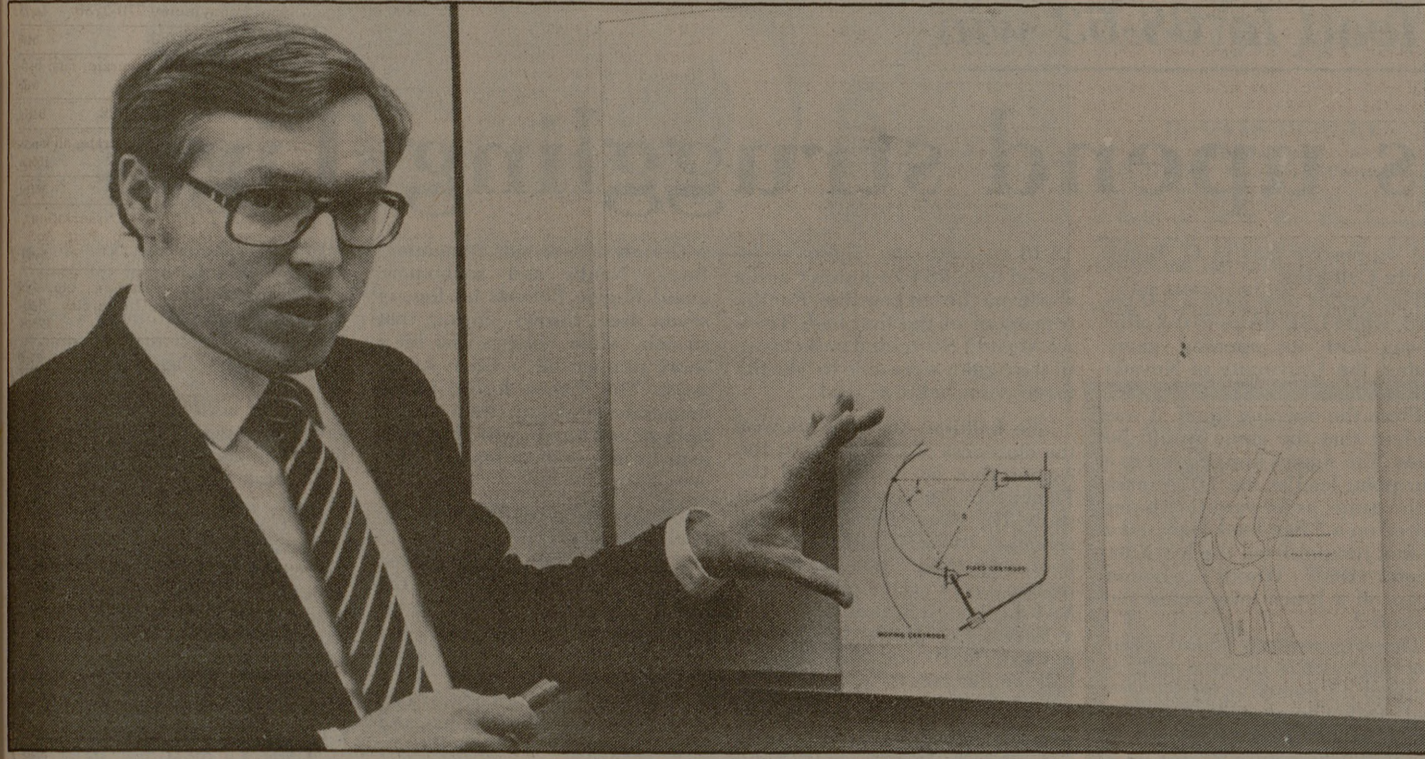


Local / State

Candidate for lieutenant governor at A&M tonight



Dr. Terry Shoup, assistant dean of the College of Engineering, explains the knee joint he has developed for an artificial leg. The drawing on the right, depicts the human knee and its centrodies, while the one on the left, shows how Shoup's model recreates the centrodies in the knee.

Staff photo by Greg Watermann

Research aids handicapped

A&M dean designs leg joint

By JENNIFER WAYMAN  
Battalion Reporter  
A new type of artificial leg knee joint — which offers more simplicity in design and behavior — has been developed by a Texas A&M University assistant engineering dean.

The joint is polycentric, Dr. Terry Shoup said. It allows the pivot points of the two leg pieces that meet at the knee to shift as motion occurs. Shoup said only six of the 32 artificial legs on the market use polycentric knee joints.

Shoup's joint uses the Oldham mechanism, a concept that hasn't previously been used for artificial joints. He said the mechanism is more simply designed than other polycentric joints.

The mechanical engineer said he believes his joint will offer more stability to the wearer because of its shifting center. The joint allows the knee to lock, so the wearer can completely straighten his leg.

He said the new joint gives people with artificial legs a more natural gait because it allows the leg to shorten as they walk. The joint also makes the leg easier to use because it requires less force to begin movement, he said.

A disadvantage of the polycentric knee joint is that it has more moving parts, which require more maintenance than other types of joints. It is also more expensive.

However, Shoup said many people feel the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. "It is a matter of preference, like whether you choose to wear your hair long or short," he said.

Shoup said he does not plan to patent or market his design, but he feels that someone will probably pick up on his idea and market it.

Shoup, who has been working with rehabilitation equipment since the early 1970s, said he enjoys his work because it allows him to use engineering principles to meet human needs.

In research sponsored by the Easter Seals Foundation, he has developed pogo crutches, which require less energy to use, for crippled children and also electric lift crutches. Shoup next plans to design a three-dimensional linkage for knee joints.

Shoup has received the 1981 American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Gustus L. Larson Memorial Award for his accomplishments in research and text writing.

Hill unsure of running for governor

United Press International  
AUSTIN — An extremely busy law practice will probably keep former Attorney General John Hill out of the 1982 governor's race, he told a group of liberal Democrats Saturday.

But he did not take himself completely out of the race. Hill said his law practice is becoming more concentrated just at the time he needs to be preparing to run for governor. He also said a rumor he will stay out of the race and support Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong is ill-informed.

At the meeting of liberal Democrats and the State Democratic Executive Committee, Hill — who was defeated in 1978 governor's race after gaining the Democratic nomination — said he is in no hurry to decide to run and may wait until nearer the Feb. 1 deadline.

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**YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS**  
Meeting  
Tuesday, Dec. 8  
Guest Speaker:  
**GEORGE STRAKE**  
Former Secretary of State of Texas  
Candidate for Lt. Governor  
Room 504 Rudder 7 p.m.  
Public Is Invited

By DANIEL PUCKETT  
Battalion Staff

George W. Strake Jr., a candidate for the 1982 Republican nomination for lieutenant governor of Texas, will speak at Texas A&M University tonight.

Strake, a former Texas secretary of state, will speak in 504 Rudder Tower at 7 p.m.

Strake was instrumental in getting Independent John Anderson's name on the presidential ballot in 1980. During his term as secretary of state, he ruled that citizens who had voted in the Democratic primary were eligible to sign petitions nominating Anderson.

Normally, persons who vote in a party primary may not sign nominating petitions for independents or members of other parties.

However, Strake ruled that since the Democratic primary

only included a preference poll and was not a binding presidential primary, Democratic voters could sign the petitions.

Strake resigned his post Oct. 5 to run for lieutenant governor, an office held since 1973 by William P. Hobby. If elected, he will be

the first Republican lieutenant governor of Texas since Reconstruction.

Strake's visit is being sponsored by Young Conservatives of Texas and by College Republicans. Admission is free.

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