

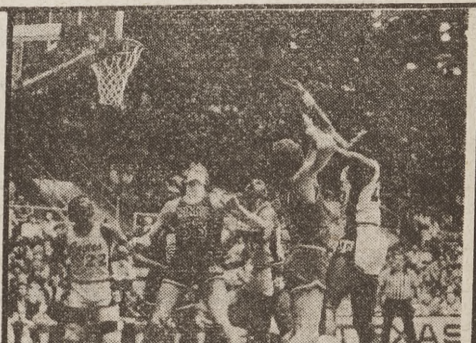
Mall grand opening set for Wednesday

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Ags stomp over Mustangs for second time in season

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Vietnam War Soviet break, Allen says

by John Jo Maurer

Battalion Staff
Former U.S. National Security Adviser Richard V. Allen Wednesday said the Vietnam War provided a strategic wedge for the Soviet Union and the Soviets made the most of it. Allen opened the 27th Student Conference on National Affairs in Rudder Auditorium, with more than 400 persons attending.

"While we were hopelessly embroiled in that land of conflict, thousands of miles away, wasting our blood and treasure, the Soviet Union continued its dramatic and relentless march up the ladder of military acquisition," he said.

"That strategic wedge constituted, in my view, the most important opening in the entire history of the Soviet Union."

The outcome of the Vietnam War left the United States with a distaste for that kind of conflict, Allen said.

"We shy away from it today when we think of the projection of American military power any place for whatever reason, because it evokes the harsh realities, the bitter memories of the Vietnam War."

Former president Richard Nixon's administration promised the beginning of an era of negotiation with the Soviet Union, Allen said, with a move away from the old era of confrontation.

But the war went on for four years. The illusion the Americans suffered from, Allen said, was that somehow the Soviet Union wanted the Americans to end the war. In reality, the Soviets wanted the Americans in Vietnam for as long as the Americans could endure. All the while the Soviet system was geared to the production of the "military colossus" with which the United States is faced today, he said.

Allen attributed the beginnings of this Soviet striving for military super-

riority to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

Americans hoped for a convergence of Soviet society with American society after the Cuban crisis, as a means for future disarmament. In actuality, divergence was building as the Soviet leadership decided it would never again be caught in the strategic realities of hopeless inferiority to the United States, Allen said.

"The Soviet Union made the decision that whatever it would take to catch up with the United States — and hopefully surpass us in terms of military power for the pursuit of defiant objectives — would be worth the price."

Today, Allen said, Americans are confronted with the product of the decisions that were made during the fateful days of the Cuban Missile Crisis and thereafter.

Discussing Soviet-American relations in 1982, Allen said President Reagan's goal is to restore a vital margin of military safety that has been allowed to dissipate over the 10 years prior to his taking office.

"It was his decision to deal with the Soviet Union from the position of principled prudent strength based on a notion of reciprocity, utilizing our leadership and our allies in concert with us because alone we can do nothing."

United States economic strength is our most important weapon and to insure national security, Allen said, the economy must be revitalized.

"The President can indeed help close that window of vulnerability into which we have been thrust by inaction for so many years."

Allen's closing suggestion to SCONA delegates was to get involved in public life.

"The penalty for refusing," he said, "is to suffer at the hands of those perhaps less qualified than yourselves."



staff photo by David Fisher

Getting all the news

Richard Allen reviews Wednesday's SCONA story in The Battalion on his way from the MSC to the reception in Rudder Exhibit Hall. After the reception Allen spoke in Rudder Auditorium.

Syrian forces battle rebels

United Press International
DAMASCUS, Syria — At least 1,400 people died in weeklong fighting in the city of Hama as government troops and rebellious Moslem fundamentalists urged on by religious leaders speaking from mosques, diplomatic sources say.

President Hafez Assad's government said Wednesday, Washington's accounts of the trouble in Hama were lies, and accused the United States of "flagrant interference in Syria's domestic affairs."

Syria acknowledged disturbances involving the rebel Moslem Brotherhood in Hama, a city north of Damascus of 300,000 people, although it insisted events were now under control.

Diplomatic sources said up to 16,000 Syrian troops, air force planes and helicopters and at least 100 tanks were sent to Hama after anti-government Islamic rebels killed members of an army patrol.

When troops arrived, residents were "called into rebellion by local religious leaders" standing in the minarets of city mosques, the sources

said. Rebels reportedly shelled an air base a mile from Hama and damaged a bridge over the Orontes River.

The reports said rebel casualties ranged between 1,000 and 2,000 while about 400 government troops were killed.

Hama, 50 miles east of the Mediterranean Sea, has been a center of anti-government sentiment.

The Syrian statement said several hundred weapons were confiscated and criminals, including escaped convicts, were captured in Hama during a search for firearms and hideouts of the outlawed Moslem Brotherhood.

The Moslem Brotherhood wants Sunni Moslems, who constitute a majority in Syria, to replace Assad's government, which is led by the minority Alawite faction Moslems.

Syria's statement accused the State Department of trying to shift attention from Washington's "political and diplomatic defeat" when it backed Israel in a United Nations' vote condemning Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

Team to travel to El Salvador

United Press International
WASHINGTON — House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill is sponsoring a fact-finding mission to El Salvador that will give him a firsthand report on the war-torn Central American nation.

Chris Mathews, a spokesman for O'Neill, confirmed Wednesday a three-member team consisting of Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., an Appropriations Committee aide and Kirk O'Donnell, the speaker's general counsel, was scheduled to leave today and spend several days in El Salvador.

The trip comes in conjunction with one by Rep. Clarence Long, D-Md., a

leading congressional critic of the administration's policies toward Central America. Long begins a nine day tour of the region today, his office announced Wednesday.

O'Neill's decision to send the mission, Mathews said, was made on briefings the speaker received earlier this week from the State Department, the CIA and the House Intelligence Committee.

The sending of the investigative team comes at a time when American policy toward El Salvador is under intense scrutiny amid fears the United States is entering a Vietnam-type entanglement.

Senate thanks Samson; Hood among appointed



staff photo by Rose Delano

Student Government President Ken Johnson presents Charles H. Samson, Texas A&M vice president for planning, with a plaque in appreciation for his help while serving as University President, while Dr. Samson's wife Ruth looks on.

by Rebeca Zimmermann

Battalion Staff
Greg Hood, the cadet suspended last semester after the saber incident with SMU cheerleaders, is one of nine new senators appointed by the Student Senate Wednesday.

Hood received national attention after he drew his saber and chased SMU cheerleaders off the Kyle Field turf during the Texas A&M-SMU football game in October. Hood, who was serving as an Officer of the Day, said he thought it his duty to keep people off the playing field.

His controversial actions resulted in his suspension for the duration of the fall semester. At the time of the incident, Hood held the position of judicial chairman for student government and also served on the Traffic Appeals Panel.

Senators voted 37-13, with four abstentions, in favor of Hood's appointment. No discussion preceded Hood's appointment or any other senator appointment.

Other appointed senators are: Mary Clymer, Angela Dodd, Terry Duran, Mary Flynn, Mark Gruettner, Sue Lednicki, Mike Plank and Mike White.

Recognition also went to Dr. Charles H. Samson Jr., University vice president for planning. Student Body President Ken Johnson presented him with a plaque in recognition of his devotion to the University.

Samson served one year as acting University president before Dr. Frank E. Vandiver was appointed to the presidency Aug. 26, Johnson said Samson is one of the University's most faithful servants.

Much of the Senate meeting was devoted to the allocation of \$2,886,529.50 from student service fees for the 1982-83 budget.

The Senate finance committee recommended an overall increase of 10.1 percent in the 1982-83 student service fees budget. Senators unanimously approved the budget.

Allocations made by the Senate will

be submitted to Dr. John J. Koldus III, University vice president for student services.

The Personal Counseling Service received the largest increase in budget allocations with a 22.7 percent increase over the 1981-82 budget.

Terry Smith, Senate vice president for finance, said the service has an 80-student backlog which justifies the request for an additional staff person.

The A.P. Beutel Health Center received a 16.9 percent increase in its budget. The center requested \$703,135, but the Senate approved a budget of \$610,000. The addition of two doctors last year and an increase in nurses' pay called for the increase, Smith said.

The Senate also approved a 15.3 percent budget increase for the Office of Student Activities, and the Shuttle Bus Service received a 14.3 percent increase.



staff photo by Rose Delano

Greg Hood, Sr. Senator College of Business

New Federalism sparks disagreement

by Bill Robinson

Battalion Staff
In his State of the Union message last week, President Ronald Reagan proposed a return to federalism by the U.S. government. That proposal fueled disagreement between economists and hard-line Democrats.

U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm, a former Texas A&M economics professor, State Sen. Kent Caperton and Dr. Charles Maurice, head of the Texas A&M economics department, gave The Battalion their differing opinions on that proposal.

Should Congress approve New Federalism as proposed by Reagan, the taxpayer can expect increased efficiency and accountability of the

government, Gramm said in a telephone interview.

"To quote a famous Democrat named Thomas Jefferson, 'Our country is too large to have its affairs controlled by one government,'" Gramm said in support of the president's proposal.

Reagan proposes that the states take over the costly and controversial basic welfare program, aid to families with dependent children and the politically sensitive and expensive food stamp program.

In addition, the states would be in charge of distributing funds that are currently handled by federal grants.

"Texas will benefit from New Federalism," Gramm said, "because state money will be kept within the state."

In addition, Gramm said the Texas legislature can do a better job of determining state needs and appropriating funds than Washington can.

"I have more confidence in Bill Presnal (chairman of the House Appropriations Committee in the Texas House of Representatives)," Gramm said, "than any member of the appropriations committee of the U.S. Congress."

The legislature will be able to tailor programs to local needs. The programs supported by the people would be secure but programs imposed

upon the people by the government could be cut, he added.

Welfare and other entitlement programs probably would have the greatest cuts. In a survey Gramm conducted of his constituency, 37.5 percent favored cutting welfare drastically, 33.3 percent cutting it substantially and 88.3 percent overall favored some cuts in welfare.

"Texas has never been a big supporter of welfare so I would imagine it would be cut severely," Caperton said.

However, Caperton disputed Gramm's claims that the program would be good for the state. It could result in major tax increases to

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forecast

Today's forecast: Clear becoming mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain tonight; high in the upper 50s, low tonight in the mid 40s. Friday's forecast calls for cool temperatures again with a 20 percent chance of rain.