

THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 89
12 Pages

Monday, February 5, 1979
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Plentiful potholes

The streets of College Station may get some relief from potholes if the weather and government funds hold out. See the story on page 6.



Opinions differ on safety of Beutel's Darvon use

By KEITH TAYLOR
Battalion Reporter

The Beutel Health Center prescribes up to 400 capsules a week of the pain-killer Darvon, despite a petition before the Senate Small Business Committee asking for removal from the market as dangerous. Dr. Claude B. Goswick, health center director, said the health center gives an average of 10 prescriptions a day to students. The average prescription contains 12 65-milligram capsules of Darvon, generically known as propoxyphene.

Dr. Sidney Wolfe, head of the Health Research Group in Washington, which has petitioned before the Senate committee, said only one capsule over the recommended dosage of one every four hours can be lethal.

Wolfe said the drug kills 3,000 to 4,000 people a year.

"There is no justification for using the drug, especially when aspirin, Tylenol, and other less dangerous drugs are available. It is not practicing good medicine to give it out anywhere, especially at a university health center," Wolfe said in a telephone interview last week.

Dr. A.M. Reagan, a Dallas physician, agreed with Wolfe.

"I have never used it. I have never seen any evidence that it is any better than aspirin. There is a coated aspirin, called Ectonin, which will not dissolve in the stomach, that is probably more effective and safer than Darvon," Reagan said.

Goswick disagreed with Wolfe and Reagan.

"I've seen students that have gotten better relief from Darvon than they would have from aspirin for the same severity of pain. That is not to say Darvon is not a potentially dangerous drug. So is aspirin if you take a large dose of it," Goswick said.

"I have taken it personally, and I know it relieves pain better than aspirin does," Goswick said.

"It's a good drug. I hate to see it maligned. But I know that it has some undesirable side-effects and some potentially harmful effects, such as addicting qualities."

"I don't think there is any question (about the benefits of Darvon) in my mind at all," Goswick said.

Doctors appearing before the Senate committee have said Tylenol and Datril are not only cheaper and safer, but also do a better job.

Reagan said Darvon would be very dangerous to people with ulcers or a history of ulcers. He also said people allergic to aspirin or caffeine would also be allergic to Darvon.

Goswick said it would be impossible to check every student for possible ulcers or allergic reactions. He said all the health center can do is ask about allergic reactions or ulcers.

Wolfe said Darvon can be lethal when mixed with alcohol, but Goswick said it would be impossible to warn every stu-

dent of this danger. Goswick said the pharmacists at the health center try to warn of the danger of drinking while on medication, including Darvon.

Goswick said the health center does not prescribe as much Darvon as it once did because it is now a controlled drug. He said now the pharmacists have to keep count of how much Darvon they have and prescribe.

He said he did not believe there was any abuse of the drug.

"I may be naive enough not to realize what is going on, but I just do not see any abuse of the drug," Goswick said.

The health center director said drugs that are far more dangerous than Darvon are on the market.

"One of them is codeine," he said. The health center has substituted codeine for Darvon since controls were placed on Darvon. He said the addictive qualities of codeine make it dangerous.

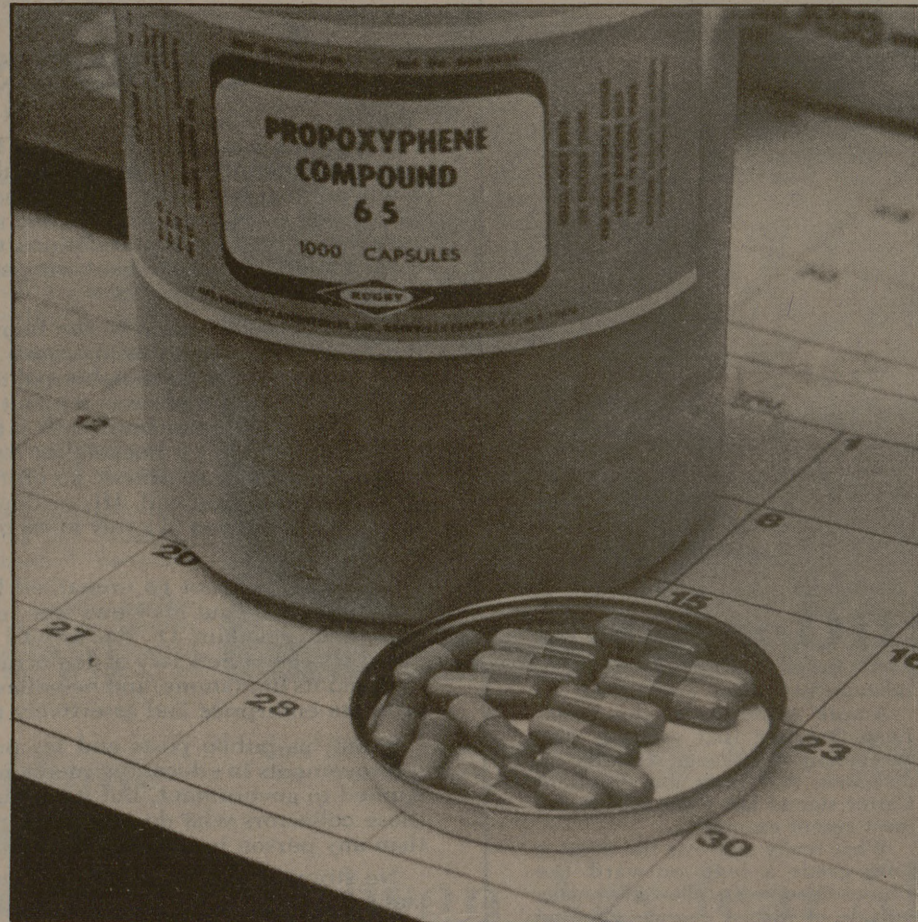
Wolfe said Darvon is the most dangerous prescription drug being used.

"The drug (Darvon) kills more people per year than morphine and heroin combined," Wolfe said.

Wolfe said heroin is not a prescription drug, but the example showed the danger of using Darvon.

"What do you do when a good reliable drug is taken away from you, and you still have to handle that pain?" Goswick asked.

"I really think the whole thing is blown utterly and completely out of proportion."



Darvon, generically known as Propoxyphene Compound 65, is dispensed by the Beutel Health Center. When issued like aspirin for colds, these drugs are potentially dangerous, a report before the U.S. Congress says. Battalion photo by Kayce Classe

Khomeini 'Vatican' gets OK

United Press International

TEHRAN, Iran — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini today was expected to name the members of a provisional Iranian government unless negotiations with Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar produce agreement on the nation's future.

"If he wants to create a provisional government in the holy city of Qom, I will permit it," Bakhtiar said in newspaper interviews published Sunday. "It will be charming. We will have our little Vatican."

But Bakhtiar Sunday flatly rejected Khomeini's announcement that the "alternate Islamic government" would soon be in power and said his regime would answer "a bullet with a bullet" if Khomeini launched his threatened civil war.

Khomeini, who returned to Iran from exile last week with the stated purpose of overthrowing Bakhtiar and setting up a Moslem republic, scheduled a news conference today at which he was expected to announce his provisional government.

Intermediaries between the Bakhtiar and Khomeini camps met earlier today, but Khomeini's scheduling of the news conference at his temporary headquarters was taken as a sign that he would proceed with naming his government if the talks did not produce reconciliation.

Still making gestures for conciliation, Bakhtiar told Radio Iran he was willing to meet Khomeini and to incorporate any further reforms Khomeini demanded into his legislative program.

"But seriously, I am not ready to let him create a real government and he knows it."

Informal contacts between intermediaries of Khomeini and Bakhtiar continued in effort to break the current stalemate.

Political sources said Bakhtiar remained open to compromise but that the ayatollah was unyielding.

The military high command — key to the power struggle — earlier underscored its continued support for Bakhtiar and rejection of Khomeini's moves to seize control of the country.

The Supreme Army Command, in a terse statement issued Sunday, denied claims by the ayatollah that he had held top-level talks with army generals to pave the way for Bakhtiar's ouster and the beginning of the Islamic republic.

If the army withdraws its support from Bakhtiar, the sources said, Khomeini would be assured of gaining total power in Iran and the country probably could avoid the civil war that now appears to be looming.

Oil main attraction

Teng quiet on political issues during stay in Houston

By KAREN ROGERS
Battalion Staff

Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, whose visits to Washington and Atlanta are characterized by continual references to the Soviet Union, was noticeably quiet on political issues during his two-day stay in Houston, which ended Saturday.

Teng, in earlier press conferences, has stressed the Soviet Union of increasing the danger of world war. He said that the Sino-Soviet alliance (China's code word for the Soviet aggression) is the main source of world turmoil and suggested that Third World countries such as the United States and Japan "should unite and earnestly deal with this challenge and danger of war."

Teng arrived at Ellington Air Force Base Friday morning for the third leg of his four-city tour. He told the 400 spectators, including Gov. Bill Clements and Houston Mayor Jim McConn, that oil was the key to Houston.

Houston is the center of the petroleum industry, Teng said through an interpreter. "We are very happy to have this opportunity to come and learn about your advanced experience in the petroleum industry and other fields and to meet with personalities in the South and to make new friends."

Houston has already been chosen as a site of a Chinese consulate because of its eminence in energy, space technology and its port.

The consulate will not open until after China and the United States have set up their embassies in Washington and Peking.



Teng Hsiao-ping, the Chinese vice premier who toured four U.S. cities last week, exits from the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in Houston on his way to the Round Up Rodeo in Simonton. Battalion photo by Scott Pendleton

Clements braved criticism by some of his constituents by welcoming Teng to Texas. "You are most welcome in Texas. We in Texas, as I'm sure in most of the U.S., have a great curiosity about China and we're delighted you're here."

He gave Teng a basket of historical Texas toys "for the children of China" saying, "The children of Texas extend their hospitality to the children of China."

McConn, who towered over the 4-foot-11 Teng, welcomed him to Houston, "the Golden Buckle of the Sunbelt," and added that he hoped he would "be treated as hospitably as possible."

Although he did not present Teng with the key to the city, he did give him a pair of spurs and a belt buckle.

In an earlier interview, McConn referred to Houston's relationship with its sister-city, Taipei. "We know Taiwan is our friend. If China wants to prove that kind of friendship later, great," he said.

En route to NASA, the vice premier's first stop, his motorcade dodged about 200 demonstrators waiting outside Ellington's main gate.

At Johnson Space Center, Teng saw exhibits including a model of the space shuttle, moon rocks and Skylab. He also met Sen. John Glenn, whom he greeted as "the immortal John Glenn."

He saw no exhibits that indicated that Americans and Russians had ever flown in space together.

The only smile from the vice premier came when he joined astronaut Fred W. Haise Jr. in the cockpit of the space shuttle simulator.

There, Teng took a "ride" through space and then safely landed the shuttle.

Teng was unusually quiet during the three-hour tour, asking only a few questions: "Could you look out and see Shanghai?" he asked astronaut Alan Bean, who was aboard Skylab during its 60-day orbit.

"When I was outside (of Skylab), I was over your great country of China," Bean said.

Following the tour, Teng attended a luncheon at NASA's recreation center. He was presented with a photograph of China taken from space.

His next stop was the Hyatt-Regency Hotel, where he and his 90-person entourage stayed on the top four floors.

About 400 demonstrators waited outside the main entrance. The demonstration was peaceful, although about 600 Houston police officers in full riot gear ringed the hotel. Later estimates indicated there were more than 1,000 policemen around the hotel. Houston city officials estimated the security cost for Teng's stay at \$35,000.

Teng's motorcade was taken to a side entrance to avoid the demonstrators.

His first brush with protesters came when he left for a rodeo in Simonton. A La Porte Ku Klux Klan member, Louis Bean, lunged at Teng as he was leaving the hotel Friday evening. He was quickly subdued by police and later charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

In Simonton, Teng got a taste of something other than veal: barbecue, beans and beer. The vice premier was fed veal at three previous state dinners.

After dinner, Teng was escorted by World Trade Ambassador Robert Strauss and Mayor McConn into the rodeo arena to the accompaniment of country music, rebel yells and a standing ovation.

Sporting big grins, Teng and his wife, Cho Lin, accepted and donned Western hats. They then turned and waved to the crowd, which responded with another standing ovation.

A local ranch presented him with a 14-month-old Brahman bull "as a token of the country's interest in agro-economic business."

Head yell leader quits — gives no reason for move

Battalion staff report

Jeff Hancock resigned Friday as head yell leader for Texas A&M University.

He gave no specific reasons for the resignation in an interview Friday afternoon.

"As of today, I resigned as head yell leader," he said. "My reasons are that, in my own best interest and the best interest of Texas A&M, I feel that I should resign as head yell leader."

"That's all I want to say about it." Hancock did say he plans to stay at Texas A&M and graduate in August 1979 in management.

He had no comment about whether he will stay in the Corps of Cadets.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said that as far as he knew no head yell leader has ever resigned before. Koldus accepted Hancock's resignation at 10:15 Friday morning, he said.

Joe Wright, another senior yell leader, was appointed acting head yell leader for Saturday's basketball game against the University of Houston.

After taking a couple of spins around the arena in a stagecoach, "some 1840s American transportation," Teng returned to his seat to enjoy the rodeo.

The rodeo was sponsored by the city of Houston, Houston Chamber of Commerce, the Port of Houston, Houston World Trade Association and the Institute of International Education.

The presentation of the American and Chinese flags was marred by an accident. Kitty Van Dries, the daughter of the arena's owner, took a spill when her horse fell during a tight turn. Van Dries, who was carrying the American flag, received only a bruised hip and returned later to compete in the barrel racing event.

Teng's interest never faltered during the events which included bull-riding, calf-roping and bronc riding. A horse called "Sputnik" brought a laugh from Teng when it was introduced into the bareback-bronc riding event.

The vice premier's Saturday activities began with a breakfast in the hotel with southwest editors and publishers and Texas Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby.

After a steak-and-egg breakfast, Teng, whose only rule was that he not be quoted directly, fielded questions.

In response to a question that asked where China was going to get the millions of dollars needed for modernization, Teng corrected the amount to scores of billions of dollars. He said there is a willingness on both the part of the People's Republic of China and the United States to make use of technology and funds for modernization.

Teng hopes China will begin exporting oil shortly and said the PRC is negotiating with the U.S. government and private petroleum companies and that the progress with these negotiations could not be considered slow.

Sources have estimated that during the next 12 months, China would sign contracts with western companies totalling \$60 billion.

He indicated that he was not sure if oil development would be rapid enough to make China a major exporter like the Arab countries, but that China has rich oil re-

sources and its export of oil will increase each year.

After the breakfast, Teng spent 90 minutes at Hughes Tool Co., a manufacturer of oil-drilling equipment. Hughes already sells "tens of millions of dollars worth of equipment" to China each year.

Teng inspected 25 drilling bits that were being assembled for shipment to Peking. The last one was presented as a gift.

He also saw a demonstration of rock bit drilling and toured the company's inertia weld building and laboratory.

After a brief return to the hotel, Teng departed for Ellington and his waiting plane. From there, he flew to Seattle, the last stop on the tour where Sunday he toured Boeing Co. — already a major supplier of airplanes to China.

Committee considering \$30 million structure for sports, special events

By ERIN BECKERS
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M University's five-year master plan committee is considering building a \$30 million "special events center" to replace G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The proposed location of the center is near the Beef Cattle Center across the railroad tracks from campus, says Dr. Charles McCandless, chairman of the committee.

"It is strictly in the concept stage," he said. Tentative plans call for construction to begin in 1984, with completion scheduled for 1986.

THE \$30 MILLION FIGURE was arrived at by approximating the general idea of square footage and by comparing with the \$33 million Super Drum at the University of Texas, McCandless said. This amount is a working number and is not fixed, he said.

Each year the Texas A&M Board of Regents decides on the University needs concerning building and renovation and sets them in yearly priorities. Approximately \$15-16 million is designated from the University Available fund for each fiscal year, says Howard Vestal, vice president for business affairs.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL needs are most important, McCandless said. "If we had all the money in the world, we'd move it (the center's priority) up," he said.

Funding sources have not yet been decided on. About \$2 million of the University Available Fund has been designated for the planning of the center in 1984. "We will start the Program of Requests," McCandless said, "which includes a narrative description of what we want to include," such as seating and capacity.

THE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL designs by the architect will take about one year. McCandless said he expects the structure to have circular seating, but this will be decided on the Program of Requests.

The major concern with the present coliseum is not the crowded basketball games, McCandless said. "There's more of a problem with commencement exercises."

Graduating ceremonies have been divided into three programs to accommodate the large number of graduates, family and guests, says Donald Carter, secretary of the convocations committee.

WITH A LARGER FACILITY, two programs may be conducted, Carter said. "I don't think we'll ever have one. There would be over 15,000 attending, and the program would be quite lengthy."

According to McCandless, there have also been problems getting performers for Town Hall and this is one reason why a "special events center" is being planned, instead of strictly a basketball coliseum. Also, the center "will give us a great deal of flexibility we don't have now," including a facility for large meetings, he said.

"Town Hall is getting into very large concerts now," said Brooks Herring, student chairman of Town Hall, "and the demand for concerts is bigger. The center would help us."

A LARGER FACILITY would also help negotiating power with performers, he said. "With a larger coliseum, there are larger acts," Herring said. Town Hall has been "pretty lucky," although the coliseum may be a disadvantage when comparing with other large facilities.

The successful Aggie basketball team has caused several games to be sold out this year, but assistant basketball coach Bob Gobin says the team likes it that way. "We like G. Rollie as far as the crowd is concerned," he said. "We like the coliseum full and noisy. It's a great home court advantage."