



AggieLife:
Patterns make a comeback this spring.
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American bodies dragged through Fallujah

By Sameer N. Yacoub
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Jubilant residents dragged the charred corpses of four American contractors through the streets Wednesday and hung them from the bridge spanning the Euphrates River. Five American soldiers died in a roadside bombing nearby.

The White House blamed terrorists and remnants of Saddam Hussein's former regime for the horrific attacks on the civilian contractors.

"There are some that are doing everything they

can to try to prevent" a June 30 transfer of sovereignty to an Iraqi government, White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters.

The four contract workers were killed in a rebel ambush of their SUVs in Fallujah, a Sunni Triangle city about 35 miles west of Baghdad.

The U.S. State Department said all four contractors were Americans. All four were men, said Sgt. 1st Class Lorraine Hill, a coalition spokeswoman.

In one of the bloodiest days for the U.S. military this year, five 1st Infantry Division soldiers died when their M-113 armored personnel carrier

ran over a bomb in a separate incident 12 miles to the northwest, among the reed-lined roads running through some of Iraq's richest farmland.

At least 597 U.S. troops have died in Iraq since the war began March 20, 2003. Of the total, 459 have died since May 1 when Bush flew onto an aircraft carrier off the California coast to declare the end of major combat.

Residents said the bomb attack occurred in Malahma, 12 miles northwest of Fallujah.

Chanting "Fallujah is the graveyard of Americans," residents cheered after the grisly assault on two four-wheel-drive civilian vehicles,

which left both in flames. Others chanted, "We sacrifice our blood and souls for Islam."

Associated Press Television News pictures showed one man beating a charred corpse with a metal pole. Others tied a yellow rope to a body, hooked it to a car and dragged it down the main street of town. Two blackened and mangled corpses were hung from a green iron bridge across the Euphrates.

"The people of Fallujah hanged some of the bodies on the old bridge like slaughtered sheep," resident

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Wax on, wax off



Junior kinesiology major Brook Kirchmeier washes a Honda Accord Wednesday afternoon off Texas Avenue. Kirchmeier, along with friends, is helping to raise money for T-Camp, Camp Fleitas.

SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Journalism department prepares for closure

By Jason Hanselka
THE BATTALION

Professors and students in the Department of Journalism are having to endure many headaches as the process leading up to the extinction of the journalism department gets underway.

The contracts for three journalism professors will not be renewed for the fall, and many classes are no longer being offered each semester.

Journalism undergraduate adviser Ed Walraven said he is uncertain when journalism classes will no longer be offered.

"I don't envision that any student won't graduate," Walraven said. "Everyone from the dean's office downward wants the (journalism) students to graduate with a degree in journalism."

Walraven said as long as students are enrolled and in good academic and financial standing with the University, that they will receive their degrees.

"If students look up courses for the fall they can see that there are less courses to choose from compared to the fall two years ago," Walraven said.

The contracts for professors Debra Blakely, Darrell Roe and Brian O'Loughlin have not been renewed, but the classes taught by these professors will still be offered, just not as often, Walraven said.

"Some students might think that these courses will no longer be offered, which is not true," Walraven said.

Blakely said her situation is not as grim as the other two professors being let go.

"I feel sorry for Roe and O'Loughlin because they are visiting professors and they haven't been with the University very long," Blakely said. "I was lucky because I live in Texas and it was easier for me to make other plans."

Blakely said she found out in July that she was no longer going to be working at A&M.

"Within a month I found another job," Blakely said. "O'Loughlin found out only two weeks ago."

O'Loughlin said his future employment is undetermined at this time and that the department closing should not discourage students.

"I feel bad for the students because I think they feel that the department closing undermines all that they have worked for," O'Loughlin said. "At the same time I believe that the University doesn't want to take anything away from their education."

Sophomore journalism major Brenna Rackham said it is increasingly difficult to plan her remaining semesters at A&M because of the fewer classes being offered.

"I wanted to emphasize broadcasting, but now I can only take one class next semester," Rackham said. "You can't emphasize certain areas if the classes aren't being offered."

Rackham said that when she came to A&M and chose to major in journalism she had no idea the department was in trouble.

"It feels like the education you're getting is a joke, and it makes your degree look like a joke," Rackham said. "I wish they would just tell us

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Aggie cards get a makeover this spring

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

All Texas A&M students will receive a newly designed student identification card beginning in May as the University continues the transition from using Social Security numbers to University Identification numbers.

The Texas A&M Division of Finance is giving students the opportunity to vote for the new design and students will have until noon Friday to vote through its Web site for one of the four designs they like the best, said Bob Mask, financial management supervisor.

The new card will include a card number, which is different from the UIN, and the picture and text will be much larger to make it easier to recognize the person, Mask said. The design cannot get in the way of identifying the holder, meaning the design cannot cover the text, he said.

The UIN will be on the card, but there will also be a different number on the back of the card, that will identify the cardholder, Mask said.

"This tightens up the security of the card and prevents easy duplication if someone found a lost card," Mask said.

Mask said the new card will not cost anything for students. The cost of making the card will be covered in one semester due to the ID card maintenance fee.

Overall, Mask said, the response has been positive.

"I like the idea of a new card, especially enlarging the picture and text,"

said sophomore international studies major Kathryn Sjurseth. "I have had problems in the past because I have changed and it's hard for people to believe that the picture is really me since the picture is small. There is such a problem with identity theft these days that the new security features will really help."

However, some students said receiving a new card is more trouble than it's worth, especially if one's card is not damaged or is fairly new.

"I think that it is a big hassle for those of us whose ID card is now in decent condition," said Christina Knowlan, a sophomore education major.

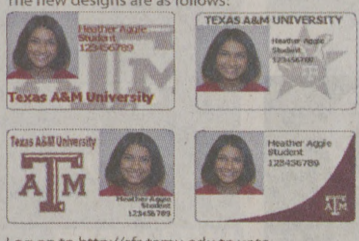
Mask said students will be scheduled to get their new Aggie cards made and will be contacted through their neo e-mail accounts regarding a scheduled time.

"We've been very pleased with the response students have by voting. Students really seem to care about the card," Mask said. "We appreciate comments and we understand students' strong feelings of the card and tradition."

New Aggie Card Designs

Beginning in May, students will receive a new identification card continuing with the transition from Social Security numbers to University Identification numbers.

The new designs are as follows:



Log on to <http://sfs.tamu.edu> to vote.

Voting ends April 2 at noon.

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: DIVISION OF FINANCE

A&M challenged to donate blood

By Brian D. Cain
THE BATTALION

A challenge has been issued by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to students, faculty and staff at Texas A&M and the University of Texas to see which school can donate the most blood to The American Red Cross during four days in April.

The University Round-up Challenge Blood Drive is sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega in conjunction with The American Red Cross, and the goal is to raise 2,000 units of blood from April 12 to April 16, said Amy Tarbet, Alpha Phi Omega's Blood Drive chair.

"The school that collects the most blood will receive the James Pinckney Henderson Service Award for its contribution to such a worthy cause," she said.

All blood donated will become part of the American Red Cross Southwest Region's blood supply, which is currently importing blood from other regions.

"Our southwest region includes all of Texas and Oklahoma, and right now we are not collecting enough blood for this region to be self-sufficient," said Jan Hale, regional director of the American Red Cross. "That is why A&M is so important. We've always been able to count on Texas A&M and they've never let us down."

Hale said one person can donate three units of

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Reed shares lessons from his Cold War experiences

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Thomas C. Reed said that he happened to be at the right places at the right times when it came to the events of the Cold War.

"I had no idea I was a part of history, or making history, when I went to work at the Pentagon; it was like going to work anywhere else," Reed said.

Reed, the former secretary of the Air Force, spoke about his new book "At the Abyss: An Insider's History of the Cold War" at the George Bush Library Center Wednesday evening.

Reed's speech was a part of the The Lenore and Francis Humphrys International Speakers Program held at the George Bush Library Foundation.

Reed has a long resume that includes secretary of the Air Force, director of National Reconnaissance, special assistant to former President Ronald Reagan for national security policy and consultant to the director of Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, where much of the country's nuclear weapons research takes place.

Reed said he wrote the book because there are people who were a part of the Cold War in some way, but only knew that small piece of the puzzle they were a part of, and he wanted to show them the whole story.

"I wanted the people of my generation to read this book to get the big picture of what took place, but I want people of your generation (college students) to read it so they can learn the important lessons and history of the Cold War," Reed said.

Reed said the book is about the true events that took place on both sides during the Cold War and how it ended without a nuclear weapon being fired.

"There are a lot of things people remember clearly that never happened; I wanted to show the truth about the incidence of the Cold War the way they happened and how it all came to an end," he said.

Reed said there were important lessons to be learned about the Cold War, such as governments are the servants of the people, technology counts, and we still live on the edge of nuclear abyss.

He said the United States also needs to look to the future because it's dealing with a different foe, one which doesn't have a government it can deal with as it did with the Russians.

"Jihadists want to kill us; we aren't dealing with a conflict of competing types of governments anymore," Reed said.

Students said they found the speech to be informative and a different way of viewing an event that shaped recent history.

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"There are a lot of things people remember clearly that never happened."

— Thomas C. Reed
author of "At the Abyss: An Insider's History of the Cold War."

THE BATTALION Online Weekly Poll

This Week's Results:
"Which student body president candidate will you vote for?"

34%	Jack Hildebrand
30%	Mark McCaig
17%	Will McAdams
9%	Andy Herreth
6%	Narietha Carter
4%	Royd Hernandez

Next Week's Poll:
"Which organization do you think should benefit the most from a Student Service Fee increase?"

Take this poll at: www.thebatt.com

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