

NEWS IN BRIEF

**A&M graduation speakers announced**

Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III and Bartell Zachry, chairman and CEO of H.B. Zachry Co. will be among others in addressing approximately 4,000 A&M graduates May 9 and 10.

On Friday, May 9 at 9 a.m., Bartell Zachry, Class of 1989, will speak to graduates and undergraduates in the Dwight Look College of Engineering and in veterinary medicine Reed Arena.

James Baker III will speak to graduates and undergraduates in architecture and liberal arts in Reed Arena at 2 p.m. Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., a former NASA astronaut, will address graduates in the George Bush School of Government and Public Service and graduates and undergraduates of the Low Mays Business School on May 9 at 7 p.m. in Reed Arena.

Also at 7 p.m. Friday, Dr. Jay Stephens will speak to graduates of veterinary medicine graduates in Rudder Auditorium. Stephens is the founder and chief executive officer of Veterinary Pet Insurance.

President of Texas A&M Kingsville Dr. Rinaldo Juarez will speak at 9 a.m. Saturday in Reed Arena to graduates and undergraduates in agriculture and life sciences, and in education and human development.

Each ceremony is open to the public.

**34 people dead in Kyrgyzstan landslide**

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — A landslide swept through a village in southern Kyrgyzstan Sunday, killing 34 people, an official said.

The landslide buried 11 homes in the southern village of Soysaid, said Berdikul Sultanov, deputy head of the regional administration. He said preliminary information indicated 34 people were killed.

The landslide occurred three days of snow and heavy rain. Authorities had repeatedly warned residents of the area about 350 miles south of Bishkek that conditions were ripe for a landslide.

Sultanov said the destroyed homes were covered in mud. Russia's Interfax news agency reported that 19 other homes were safely evacuated. It said electricity and telephone service in the village were cut.

**Yemen man admitted to killing Americans**

JIBLA, Yemen (AP) — A Yemeni man with suspected ties to Osama bin Laden told a court Sunday that he killed three American missionaries to defend Islam, believing they were sterilizing Muslim women and trying to convert Muslims to Christianity.

Abd Abdul Razak Kamel said he moved from the capital of Sana'a to this city 125 miles south after he heard about missionaries working in Jibla at a Southern Baptist-run hospital.

"I acted out of a religious duty ... and in revenge from those who converted Muslims from their religion and made them unbelievers," the bearded Kamel said as his trial opened under tight security.

**Fish**



by R. DeLuna

**Noise Pollution**



by Josh Darwin

**Bush: Syria 'gets message,' cooperates with demands**

By Jennifer Loven THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRAWFORD, Texas — President George W. Bush applauded signs Sunday that Syria is beginning to heed American demands for cooperation against Saddam Hussein's defunct regime.

Lowering U.S. rhetoric that had led to speculation that Syria could become Bush's next military target, the president focused on diplomacy as a way to contain Syria.

"There's some positive signs," Bush said, after attending Easter services at the Army's Fort Hood not far from his ranch outside this central Texas town. "They're getting the message that they should not harbor Baath Party officials, high ranking Iraqi officials."

Tensions between the United States and Syria escalated after reports surfaced that members of Saddam's deposed government had crossed the border to flee the U.S.-led war.

U.S. officials have exerted intense pressure, demanding there be no haven in Syria for Saddam loyalists and telling Damascus that diplomatic or economic sanctions could result unless Syria cooperated.

Syria has denied taking in senior Iraqis or providing other aid. Two senators agreed Sunday

there have been positive developments but said the jury remains out on Syria.

"I think the military success in Iraq has had a profound effect everywhere," Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., told CNN's "Late Edition." "Whether, at this point, Syria will take the next step really remains to be seen. But it's the best climate, the best opportunity in modern times."

*"I think the military success in Iraq has had a profound effect everywhere."*

— Arlen Specter Sen. R-Pa.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., credited Syria with helping in the antiterror war against al-Qaida in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"There's been some evidence that they're moving toward a more cooperative position with the United States," Durbin said. "But ... you look at the history of Syria, its history of harboring international terrorist organizations in Damascus, of sending its army to occupy southern Lebanon and harass Israel. It's really not the kind of conduct which we can count-

nance as part of a peaceful future for the Middle East."

Bush used the past tense Sunday when asked for details on Iraqi leaders believed to be in Syria.

"We felt some were there; otherwise, we wouldn't have spoken out," he said.

Syrian President Bashar Assad told two U.S. congressmen Sunday that the country will not give asylum to war crimes suspects from Iraq and will expel any Iraqi who should cross the border. Reps. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., and Darrell Issa, R-Calif., visiting Damascus, described the Syrian president as eager to deal with U.S. concerns.

Bush said other countries, which he did not name, have helped press the U.S. message with the Syrians.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Damascus on Sunday for a meeting with Assad. At a meeting Friday in the Saudi capital, the foreign ministers of Iraq's neighbors — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Iran — along with Egypt and Bahrain condemned U.S. threats against Syria.

Senior U.S. officials, including Bush, had accused Syria of providing Iraq with war materiel, giving haven to senior Iraqi officials and permitting foreign fighters to pass through Syria to join the war against the U.S.-led coalition.

**Tensions easing in the Mideast**

By Calvin Woodward THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The military presence in Baghdad lightened Sunday when Marines left the Army in control of the stabilizing capital. Celebrating Easter, a longtime Iraqi bishop voiced the fears of the Christian minority in urging safeguards against religious persecution in the new Iraq.

The search for postwar order was reinforced by signs that Syria might help ease regional tensions.

In Texas, flanked by two stoic helicopter crewmen home safe from Iraqi captivity, President George W. Bush said Syria appears to be heeding warnings to avoid becoming a safe haven for Saddam loyalists.

"They're getting the message," Bush said. Tensions eased elsewhere in the region. In Israel, authorities declared the Iraqi missile threat against their citizens ended and prepared for the

departure of U.S. soldiers manning defensive Patriot missile batteries south of Tel Aviv.

Hoping to advance the frustrating search for banned weapons, allied forces announced the arrest of a top science official from Saddam's government — a man who might know about Iraq's purported hidden nuclear weapons program, according to a pro-U.S. Iraqi umbrella opposition group.

U.S. Central Command said Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Ghafar, Saddam's higher education and scientific research minister, was taken into custody Saturday. Haider Ahmed, spokesman for the London-based Iraqi National Congress, said Abd al-Ghafar could be an important find.

"We know about his background, and he is certainly involved with those banned programs," he said.

Ahmed also said Saddam Hussein's son-in-law and one of Saddam's bodyguards, both hiding in Syria, were persuaded to leave that country and surrendered to members of the congress in Baghdad.

**JOB FAIR**

Can you afford not to attend the Brazos Valley Chambers of Commerce, Brazos Valley Workforce Centers, KBTX-TV & Texas A&M sponsored Part-Time/Full-Time Job Fair featuring entry-level to professional job openings?

Saturday, April 26, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Reed Arena Texas A&M University

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! CALLING ALL JOB SEEKERS!

For more information, Contact: Bryan College Station Chamber of Commerce 979-260-5200 Brazos Valley Workforce Center 1-800-386-7200 979-776-7444

**University Tire**

3818 S. College, Bryan 846-1738

5 Qts. 10-30 Pennzoil • Valvoline <b>\$16.95</b>	Turn Rotors or Drums Pack Bearings when possible New pads or shoes <b>\$79.95</b>
Oil & Filter Change Limit one per customer. Not valid with any other discount or offer.	Front or Rear Brakes Limit one per customer. Not valid with any other discount or offer.
Meter for Freon Level Test for leaks (freon extra) <b>\$29.95</b>	2 Wheel Alignment 4 Wheel Alignment <b>\$39.95 \$49.95</b> (most cars & light trucks)
Air Conditioner Check Limit one per customer. Not valid with any other discount or offer.	Computerized Front End Alignment Limit one per customer. Not valid with any other discount or offer.

**Do you wonder what your future holds? Come visit with us and discover the answers.**

UCS has thirty-three years experience in the IT industry and is the parent company for Rentsys and KeyTrak. We seek a variety of backgrounds and majors for current openings, and training is provided. Entry-level positions include sales, customer service, consulting, technical writing, programming, and technical support for our Houston and College Station offices. For more information about our current positions, come visit with our department representatives!

UCS Headquarters Saturday, April 26 10:00am-1:00pm 6700 Hollister - Houston

This is a come-and-go event and refreshments will be provided. If you are unable to attend but still wish to apply, please contact: 979-595-2609 6700 Hollister | Houston, TX 77040 Attn ad# 1977 www.universalscomputersys.com www.keytrak.com ; www.rentsys.com We hire non-tobacco users only. E.O.E.

**MEREDITH WILLSON'S THE MUSIC MAN**

Based on SUSAN STROMAN'S Direction and Choreography from the 2000 Broadway Production

The classic all-American salute to music, romance and fast-talking flim-flam.

Tuesday and Wednesday Nights! April 22 and 23 at 7:30 PM Rudder Auditorium

TICKETS Call 845-1234. Logon to www.MSCOPAS.org

**Leadership Anyone?**

Off Campus Aggies wants students who are interested in leadership opportunities.

Committee Chair Positions:

- Service
- Athletics
- Social
- Finance
- Member Relations
- Public Relations

No OCA Experience Necessary! Pick up applications in Koldus 137 Applications are due April 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm

**THE BATTALION**

Brandie Liffick, Editor in Chief

Sommer Bunce, Managing Editor  
Elizabeth Webb, Copy/Design Director  
Rolando Garcia, News Editor  
Kendra Kingsley, Aggiefife Editor  
Brianna Porter, Opinion Editor

Jason Ritterbusch, Webmaster

Michael Crow, Sports Editor  
Chris Jackson, Sci/Tech Editor  
John Livas, Photo Editor  
Ruben DeLuna, Graphics Editor  
True Brown, Radio Producer

THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (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, 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

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local, and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald, and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, Fax: 845-2678.

Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up 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 \$10 a month. To charge by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express, call 845-2611.