

Weapons freeze debate discussed

By Dawson Clark

Battalion Reporter
The debate between those who support and oppose a nuclear weapons freeze is crucial to the future of the United States, a leading opponent of the freeze said here Wednesday night.

Dr. Steven Bardwell, editor-in-chief of The Fusion Energy Foundation's Fusion magazine, supports the development of nuclear fusion energy systems and beam weaponry.

"There is an intense debate going on in Washington today that will determine the political and military future of the United States in the decade to come," Bardwell said in a speech in Rudder Forum sponsored by MSC Great Issues.

The pro-freeze advocates support the build-up of conventional weapons for use in a colonial-type warfare in which three objectives are most important, Bardwell said.

Those objectives are to establish a military capability that ensures a country's access to raw materials, to control the population to point that consumption of natural resources can be regulated and to use military strength to prevent the development of other countries.

"This military theory is not new," Bardwell said. "It prevents independent industrial growth and insures military dominance for the invading country."

That is the theory that former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara enforced during the Vietnam War, Bardwell said.

"No matter which side you took on the Vietnam War, I think you have to agree that the outcome of that war was a disaster to the United States," Bardwell said.

Bardwell is on the side of the debate calling for increased technological developments in the area of nuclear fusion and beam weaponry.

"Zero technology growth causes us to be in deep trouble," he said. "Because we get caught up in the feeling that we are going to run out of our natural resources and raw materials."

"On the other hand, if we push for the development of new technologies, we will take the unused raw materials and turn them into new energy sources which will replace those that we are depleting now."

Bardwell outlined the technologies and principles of directed energy beam weaponry.

"A beam weapon is capable of carrying an intense energy pulse that is not any more powerful than the energy in a .45 caliber bullet," he said.

"The main characteristic is the ability to project this energy with tremendous accuracy over thousands of miles."

A beam weapon could hit an intercontinental ballistic missile at a distance of 2,000 miles and destroy it completely, Bardwell said.

"Most supporters of the nuclear freeze are sincere in their concern of stopping a nuclear war," Bardwell said. "But a freeze will do nothing about the missiles that already exist, however if we had the technology to destroy those missiles on launch, then we have done something real about the threat of nuclear war."

An all-out nuclear exchange between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. is unlikely, Bardwell said. An accidental launching of a nuclear missile, or the intentional launching of a nuclear weapon by an unstable country like Libya, South Africa or Israel is the real threat of today, he said.

A&M scores with programs

by Rebeca Zimmermann

Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M Athletic Department, in conjunction with Write-Copy Communications Inc., is upgrading the quality and number of printed programs for various sports events on campus — and it isn't costing the University a dime.

Wally Groff, associate athletic director for finance, said Write-Copy provides the programs to the department for free. The department may then sell the programs to make some money or they may be distributed for free to provide advertisers with a wider circulation.

"It's a unique way to do it," Groff said. "Our media will continue and they'll pay for printing."

Ralph Carpenter, assistant athletic director for public relations, said they are making the change to upgrade sports programs.

George Ferguson, president of Write-Copy, said six contracts for programs definitely are scheduled. Basketball will have a program for each home game and baseball and softball will each have one program. Write-Copy also will print the program for the second annual alumni football game in the spring.

The program for the recent volleyball tournament on campus was done by Write-Copy and the program for the Texas A&M Relays will be printed by Ferguson's company.

"The big change is the basketball program," Ferguson said. "It's a full program just like football, with one for each home game."

Carpenter said the basketball programs' content will change from week to week because information about the opposing team is provided and different

players may start each game.

He said women's basketball will be included in the program, so people will have information about the entire basketball program at Texas A&M.

Groff said the department previously lost money on the basketball program, but the new arrangement will bring income to the department.

Write-Copy, a local firm that publishes Inside Aggie Sports, represents the department in advertising sales and bills its Inside Aggie Sports as the "official" publication of the Athletic Department.

"The Texas A&M University Athletic Department shares in the net profit of all programs," Ferguson said. "The deal is instead of the Athletic Department being in the sale and production business, we sell ads, collect for them, distribute and divide the proceeds."

Ferguson said he hasn't had any trouble selling ads for the programs. Many businessmen in the area are avid Aggie fans, he said, and want to help support Texas A&M.

Carpenter said the company represents the Athletic Department in ad sales, but articles will be provided by the department.

Because Write-Copy originated the idea of the programs and absorbs the loss or profit made by the publications, the

Athletic Department is not violating a University policy which requires Texas A&M publications jobs to be offered to the University Printing Center.

According to University policy, the Printing Center must be offered a Texas A&M publication job but may refuse to accept the job for various reasons.

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Economy getting better, Gramm tells cattlemen

U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm, D-College Station, said Wednesday that he is optimistic about the economy based on falling interest and inflation rates.

Gramm, speaking to the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association at the Aggie Inn, also cited a healthy stock market as a reason for his optimism.

"People are willing to invest in American business and agriculture (again)," Gramm said.

Another plus for the economy, Gramm said, is that the percentage of income which people save also is up — from 4.5 percent in June to 8.1 percent now.


Gramm admitted that high unemployment still is a problem, but said it usually peaks out after the economy begins to improve.

Gramm also expressed his usual criticisms of the policies of previous administrations.

"(It was like) a 15-year spending spree, and now the bill collector is at the door," he said.

He said that an \$8.25 million jobs bill — supported by House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill and U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy — would lead to more of the same problems.

"We would have to borrow the money ... for these make-work, dead-end jobs ... (that) will destroy more permanent tax-paying jobs," Gramm said.



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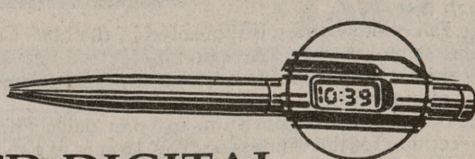


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