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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Reagan speech somber

United Press International

NEW YORK — President Reagan courted Catholic voters Thursday at a political showcase dinner his Democratic rival declined to attend, but the set aside the one-liners of four years ago for a somber speech referring to death and the 1981 attempt on his life.

Taking time out from preparations for his foreign policy debate Sunday night, Reagan steered clear of partisan rhetoric as the guest of honor at the Alfred E. Smith \$300-per-person charity bash sponsored by the archdiocese of New York and attended by some 2,000 people.

The dinner has been a political showcase since 1960. Reagan paid tribute to the late Cardinal Terence Cooke, archbishop of New York who died of cancer last year.

The dinner also gave Reagan the latest in a series of opportunities to share the limelight with Archbishop John O'Connor. The two teamed up to greet guests arriving at the Waldorf Astoria.

Reagan strategists hoped the president would benefit from what they termed Walter Mondale's "big snub" of the dinner, which has been a traditional stop on the presidential campaign trail for the past 24 years.

Asked by reporters whether Mondale should have attended, Reagan, wearing white-tie and tails and accompanied by his elegantly dressed wife, merely smiled and turned away.

With some New York Democrats said to be unhappy with Mondale, Reagan alluded to politics only once, noting the dinner came "at the height of a season marked by differences of opinion."

Reagan praised the dinner's namesake, the first Catholic to run for president, as well as two others instrumental in building the event into an annual gathering of the powerful and prominent: the late Cardinal Francis Spellman, who founded the dinner, and the late Jewish philanthropist Charles Silver, who chaired the dinner for years.

Reagan paid special tribute to Cooke, recalling how the archbishop visited him at the White House in 1981 "while I was recovering from young Mr. Hinckley's unwelcome attentions."

The presidential race in New York is so close that the event — where Reagan first met President Carter in 1980 — took on added importance.

Efforts to have Ferraro substitute for Mondale were rejected by dinner officials.

Doggett & Gramm at it again

United Press International

DALLAS — Republican Rep. Phil Gramm Thursday accused his Democratic opponent, State Sen. Lloyd Doggett, of running a dirty campaign for the U.S. Senate, but Doggett said the only mud he was slinging had been made by Gramm.

The two, vying for the seat being vacated by retiring Republican John Tower, resumed their attacks on each other in their second televised debate as they have done throughout the campaign, filling the race with personal accusations.

Gramm accused Doggett of attributing fabricated quotes to Gramm that made him appear callous on issues of Social Security and aid to the handicapped.

In one statement, Gramm is quoted as saying that educational programs for the handicapped encourage people to be handicapped. In another, he justifies Social Security

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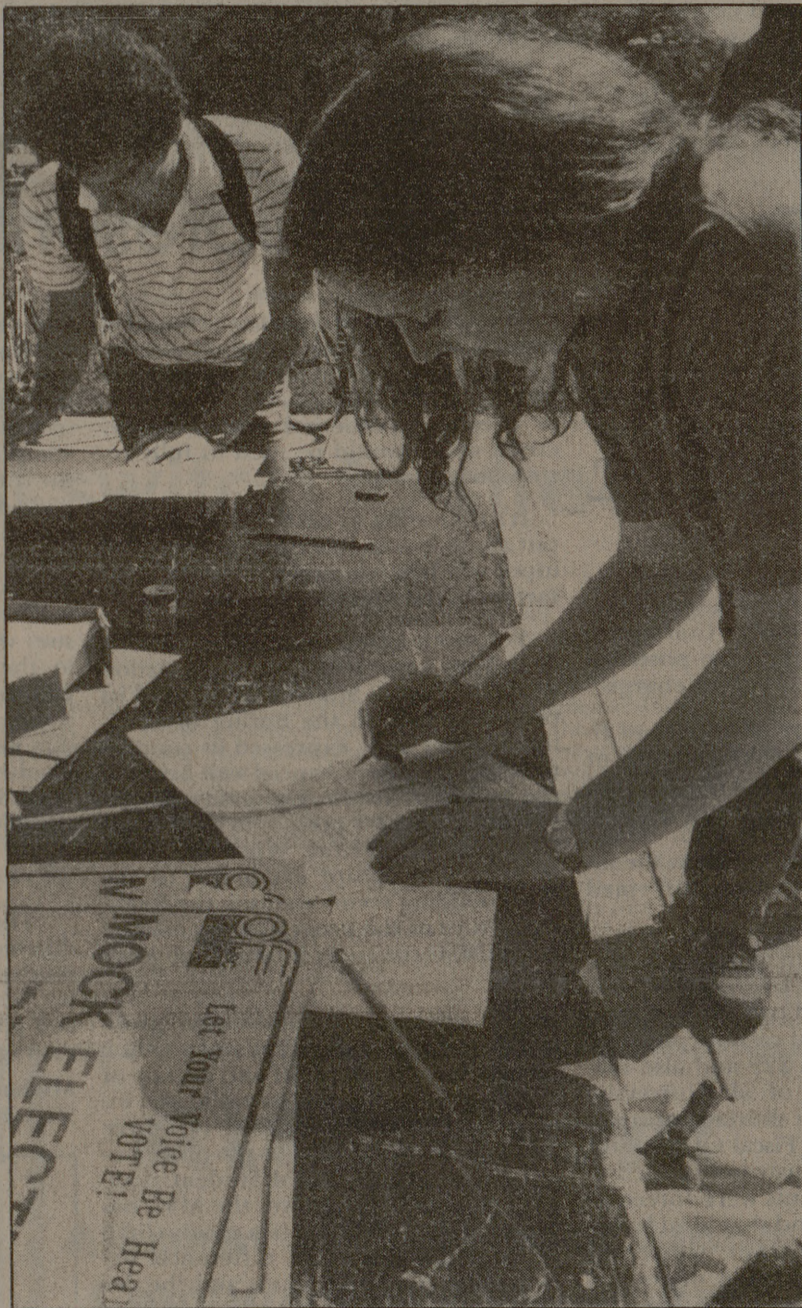


Photo by SONIA LOPEZ

Mock election results tabulated

A&M students were given a chance Wednesday to participate in a mock election, sponsored by members of the MSC Political Forum. See results page 5.

63 claim they have cholera symptoms

United Press International

HOUSTON — Sixty-three people called the city Health Department Thursday complaining of symptoms of cholera after eating oysters within the past five days, officials said.

The calls flooded the department after it announced Wednesday there was one confirmed case and two suspected cases of cholera in people who ate raw oysters harvested in American Bay in Louisiana and sold in Houston restaurants.

Dr. James Haughton, director of the department, said he expected that many people did not connect their stomach illness with eating raw oysters until they heard news reports of the cases.

One of the 63 people was a woman who purchased raw oysters at a grocery store, soft-fried them at home Wednesday night, and then found herself hospitalized after collapsing at work Thursday. Another person also was hospitalized.

The Health Department Wednesday began "red tagging" oysters distributed by Louisiana Foods Inc. to 27 Houston restaurants. Another Houston distributor, Dutchman's Seafood, told the department Thursday that it also receives oysters harvested in American Bay.

Health inspectors Thursday began visiting the 34 restaurants supplied by Dutchman's, Haughton said.

A reg tag attached to the bags of oysters prohibits their sale until laboratory tests are complete on samples. However, Haughton said that by the time the tests are complete, the large stocks of oysters probably will be too old to sell.

Cholera is a bacterial disease that affects the gastrointestinal tract and often is associated with eating contaminated shellfish. Symptoms include watery diarrhea, fever, occasional vomiting and abdominal cramps.

Mild cases of the disease are common, and the mortality rate is less than 1 percent with proper treatment.

FBI agents, cops thwart plot to rob Brink's truck

United Press International

NEW YORK — More than 500 FBI agents and police, striking in coordinated raids Thursday, arrested nine suspected black radicals and thwarted a plot to free two gang members from jail and rob a Brink's armored truck.

The nine members of the New Afrika Freedom Fighters were seized in the early morning hours Thursday along with sawed-off machine guns, a submachine gun, dynamite, a bullet-proof vest and other weapons and tools police said were to be used in the robbery and jailbreak.

The suspects — five men and four women — were charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery, at their arraignment in U.S. district Court in Manhattan.

Authorities said the group was linked to the bloody 1981 Brink's armed robbery in Nyack, N.Y., and was planning within days the escape of Black Liberation Army member

Donald Weems, convicted in that \$1.6 million robbery and charged in a second Brink's heist.

The group also was planning the escape of former Black Panther Nathaniel Burns, also convicted in the Nyack heist, prosecutors said.

The FBI said it believed the group was plotting to rob a third Brink's armored truck in New York.

"What we have here is a highly organized, dedicated cell of armed bandits," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth Roth.

Roth claimed the nine were "successors" to the Nyack radicals and claimed they were dangerous and would flee if released on bail. A decision on bail was delayed until later in the day.

The women were dressed in suits and the men in sweatshirts and slacks. All remained silent at the arraignment.

Defense attorneys spoke of family dedication and praised educational

backgrounds in seeking release of their clients. The attorneys said three of the defendants are graduates of Harvard, Columbia and Rutgers Colleges, and one writes appellate briefs for the New Jersey public defender's office.

The raids netted an Uzi submachine gun, three sawed-off machine guns — one concealed in a violin case — automatic pistols and two explosive devices composed of five pounds of dynamite each, according to Lee Laster, assistant director of the New York office of the FBI.

Laster said the New Afrika Freedom Front was a black liberation group seeking to form a separate nation in five southern states. They were planning the robbery to finance the new nation, officials said.

"We moved now to avoid any possible bloodshed," said New York City Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward. "Not one shot was fired."

State rep. seeks defeat of Proposition 2

By ROBIN BLACK
Senior Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is the third article in a three part series on Proposition 2.

While officials at universities across the state are painting pictures of gloom and destruction about what happens if Proposition 2 fails in the Nov. 6 election, at least one Texan sees the amendment as an unnecessary burden to taxpayers.

"Proposition 2 is a result of the rivalry between PUF and non-PUF schools," State Rep. Patricia Hill said Thursday.

What the representative is referring to is a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would re-

structure slightly the way the Permanent University Fund is handled and also would set aside a large chunk of state tax revenue to fund state-assisted universities that do not participate in the PUF.

The PUF is an endowment of 2.1 million acres of oil-rich land in West Texas that was established in the state constitution in 1876. The fund is used as collateral for construction bonds.

Income from the land is invested and the profits make up the Available University Fund. The AUF provides about \$150 million each year for A&M and the University of Texas to finance building and renovation as well as certain enrichment programs such as endowed faculty

chairs. The \$150 million is split so that UT receives two-thirds of the money and A&M receives one-third.

Under the proposed amendment, other schools in the A&M and UT systems would be eligible to receive money from the AUF.

Total bonding capacity on the PUF would be increased from 20 percent to 30 percent, and the AUF revenue could be used by the schools with increased flexibility for more academic programs and equipment.

Non-PUF schools — such as North Texas State University and San Angelo State University — would receive similar funding from a special Education Assistance Fund. The fund would be created from

\$100 million in state tax revenue automatically set aside each year.

Hill says the proposition is the result of a long-running feud between PUF and non-PUF schools.

The non-PUF schools feel the revenue from the AUF is handled unfairly since A&M and UT are the only recipients of that money.

"I have no quarrel with the PUF," Hill said. "I think the state was very wise to set it up the way they did 100 years ago. I don't think, however, that the state is now obligated to provide other schools with comparable funding. And I don't think there's any discrimination in the way the PUF is handled."

"The money A&M and UT receive from the PUF doesn't cost tax-

payers anything — that land and its income are already there. The \$100 million they want to set aside straight off the top of the budget is going to come from the taxpayers."

Hill said dedicated funds such as the one proposed in the amendment are a bad idea.

"When you just set aside so much money each year," she said, "it makes it harder to tell where that money is really needed. The schools should have to prove to the state each year why they need the money and what exactly that money will be used for."

Hill also said the \$100 million is See PUF, page 12

Pat Olsen has lived baseball history

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

If you grow up in the United States, names like Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig seem as mythical as Paul Bunyan, Johnny Appleseed and Pecos Bill.

But tales of Cobb, Ruth and Gehrig aren't found in storybooks. They are found in history books. They also are found in the memory of C.E. "Pat" Olsen.

Olsen, a 1923 A&M graduate and the person whose name Olsen Field bears, could fill a book the size of "War and Peace" with tales of Ruth, Gehrig and other baseball greats. He has known many of the historic players and claims to have seen every major event in baseball history.

"I've seen them all," said Olsen, 82. "At the World series you see the

best two teams there are. In the All-Star game you see the best players there are and in the Hall of Fame you see the best of a lifetime."

Last week, Olsen became a part of baseball history when he threw out the first ball of this year's World Series.

When Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth wanted to find an ideal fan to represent the millions of fans who attended baseball games during the 1984 season, American League President Bobby Brown suggested Olsen.

Olsen has seen 241 World Series games — more than half of the 476 games played since the series started in 1903. Olsen and his wife Elsie haven't missed a World Series game since 1946.

Olsen has seen such World Series

highlights as Al Gionfriddo's catch of Joe DiMaggio's bid for a home run in 1947; Gil McDougald's grand slam in 1951; Willie Mays' great catch in 1954; Don Larsen's perfect game in 1956; Bill Mazeroski's series winning home run in 1960; Bob Gibson's 17 strikeouts in 1967; Mickey Lolich's three victories in 1968; the fielding wizardry of Brooks Robinson in 1970; Carlton Fisk's game-winning home run in 1975; and Reggie Jackson's three home runs in the final series game in 1977.

He was there when baseball history was being made.

After ending his All-American pitching career at A&M in 1923, Olsen turned down a \$50,000 bonus from the Chicago White Sox to sign with the minor league club in Des Moines, Iowa. Two months later the

New York Yankees bought his contract.

Olsen signed with the Yankees the same year as Gehrig, but never pitched in a regular season game.

The closest he came was warming up to start in a game against the Washington Senators, but rain postponed the game just before it was scheduled to begin.

Olsen did, however, become close friends with many of the baseball greats. He roomed with Babe Ruth at one time during his baseball career.

Even after Olsen quit baseball, he remained close friends with Gehrig. In 1939, Gehrig visited the Olsens in Clifton only a few weeks before Geh-

See OLSEN, page 4

North Texas twister kills 1

United Press International

MOUNT PLEASANT — A tornado touched down in rural Northeast Texas late Thursday, killing at least one person and damaging farm buildings and power lines in two communities, officials said.

The Titus County Sheriff's Office said the twister touched down in the Argo community northeast of Mount Pleasant, about 130 miles east of Dallas, between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., killing one resident. No identity was available.

The twister also struck the rural Lone Star community, damaging houses, barns and storage buildings, power lines and trees.