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Soviet satellite falls from orbit

United Press International
Debris from a crippled Soviet spy satellite burned through the atmosphere Sunday, blazing a trail in the sky above the middle of the Indian Ocean before disappearing far from land, U.S. space trackers said.

In its final orbit, the runaway nuclear-powered satellite tumbled over the United States, Scandinavia and the Middle East before the fragments flamed through the sky. A Pentagon spokesman in Washington said the

craft "completed its burn" at 4:21 p.m.

"It's all over," said Jim Holton, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which laid plans to cope with any radioactive debris that landed in the United States.

"We no have taken our several hundred people on standby off alert, and the Department of Energy is advising their Nuclear Emergency Search Teams, who have been on

standby in Las Vegas, to unload their special aircraft," he said.

Governments throughout the world had issued warnings that any debris from the satellite would be contaminated.

"Every region of the globe is in a state of tense preparation," an official Chinese national television news broadcast reported.

The fiery demise of the main

chunk of Cosmos-1402 ended a three-week international watch, but the saga of the space derelict will not end until next month, when a second, smaller radioactive piece is expected to plunge to Earth.

The remaining portion, thought to be the nuclear reactor that powered the sensitive radar and other electronic instruments aboard the satellite, still is wobbling above Earth. U.S. ex-

perts said that the 100-pound atomic pile and related hardware — weighing several hundred pounds — probably will fall to Earth between Feb. 7 and Feb. 13.

The plunging debris from the spacecraft blistered through the layer of air — the final act in the "critical decay" of its orbit — within sight of U.S. forces on the British-owned island of Diego Garcia, about 800 miles

southwest of India, the Pentagon said.

The heaviest portion of the satellite, estimated to have weighed about 4 tons, completed its burn at a point above the Earth's surface at 25 degrees south latitude by 84 degrees east longitude, about 1,800 miles southeast of India, officials said.

There was no indication whether any of the vehicle actually reached the surface.



What a way to go!

Students gather to watch as a helicopter lands on Kyle Field Sunday afternoon. The helicopter was filled with football recruits visiting Texas A&M.

staff photo by Rob Johnston

Faculty concerned about senate's role

by Kim Schmidt

Battalion Staff

Texas A&M faculty members have expressed optimistic support but also uncertainty and caution in accepting the Academic Council's approval of a new faculty senate.

Although the Academic Council approved the proposed senate by a two-to-one vote Wednesday, many council members are concerned about the consequences of the new senate.

"We're entering a new era with the faculty senate and it will probably be very useful," said Dr. Lyle Schoenfeldt, head of the management department and Academic Council member. "But it is really unknown who will be elected and how things will be handled."

Schoenfeldt's reactions are like those of many faculty members who are unsure about the role of the new senate and the future of Texas A&M

under the new system.

The new system requires a division of the current Academic Council to form both a faculty senate, comprised of elected members, and the Academic Administrative Council, comprised of deans, department heads and other University administrators.

The future of the Academic Administrative Council after the split is one matter in question under the establishment of the new senate.

"I think that it will be needed for a while but probably not over the long haul," Schoenfeldt said.

The Council will be necessary to preserve continuity during the transition from a single body to a bicameral system, he said. But he predicts that, in a few years, no one will care about the Council.

"But that will be a good sign," he said. "It will show that the faculty senate is doing its job effectively."

Many administrators disagree with

Schoenfeldt, including University President Frank E. Vandiver, who feels the Council always will be needed as a communication feedback mechanism.

"I see the Academic Administrative Council as a body in the role of a house of lords," Vandiver said at last week's meeting. "When I get a recommendation that requires University-wide attention, I intend to get administrative opinions on the decisions."

But despite Vandiver's reassurance, some still fear they will lose their influence in decision-making when committees once under Academic Council jurisdiction move to senate control.

Administrators are particularly concerned about being "left out of the approval loop" in curriculum changes. Dr. William Smith, director of the Institute of Statistics, said he fears that he might not be alerted to curriculum changes occurring outside but still affecting his own department.

Regents consider establishing computer science department

by Denise Richter

Battalion Staff

The newly appointed Texas A&M regents didn't face any major issues during their first meeting Sunday, but they probably had more on their minds than the meeting.

On Friday, Senate Democrats returned to Gov. Mark White 59 of the 62 lame-duck appointments made by former Gov. William Clements. Those appointments include three men appointed to the Texas A&M Board of Regents — former House speaker Bill Clayton, Michel T. Halbouty and John R. Blocker.

Blocker is vice chairman of the board and chairs the committee for academic campuses.

The new regents' fate as members

of the board still is uncertain. Legally, however, the appointees are regents until White decides whether to keep Clements' appointments or submit new names for Senate approval.

During Sunday's meeting, members of the committee for academic campuses considered a proposal to create a Department of Computer Science. The computing science program currently is included in the Department of Industrial Engineering.

A consultant for the Coordinating Board, which commissioned a team of consultants to review state-supported doctoral programs in computer science, recommended creation of the new department.

The new department, which will be

included in the College of Engineering, will offer bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Discussion on the possibility of building additional "prestige" boxes, or suites, in Kyle Field was postponed until the regents' March meeting.

At that meeting, representatives of the Aggie Club are expected to request the construction of 48 suites in the north end zone of Kyle Field.

In other business, committee members recommended the following items:

- A \$110,000 appropriation for the design of civil engineering complex renovations. The project, which is scheduled to be completed in January 1985, is expected to cost \$2.5 million.
- Raising the uniform rental fee for

non-ROTC cadets from \$150 a year to \$200 a year.

• Establishment of the Chester J. Reed Chair in Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Stephen H. Safe, an environmental toxicologist, was recommended as the first holder of the Reed Chair.

Regents met as a committee of the whole today. Items scheduled for discussion included the establishment of a President's Reserve fund, which would be used to compete with faculty salary offers from other universities. The committee also will consider the purchase of computer hardware and software needed to set up a system of automated instruction and testing.

All committee action is subject to approval of the full board, which will meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.



Regent Michel Halbouty and University President Frank Vandiver confer at Sunday's meeting.

Poll shows A&M views still conservative

How would you describe your political views?

The survey

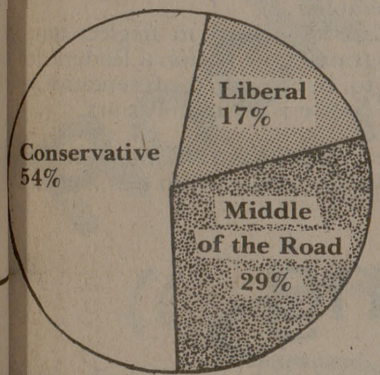
When was it taken? Nov. 3 to Nov. 6, 1982.

Who sponsored it? The fall semester Journalism 403, interpreting contemporary affairs, class.

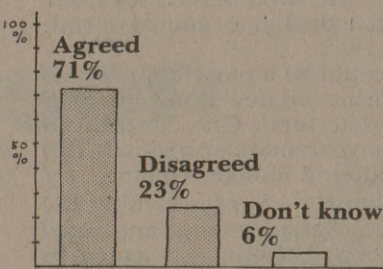
How many students were polled? The survey results are based on 351 completed questionnaires.

How was it taken? The names were randomly selected from the 1982-83 Campus Directory. Students were telephoned and asked 40 questions.

How accurate is it? Because we only sampled 351 out of the 32,000 undergraduate students at Texas A&M, the survey does contain a small amount of sampling error. For every percentage reported, the actual value could range 5.2 percent higher or lower. For example, a percentage of 50 percent could actually be as high as 55.2 percent or as low as 44.8.



President Reagan is doing a good job in strengthening America's economy.



Editor's note: This is the first part of a four-part series based on a recent survey of Texas A&M undergraduates.

by Gary Barker

Battalion Staff

Texas A&M was once an all-male, all-military institution — traditional, rural, conservative.

Today Texas A&M is co-educational, military training is optional and more students call big cities their home — but it's still conservative.

In a survey conducted in November, 54 percent of the undergraduate students surveyed said they were somewhat or quite conservative. About 29 percent said they were middle-of-the-road and 17 percent said they were quite or somewhat liberal.

In addition to their overall political views, students were asked about their views on such specific topics as nuclear arms, the draft, abortion, Reagan's economic policies and prayer in public schools.

While the majority of students took the traditional conservative stance on most issues, the survey revealed at least one incongruity: abortion.

Although Texas A&M students might be expected to be strongly against abortion, 73 percent of the students surveyed said they agreed that a woman who wants an abortion should be able to have one.

On Saturday — the 10-year anniversary of the landmark case that legalized abortions in the United States — thousands of people across the country also were stating their views on abortion. Abor-

tion foes, including 26,000 in Washington D.C., demonstrated nationwide as did abortion supporters, who celebrated ten years of "reproductive freedom."

The Supreme Court ruled in the 1973 case of a high-school dropout who had been raped that American women have a constitutional right to have an abortion.

The mother's right to privacy must be balanced, the Supreme Court said, against the interests of the state that increase as the pregnancy continues and the fetus is capable of sustained independent existence.

But while the students' opinions on abortion were somewhat out of line with their stated political views, a Texas A&M political science professor says the result of the abortion question probably is still accurate.

"Questions about specific beliefs are probably more accurate than questions about political beliefs in general," said Dr. Norman Luttbeg. "There is some confusion over what 'liberal' or 'conservative' mean (in political belief questions). Also, people probably ignore differences between what they believe and their stated political position."

On other topics, Texas A&M students responded largely according to their stated conservative viewpoint:

- 66 percent disagreed that gun control would help reduce crime.
- 83 percent said they thought prayer should be allowed in public schools.
- 66 percent said they dis-

agreed that living together is an acceptable alternative to marriage.

— 77 percent disagreed that the gay student organization at Texas A&M should be recognized as a campus organization.

Students also strongly supported President Reagan; 71 percent said they thought he was doing a good job in strengthening the economy.

That opinion came at a time when most Americans thought Reagan was doing a poor job, citing 10.8 percent unemployment in November and a projected deficit for 1983 of \$196 billion — more than double the amount of any other president.

Also in November, the time the student survey was taken, Democrats won back many seats in Congress that they had lost in 1980. Many political analysts interpreted this as a mandate against Reagan's economic policies.

In other national issues, 72 percent of the students surveyed disagreed with the statement that, "Peace would become closer to reality if the United States placed a freeze on the production of nuclear arms." Even among those students who said they were liberal, 56 percent said they disagreed with the statement.

In another military issue, 67 percent of the students questioned said they disagreed with the statement: "People who have a moral objection to war should not be required to serve in the military."

Luttbeg said that the Corps of

See Survey page 8

inside

Classified	8
Local	3
National	9
Opinions	2
Sports	11
State	7
What's up	10

forecast

Sunny and nice today with a high of about 66. The winds will be light and variable. Tonight's low will reach 39. Mainly clear and a bit warmer on Tuesday with a high near 68.

almanac

United Press International
Today is Monday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 1983 with 341 to follow.

On this date in history:

In 1965, the world mourned the death of English statesman Sir Winston Churchill, known as the "first citizen of the Free World" and leader of Britain during the darkest days of World War II.

In 1978, a Russian satellite carrying an atomic reactor fell from orbit and crashed near the town of Yellow Knife in Canada's North West Territory.

A thought for the day: Sir Winston Churchill said, "Nothing in life is so exhilarating as to be shot at without result."