.

"Once this amnesty period ends, every time a person with an outstanding warrant gets in their car, they need to worry: 'Am I going to go to jail? Will they get me on my way to work or school?' This is a good and cheap way to settle the issue and not be saddled with later inconvenience," Burton said.

Individuals with outstanding Class C warrants can pay their fines before Friday and avoid a \$50 warrant fee and possible arrest. If arrested, the penalties include the original ticket fee, a warrant fee, bail and court and legal fees.

Class C misdemeanors include traffic and moving vio-

lations, disorderly conduct, failure to appear in court and minors in possession.

College Station Municipal Court Judge Ed Spillane said he would like to have as few students as possible arrested.

"We see a lot of (A&M) students in our courts and we

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Avoiding Arrest
To handle fines, call one of the following numbers:

City of Bryan	209-5400
College Station Municipal Court	764-3683
Brazos County Sheriff's Office	361-4155
Deadline: Friday, Jan. 31 5 p.m.	

SOURCE: CITY OF BRYAN, CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
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