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On Santa's Knee

Cindi Tackitt, Battalion staff

Sharon Hinton, a senior secondary education major from Crosby, left, and Julie Klabunde, a senior management major from San Antonio, sit on Santa's knee

while okaying the picture just taken of them. Leggett Hall is sponsoring the pictures with Santa. All of the proceeds go to the United Way.

Soviets not saying whether they will return to START

United Press International
GENEVA, Switzerland — The Soviet Union, which already has walked out of negotiations on medium-range nuclear missiles, refused to tell the United States Tuesday if it will break off talks on long-range nuclear weapons.

Delegations met for 65 minutes at the 70th session of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, but Soviet negoti-

ators would not say if Moscow will return after a recess for Christmas and the New Year.

Before going to a luncheon hosted by the Soviets, negotiators agreed to meet Thursday for a probable final session of the current round.

Moscow is expected only then to say if it will agree to set a resumption date or break off the 18-month-old START as it broke off the parallel

Geneva talks on limiting medium-range missiles in Europe two weeks ago.

"You will hear from us Thursday," said chief Soviet negotiator Viktor Karpov.

The Soviets broke off the Intermediate Nuclear Forces talks after the West German Parliament approved NATO deployment of new U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles.

Replacement

Reagan removes member of Civil Rights Commission

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan replaced former GOP leader Mary Louise Smith on the restructured U.S. Civil Rights Commission Tuesday, ignoring congressional and civil rights leaders who said there was a tacit agreement she would remain.

In a letter to Smith, who differed with Reagan by supporting quotas and busing as a last resort in fighting discrimination, the president said he intends "to persevere in the expansion of equal rights" for all Americans.

White House aides said Smith refused to pledge to support Reagan's choice to head the commission, Clarence Pendleton Jr., if she was re-named. She also had criticized Reagan for not hiring enough minorities and women.

Smith refused to criticize the president but said, "I think he's gotten some very bad political advice."

In a telephone interview from Iowa, she said Reagan's decision "will be perceived as a negative message to women and blacks, and the civil rights community in general," as well as discourage other women trying to get into positions of power, and will be bad for the Republican Party.

"I don't think it's as important that Mary Louise Smith be on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission that it

is that we get on with the civil rights agenda," she said. "I think the important thing is that the work of the commission be preserved with integrity and independence."

One key senator involved in negotiating a compromise with White House aides to reconstitute the commission denounced Reagan's decision to replace Smith, saying it "calls into question the ability of Republicans and Democrats alike to negotiate with anyone who purports to speak for the White House."

Reagan announced he was naming in her place Esther Gonzalez-Arroyo Buckley, 35, an Hispanic high school teacher from Laredo.

The president also renamed New York civil rights lawyer Morris Abram and John Bunzel, former president of San Jose State University, to the panel. The nominations of the two Democrats had been stalled in Congress.

The president signed compromise legislation Nov. 30 enlarging the membership of the commission from six to eight. At the same time, he reappointed Pendleton as a member and redesignated him as chairman.

Under the new law, four members of the panel will be chosen by the president and four by Congress. A majority of the membership must

concur in the selection of the chairman.

Some key senators claimed that during negotiations on the compromise, White House aides promised to reappoint Smith, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, but presidential counselor Edwin Meese denied any deal was made.

Rep. Pat Schroeder said, "It is clear that the president's word is about as meaningful as his commitment to civil rights."

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights said Smith apparently would not commit herself to voting the way the White House demanded. "Thus, the president's decision goes right to the very heart of the independence issue. The White House wants a commission it can control."

In a letter to Smith dated Tuesday, Reagan praised her work and said, "I trust you know that I intend to persevere in seeking the preservation and expansion of equal rights under the law for all Americans. This is a continuing battle and will require the best efforts of everyone of us."

Buckley, is chairman of the Webb County Republican Party. She will serve for three years.

Abram, a Democrat and civil rights lawyer who shares Reagan's

Funded or not, research needed

by Karen Wallace
Battalion Staff

Non-funded research projects at Texas A&M are not taken as seriously as funded research projects, Dr. Thomas Johnson, associate professor of English and humanities at Texas A&M at Galveston, said Monday.

"In fact, the administration does not believe people do serious research unless it is funded research," Johnson said.

His comments were in response to a Battalion series on Texas A&M research.

Non-funded research is paid for by the researcher or somebody outside the University community who doesn't benefit by the project.

Funded research is paid for by grants from the government, private companies or foundations. There is a contract between the organization, researcher and University under which all three benefit, Johnson said.

Feenan Jennings, executive director of University research services, said he agrees that non-funded research is important. However, he said, it doesn't get as much attention as funded research is because it's not sponsored by a company.

Researchers compete for company funding, Jennings said. Hence, when a department head or college dean sees that no agency was interested enough to sponsor the research, he's going to be less interested than he would be toward a funded research project, Jennings said.

He said non-funded research doesn't compete with peer research. Research that is not compared with that of its peers causes speculation over what it is worth, he said.

Johnson agreed that funded research also has other advantages.

"The company benefits with results of the study, the researcher benefits because research buys off teaching time and the University benefits because they receive a percentage of the funding," Johnson said. "People don't like to fund unless they get something in return."

Even so, he said, that doesn't mean that non-funded research is without value.

"Just because a company isn't interested in my research, doesn't mean it should be completely ignored," he said. "Isaac Newton didn't receive many British Royal Society grants to come up with his famous laws. Einstein didn't get a lot of funding from the European Office of Scientific Research while he was working on his theories of relativity either."

Johnson said Texas A&M is close to becoming a world class University, but the goal would be impossible if funded research is the only research taken seriously.

"There is more grant money around today than ever before, and more often than not it produces worthy results," he said. "But we must remember that major, fundamental discoveries have been made without massive grant support."

Jennings said he understands the importance of research whether it's funded or non-funded.

"I understand that some people just don't have the time to compete for funds," Jennings said. "I'm sure their research is just as important."

Johnson also sees time as a major factor in research work. He said his research must be worked in around

his teaching schedule. He currently is researching the history of folklore.

"All my research is done on top of a 12-hour teaching load and is all paid for out of my pocket," he said.

Jennings said there are several alternatives to company-sponsored, funded research. Researchers can use research money allocated to each college in the University, apply for state or federal grants, apply for mini-grants from the University, or use money from their own pocket, he said.

Each college starts out with funds appropriated from the University. Then, each college dean decides how the money will be spent and which research projects will be funded.

"There are a number of factors the deans look at to decide," Jennings said. "Some of them are the number of students in the department, the faculty, the type of research and how much money they would need."

When a professor doesn't get the funding he applies for, he can look to other alternatives, said Keith Hamm, associate professor of political science.

"There is research money the state provides, federal money an individual can obtain through a research proposal or grant proposal to the National Science Foundation, and mini-grants," Hamm said.

Mini-grants come from money the University sets aside for research projects. Faculty members turn in grant proposals to the mini-grant committee. The committee decides who receives mini-grants for research.

Speakers aggravating

Limitations discussed

by Connie Hutterer
Battalion Reporter

The student Religious Council recommended Monday that the Student Activities Office limit open-air religious speakers to three campus locations: Rudder Fountain, the west side of the Academic Building, and the sidewalk in front of the All Faiths Chapel.

The council's recommendation came in response to complaints from students of being annoyed or insulted by religious speakers who preach regularly at many campus sites.

Those complaints received at the Student Activities Office were forwarded to Kevin Carreathers, the Religious Council's adviser, who suggested the council take a stand. Carreathers expects a decision on the recommendation in February.

The Religious Council is comprised of representatives from each of the 40 or so campus religious organizations.

Only 13 members attended Monday's meeting, representing eight groups. None of those groups, to the knowledge of their representatives, were involved in the controversial preaching.

Council members had discussed the problem at their November meeting, and had been asked to question their peers about possible solutions.

They reported various student reactions, from apathy (students who just walk by and ignore the evangelists) to annoyance at the noise, to hostility at speakers who, according to council secretary Sharon Noble, "...tell you, 'If you don't believe, you're going to...'" and they tell you where.

Another member questioned the difference between such speakers and the residence hall groups who "shout obscenities" as they return from the dining halls.

Council members were cautious about recommending any changes, fearing that such changes could cause a snowball effect leading to restrictions on free speech. Some said the speakers present no real problem as long as students have the right to not listen.

A compromise allowing outdoor preachers three speaking sites would give them a public arena to profess their beliefs that uninterested students could avoid, council members said.

Such a compromise, members said, would protect free speech rights because the proposed restrictions are only as strict as those requiring religious services to be held in the All Faiths Chapel.

Some regulation could later be added to prevent monopolization of the sites by particular groups or individuals, members said.

The Religious Council will meet again Feb. 6.

Holidays take off with local festival

by Ed Alanis
Battalion Reporter

The City of College Station is kicking off the holiday season with a Christmas festival today from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the College Station Community Center. The festival will include food, arts and crafts and entertainment.

Local artists will exhibit paintings and sketches, and photography work done by students at A&M Consolidated High School will be on display. Area bands and choirs will be performing every hour on the hour.

Last year's festival was a big success, community center director Peggy Calliham said. The city has always held an open house to begin the holiday season, but this is only the second year for the Christmas festival. The idea for a festival came about when the community center was built, she said.

Expecting a large turnout, Calliham said the festival should provide a great opportunity to interact with the community.

The A&M Consolidated High School Choir will begin the festival with a performance at 3 p.m. At 4 p.m. the A&M Consolidated Jazz Band will perform. An ensemble from the Community Singers will perform at 5 p.m., and at 6 p.m. an ensemble of young violinists will take the stage.

Between these performances junior high students will act out traditional Christmas plays.

The police department's new robot

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forecast

Cool today with highs reaching 60. Low tonight 42.