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Tuesday April 1st
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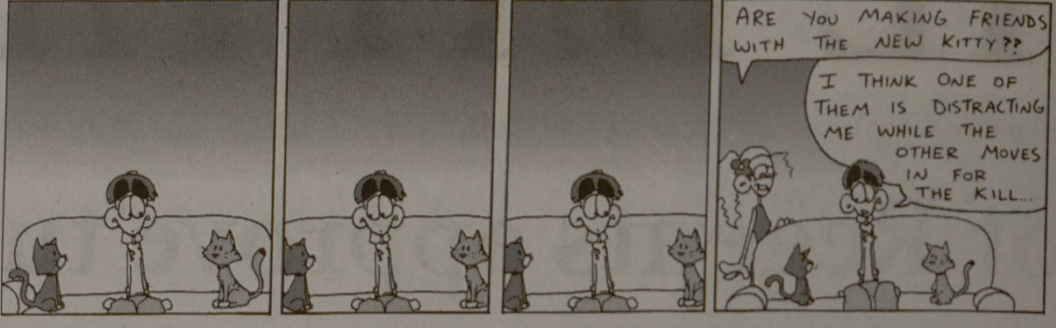
LUNCH BUFFET \$5.55 Mon.-Sat. 11:00am-4:00pm	DINNER BUFFET \$7.75 Mon.-Sat. 4:30pm-9:30pm
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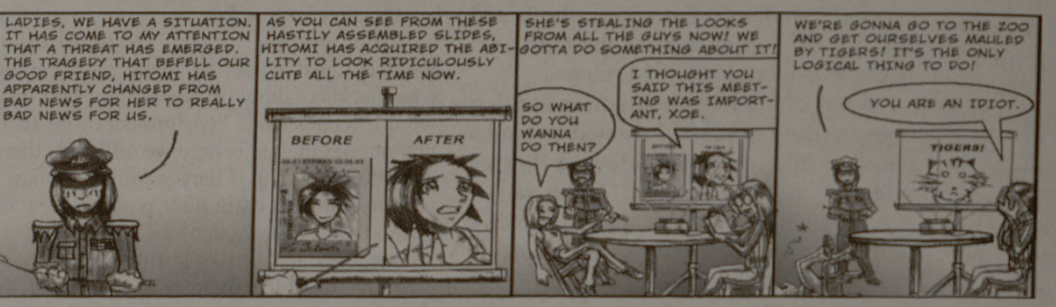
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Consul

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ability to adhere to the aims of the economic, political and monetary union.

Thirteen Eastern European countries are currently seeking admission into the EU. Simonneau said this potential enlargement is an historic occasion because the candidate states would bring differing economic, social and historical situations into the union.

Negotiations have been closed by the Commission concerning Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, with these new members expected to join the EU before the June 2004 European Parliament elections, according to the EU Web site. Negotiations have not yet begun with Turkey, because the country does not yet meet the political criteria to join

the EU.

Simonneau said he supports Turkey's admission into the EU because the country is more geographically tied to Western Europe than other countries that have applied for membership.

Opponents of Turkey's accession into the EU cite religious differences and the country's non-compliance with human rights issues essential to the EU as reasons Turkey should not be allowed to join the union, Simonneau said.

Arif Oduncu, a senior electrical engineering major from Turkey, said he was disappointed with Simonneau's prediction that it will take Turkey 10 years to join the EU. Oduncu said he hoped the wait would be five years or less.

Simonneau works at the French Consulate in Houston. His speech was in accordance with the first French forum sponsored by the consulate general of France in Houston, the French Section of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and the European Union Center.

Iraq

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the center of Iraqi power on several other routes.

Lt. Col. Thomas Collins, spokesman for the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, confirmed that paratroopers were on the ground in northern Iraq, many of them elite Rangers.

"I can only tell you yes, they've gone in. They're on the ground," he said.

Other officials said tanks, other vehicles and supplies would be airlifted in behind them.

Combat planes from the USS Theodore Roosevelt gave cover for the deployment by pounding Iraqi ground troops and bunkers in northern Iraq, U.S. military officials said.

American commanders had hoped to move a large force into northern Iraq from Turkey. But the Turkish parliament refused to allow that, and the parachute drop was the beginning of an alternative plan.

U.S. and British warplanes, as well as ground units, hit the column leaving Basra. A British military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the column included as many as 120 tanks and other armored vehicles.

The Pentagon's No. 2 general, Marine Gen Peter Pace, said that Iraq has executed prisoners of war in the half week since the war began. Pace, apparently referring to some of the U.S. Army troops captured Sunday by Iraqi forces in the city of An Nasiriyah, said Iraqis had engaged in many atrocities in the six days since the war began.

Iraq, in turn, accused U.S. and British forces of "kidnapping civilians, shackling them, and regarding them as POWs."

Irregular Iraqi troops have prevented British troops from entering Basra, Iraq's second-largest city and site of a reported uprising by local civilians against Saddam's defenders. International aid officials have repeatedly expressed fears of an outbreak of disease, given the interruption of power and water supplies.

Details were sketchy as well about Iraqi troop movements to the north. Some officials said a huge convoy of perhaps 1,000 vehicles and members of Saddam's elite Republican Guard were moving south, in the direction of Marines making their way toward the capital.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said a "few vehicles" were moving south toward

Tuition

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block since February student efforts to save

"Where the cuts will hurt A&M is in programs the Dairy Science Center," Parker said. "We'll see Dairy Science bleed the floor when this is over."

Coventry said he was "just get back to where we were before" all the cuts took place.

"We would have to pay \$23 more per semester. Obviously we're not going to be able to do that," he said.

One proposed compromise between budget cuts and tuition is differential tuition, which would set different rates for classes based on the department, and a flat rate which would set a rate per semester for students regardless of the number of classes they choose to take.

"The hybrid of differential is differential tuition," he said. "Personally, I'm in favor."

A&M System Chairman Howard Graves is tentatively supporting a deregulation sponsored by State Rep. Florence Shapiro, which would allow schools to raise tuition up to 10 times the amount currently charged at all state institutions.

Students realize that tuition will rise eventually, but would rather a government institution implement it.

"I'm against deregulation because eventually, tuition is going to go up anyway," Lindsay Shanklin, a junior marketing major and student government representative, said. "I'd rather have the government regulate instead of deregulation."

Regents

Continued from page 1

Regents, the highest governing body at A&M. Only one showed up to do so.

Jessica Daniel, a sophomore psychology major, cited her experience on computers and unresponsive signs in classrooms as examples of how the University spends money more efficiently before raising fees.

"Fees may have increased, but maybe it wasn't spent more efficiently," she wouldn't be (as many have problems," Daniel said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Madeleine Albright to speak on campus

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Ambassador to Israel and Edward P. Djerejian will discuss stability in the Middle East at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium as part of the Lecture Series.

Albright served as the U.S. Secretary of State and first woman to hold the position. She is also the highest ranking woman in the history of the United States.

Djerejian is an expert on political, economic, security and religious issues in the Middle East.

Tickets are available at MSC Box Office, ranging from \$5-7 for students and \$10-12 for non-students. For more information, call 845-1234.

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THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer semester (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Periodicals postage paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University of the Division of Student Media, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are at 014 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647. E-mail: news@thebatt.com; Web site: http://www.thebatt.com

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Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to receive a single copy of The Battalion. First copy free, additional copies 25¢. Mail subscriptions are \$60 per school year, \$30 for the fall or spring semester, \$17.50 for the summer or winter months. To charge by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express, call 845-2611.