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Democrats back state water plan

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The State Democratic Executive Committee has voted to back two proposed constitutional amendments needed to enact a $1.4 billion water plan approved this year by the Texas Legislature.

In a unanimous vote with no discussion, the committee Saturday backed the amendments, which face voter review on the Nov. 5 general election ballot.

Ed Cogburn, resolutions committee chairman, said the plan is "fiscally sound and sensitive to the regional needs of the state."

Also Saturday, longtime state Sen. Oscar Mauzy of Dallas said he will give up his seat next year to run for the Texas Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court has a direct impact on the lives of every citizen of the state and I want to be a part of it," said Mauzy, a senator since 1967.

Mauzy is seeking the Supreme Court seat now held by Democrat Sears McGee. He said he will run regardless of McGee's plans.

Contacted at his Austin home Saturday, McGee said he "definitely" plans to seek re-election.

During his years in the Senate, Mauzy has fought laws he felt could be intrusions on personal freedom, such as wiretapping.

"The Supreme Court is the last repository to protect the rights of the people of this state," said Mauzy.

The committee also heard from other candidates for statewide office, including Houston State District Judge Hugo Touchy, who also wants McGee's Supreme Court seat, incumbent Supreme Court Justice Raul Gonzalez and Victoria Sen. John Sharp, a Railroad Commission candidate.

Waldo — by Kevin Thom

Hansen brought businesslike approach to A&M, Eller says

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Three years ago, Texas A&M was beleaguered by constant turnover of its administrators, political battling among regents and government pressure to recruit more blacks.

That's when the University hired prominent scholar and engineer Arthur Hansen, who school officials say is "just about the best thing" that has happened to Texas A&M.

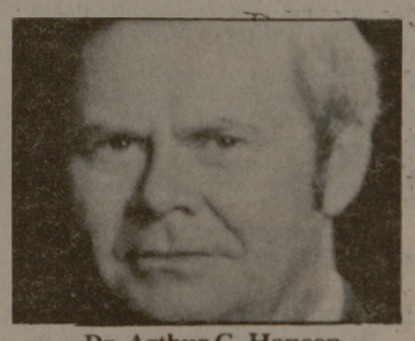
But Hansen, 60, announced last week he will retire in 1986.

"He's brought a businesslike approach to the system," said David Eller, a Houston businessman and chairman of the Texas A&M Board of Regents. "And that's what you need nowadays. You can't run it like you did in 1975, 1970 or 1960."

Hansen was chosen from among 400 candidates to succeed then-chancellor Frank Hubert, who retired in July 1982.

"He's just about the best thing the Texas A&M University System has had in a long time," Eller said.

Hansen previously was president at Purdue University for 11 years



Dr. Arthur G. Hansen

and held the same office at Georgia Tech for three years. He also served on four corporate boards, including International Paper and International Hospital.

Hansen said he took A&M up on its chancellor offer because he welcomed the challenge.

"There was a tremendous potential for the system to move upward, provided it could be redirected wisely," Hansen said. "The chancellor could lay out a future for the A&M system that was exciting."

The university was having internal political problems Hansen stepped in.

Then-Gov. Bill Clements recently appointed three regents of the appointees was chosen chairman and the others seized helm of the board's major committees. Relations between the new old regents were tense.

A&M also had an administ turnover problem — it had through three presidents before rent President Frank Vandiver the job in 1981.

And the federal government pressuring the school to more blacks.

But Hansen quickly took on all fronts, trying — he said run the school like a business in the manner of "someone out to establish a hard line of ity."

Hansen pressed for recruit of more minority students, University now has 500 more and Hispanic students than in

He also convinced regents grade Prairie View A&M Univer

MADD official fired because of testimony

Associated Press

HOUSTON — An official with Mothers Against Drunk Driving was fired because she testified that a woman convicted of causing a fatal traffic accident should remain on probation instead of going to prison, MADD officials said.

Anita Hunt, MADD's state director of victim services, testified last week on behalf of Caryl Pagenkopf.

Pagenkopf, 27, previously was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of Hunt's stepfather, Robert Daigle, who died in a November 1982 traffic accident.

Investigators said a blood alcohol test showed Pagenkopf was intoxicated when she drove head-on into Daigle's car. She was sentenced to 10 years probation and ordered to pay Daigle's family $21,600 in restitution.

Pagenkopf was arrested on a drunken driving charge Aug. 26 and, as a result, State District Judge Woody Densen sentenced her Thursday to 10 years in prison after revoking her probation.

Hunt, saying she represented Daigle's family and not MADD at the hearing, testifed Pagenkopf should be left on probation so she could continue paying restitution.

But MADD state director Marinelle Timmons said the group's board decided after a three-hour meeting Saturday to fire Hunt because of her testimony.

"I really don't feel we choice," Timmons said. "Had vocated probation, Pagenkopf have gotten behind the wheel caused another death. I would want that on MADD's conscience

During the closed meeting refused a request to resign, mons said.

Timmons said Hunt would been allowed to keep her job told MADD officials about the ing.

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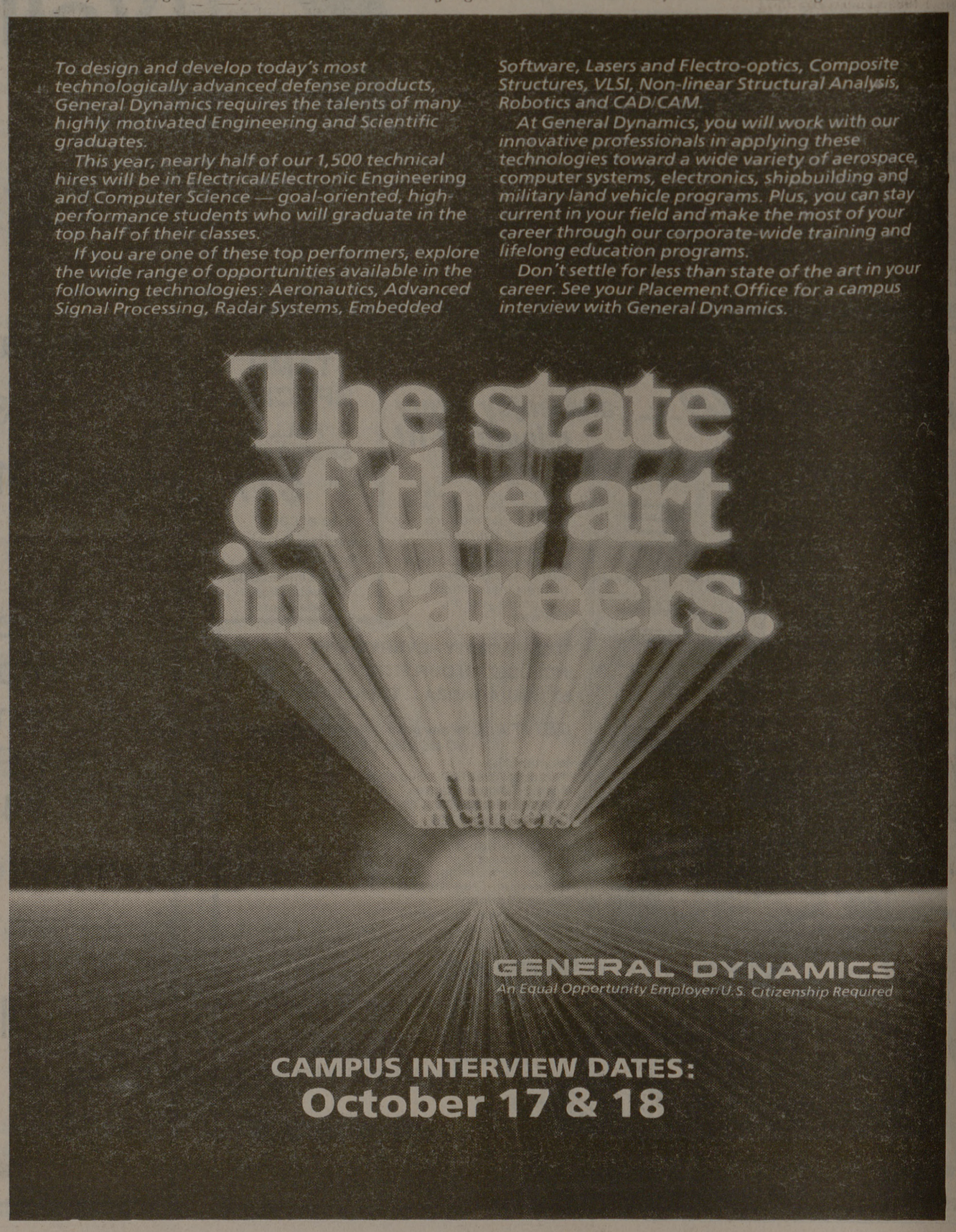
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