



The Texas A&M Battalion

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Straight Slate seeking city council seats

Associated Press

HOUSTON — City Council members touched off a maelstrom 16 months ago when they adopted a gay rights law barring sexual discrimination in municipal hiring.

Incensed, a citizens' group gathered 63,000 signatures to force a referendum and city voters threw out the ordinance. From that emerged the Straight Slate, eight political newcomers running for City Council seats to protect the populace from what they consider the rampant spread of AIDS.

The Straight Slate candidates seeking election Tuesday want food handlers, blood bank personnel and day care workers to be issued health cards indicating they are free of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Having failed to convince the council, they believe they can push through their plan by winning at least eight of 14 council seats. The Houston City Council has 14 members and a voting mayor.

Few of the incumbents targeted by the Straight Slate seem overly worried about losing to the political neophytes, but the AIDS issue inflamed an election already heated by a homosexual controversy in the mayoral race.

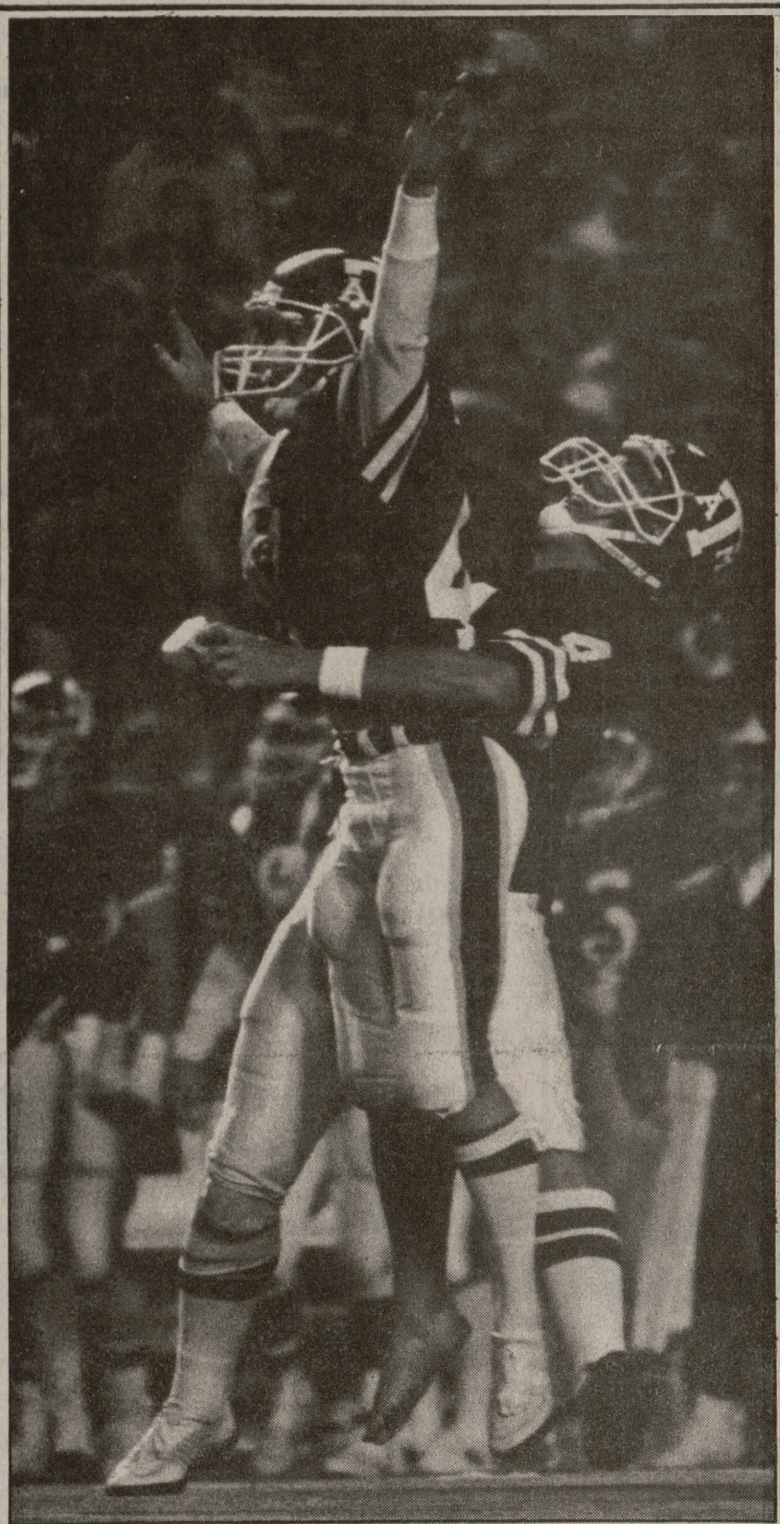
Former mayor Louie Welch has sought to align incumbent Kathy Whitmire with the city's gay community and Whitmire, who supported the anti-discrimination ordinance, has retreated from political links with the gay community.

But when Welch's joking solution to the AIDS problem — "shoot the queers" — accidentally went live before a televised interview, he received death threats and had to have expanded police protection.

The Straight Slate has endorsed Welch, Houston's mayor from 1964-1974, over Whitmire, who is seeking her third two-year term.

"Our main issue is health cards and AIDS," says council candidate O.J. Striegler, a spokesman for Straight Slate.

Striegler said the slate supports the reinstatement of the health cards used to combat tuberculosis in Houston from 1941 to 1978, but with two changes — checking for AIDS and re-testing every six months.



Leap For Joy

A&M punter Todd Tschantz (4) carries kicker Eric Franklin (47) in celebration of the game-winning field goal against Southern Methodist University Saturday. See story page 9.

Photo by BILL HUGHES

U.S. proposes freeze on missiles in Europe

Associated Press

HELSINKI, Finland — The United States has proposed a ceiling on American and Soviet strategic bombers and a freeze on nuclear missiles in Europe as part of a new arms control accord with Moscow, a senior U.S. official said Sunday.

Other key elements of the package now before Soviet negotiators in Geneva include a ceiling of 3,000 on long-range nuclear warheads and no limits on submarine-launched cruise missiles.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there is "compromise" in President Reagan's proposal to overcome what he described as "hookers" — snares — in the plan Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev submitted five weeks ago.

For instance, the ceiling of 3,000 on intercontinental ballistic missile warheads is 500 higher than the initial U.S. position in the Geneva negotiations. It would allow the Soviets to retain more of their land-based missile arsenal, the heart of Soviet nuclear strength.

Gorbachev called for a 3,600-warhead limit on strategic ground missiles, bombers and nuclear submarines.

The U.S. official said that if the Soviets accepted the American package deal, there would be no mobile Soviet strategic missiles or any new heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles added to the superpowers' arsenals.

This presumably would prompt the United States, in return, to scuttle the single-warhead Midget Man, which has stirred complaints by some members of Congress. The Soviet SS-24 missile and SS-25 mobile missile are much more advanced than the Midget Man, which still is on the drawing board.

But the outlook for an early agreement appears dim. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, who is expected to discuss prospects for an accord during two days of talks in Moscow beginning today, told reporters the two sides remain "quite a distance apart."

The main stumbling block is a Soviet demand for a "total ban" on all arms in space. The senior official said Moscow's definition encom-

passes all U.S. attempts "to counter objects in space." It is aimed at stopping Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, which envisages using futuristic technology in space to intercept and destroy attacking missiles.

After a rest stop here, Shultz leaves for Moscow Monday morning to discuss preparations for the Nov. 19-20 Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting with Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Gorbachev.

Shultz made a courtesy call Sunday on President Mauno Koivisto and Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen. Finland is neutral in East-West disputes.

The ceiling on heavy bombers proposed by Reagan is 350, the official said. They could carry up to 1,500 air-launched cruise missiles. By U.S. count, the Soviets now have

375 Backfires, Bisons and Bears. The United States has 263 B-52s.

Gorbachev's call for a total of 6,000 nuclear "charges" lumped bombers in with all kinds of nuclear weapons, from potent globe-girdling missiles to mines.

American and Soviet intermediate-range missiles in Europe, meanwhile, would be frozen at 140 under the U.S. proposal. This would require a reduction of 103 Soviet SS-20 missiles and no reductions by the United States in the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles deployed among NATO allies.

However, the United States would not build up to the 572 total approved by NATO by 1988.

The U.S. quota would include 108 Pershing 2 ballistic missiles and 32 low-flying, pilotless cruises. But, the official said, U.S. negotiators were prepared to "discuss the mix" with the Soviets.

Voters to decide fate of Texas water plan

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Officials predict only 11 percent of the state's voters will go to the polls Tuesday to vote on a variety of issues, including a \$1.43 billion statewide water development and conservation plan.

State lawmakers debated and negotiated the plan for much of their 140-day legislative session in 1985 before finally sending the issue to voters.

Legislative leaders and the governor are behind the plan, on the ballot as Amendments 1 and 2.

A Gulf Coast senator and some environmentalists oppose it, while others, including the Sierra Club, remain neutral.

Amendment 1 would authorize issuance of \$980 million in bonds for construction of reservoirs, pipelines, treatment plants and flood-control projects statewide.

It also would create a \$250 million state insurance fund to guarantee water bonds issued by cities and other local government units,

enabling the local governments to sell their bonds more easily.

Amendment 2 would authorize another \$200 million in bonds, with the proceeds financing low-interest loans to farmers who buy water-saving irrigation equipment.

A separate law that would take effect only if the amendments pass would place conservation requirements on cities seeking state aid for water projects and would provide for special local districts to control groundwater pumping.

The new law also would restrict reservoir construction near Gulf Coast bays to protect fish and shellfish that depend on rivers to carry freshwater and nutrients to the sea.

"It's a far better plan than none at all, and it's probably better than we're likely to get in the future," Gov. Mark White said. "It provides for (environmental) protection of the bays and estuaries that no prior plan has."

LSG: schools haven't felt full effect of tuition hike

By FRANK SMITH
Staff Writer

A report issued last week by the Legislative Study Group says the full effects of the Texas Legislature's decision to triple the tuition rate at state universities are yet to be felt.

However, the report does cite the enrollment decline and drain on financial aid at Texas A&M as initial consequences of the tuition increase here and warns of the possibility of future legislative attempts to generate more state revenues at the expense of students.

The enrollment data at A&M shows decreases in each undergraduate class. The combined totals for both graduate and undergraduate students show a loss of 1,152 students, which represents an overall decline of 3.13 percent.

A&M did gain minority students.

Black enrollment increased 9.8 percent from 601 to 660 students and Hispanic enrollment rose from 1,688 to 1,788 students.

The report attributes these increases to an added emphasis on minority recruitment at A&M.

The LSG analysis also examines the larger percentage reduction of students successfully making the freshman-to-sophomore transition this year.

Freshmen entering A&M in Fall 1983 numbered 7,142. By Fall 1984, this class had 6,206 students — a 13.11 percent decrease. The 7,276 freshmen who entered in Fall 1984 saw their ranks shrink to 5,730 this semester — a 21.25 percent decrease.

The report does not fully attribute the additional 8.14 percent reduction in students making the freshman-to-sophomore transition

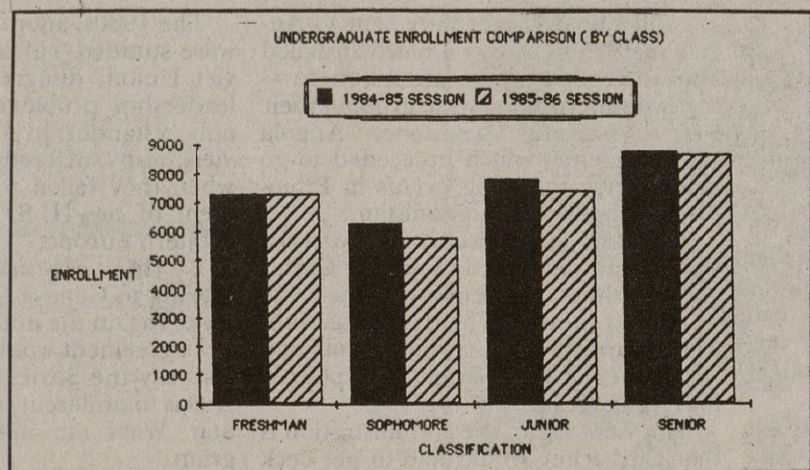
this year to the tuition increase. However, it does say other conditions that would contribute to student attrition remained relatively stable for both classes.

Also, the report observes that sophomore-to-junior and junior-to-senior transitions were stable.

"By the time a student has reached the upper-division level, a great deal of money and time have been invested toward his education," the report says. "The impetus exists to find additional means of support to remain in school."

"With the undergraduates, this commitment is generally not as pronounced and as a result other alternatives to attending A&M are explored."

Another topic studied was the availability of financial aid to students affected by the tuition increase.



The LSG advocated all tuition revenues be spent only for higher education. A second preference was to set aside 25 percent of the tuition revenue as financial aid.

Alan Moore, LSG public information coordinator, said, "The LSG said, '(If you) raise our tuition, let's keep it in higher education.' And then it eventually became, 'Well, let's keep at least 25 percent of it in higher education so we can still go to school.'"

The Legislature opted to include a provision within House Bill 1147 (the tuition bill) to set aside 15 percent of all resident tuition to be used for financial aid. Twenty percent of that 15 percent was designated as an Emergency Loan Fund. In addition, 5 percent of non-resident tuition revenue was set aside for financial aid.

The LSG report says all of these funds have been allocated for the semester.

The LSG analysis also examines

See Tuition-hike, page 12

Poll to be located in MSC

State elections are Tuesday, and Texas A&M students registered to vote in Brazos County can go to the polls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Students should bring their voter registration card and vote at the precinct indicated on their card, said County Clerk Frank Boriskie.

"It's best to have your voter registration card with you," Boriskie said. "But, if you don't have it you can check with the registrar's list and your name should be on the list if you are registered to vote in Brazos County."

Voter registration clerk Tracy Smit said approximately 6,500

A&M students are registered to vote in Brazos County.

Many students are registered in precinct 20 and can vote in 228 Memorial Student Center. Other polling places include precinct 21, the Hensel Park Apartments; Precinct 9, the College Station Community Center; precinct 10, the College Station Police Station; precinct 34, the College Station Central Fire Station; and precinct 35, the College Municipal Building.

Campus election coordinator Jennifer Noyt said this year marks the first time a precinct has been located on campus for a constitutional amendment election.

Charity meets 25 percent of goal

By RICHARD PEARCE
Reporter

Despite the good weather Sunday afternoon, turnout for the second annual CROP Walk to fight Brazos Valley and world hunger was lower than expected.

Organizers of the walk said they had expected 1,000 walkers and hoped to raise \$20,000.

Final count, said walk treasurer William Wilkinson, showed they had met only one-fourth of their goal.

CROP Walk turnout disappointing

After the figures had been totaled, 240 walkers had participated and \$5,722.83 in pledges had been received.

"We thought participation from campus organizations alone would amount to a couple of hundred walkers," the Rev. Bill Youngkin, pastor of Friends United Church of Christ and coordinator of the walk said.

Donations to the Brazos Food Bank, which walkers had been asked to bring to benefit the Foodshare

Program, also proved disappointing. "We filled only three boxes," said Mike Stecher of the food bank. "But that is more than we had before."

Even though the showing was not impressive as was hoped, organizers of the walk are grateful.

"Yes, I was a little disappointed, but we did three times what we made last year," Rev. Youngkin said. "Wish we had a few more (people). We didn't go backwards, but a few steps forward, and that is what counts."

The first Brazos Valley walk in 1984 had 100 participants and raised \$2,700.

"We expected a few more people, but we think the bad weather of the previous days discouraged a few from coming," KKYS radio disc jockey and celebrity walker Donna Biantie said. "We are pleased with the results of this walk not only because it is a significant increase of walkers and money raised from last

See CROP Walk, page 12