

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Rolling With The Punches

Joe Kendrick, a sophomore general studies major (left), throws a punch Thursday at his partner Bruce Hartweg, a junior ge-

physics major. The two were attending a self-defense class taught by the Texas A&M Self-Defense Club.

Photo by John Makely

## Reagan tries to halt reports on hostages

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Thursday tried to quell reports that his administration helped win release of three hostages held in Lebanon by aiding the transfer of defense supplies by Israel to Iran.

Israel, with the blessing of the White House, shipped Iran spare parts and missiles for U.S.-made F-4 jet fighters as well as parts for American-made C-130 planes, radars and other war supplies, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Reagan, asked by reporters whether he had a deal with Iran, said: "No comment, but could I suggest an appeal to all of you with regard to this, that the speculation, the commenting and all on a story that came out of the Middle East... one that to us has no foundation, that all of that is making it more difficult for us in our effort to get the other hostages free."

Later, White House spokesman Albert Brashear refused to specify which story Reagan meant when he said it had "no foundation."

"I'm just not going to comment on what he was referring to, which stories might be factual and which are not," Brashear said. "I just can't do that right now because it would be dangerous for me to do so."

Reports of the deal began appearing after the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hashemi Rafsanjani, said in a speech Tuesday that former

White House national security adviser Robert McFarlane had visited Tehran, had been confined to his hotel room and then expelled. McFarlane carried a message from Reagan, Rafsanjani said.

The White House has declined to comment on Rafsanjani's remarks, and McFarlane told reporters in Cleveland Thursday that he could not offer any specifics.

According to reports published Thursday in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post*, administration officials began working with Israeli authorities 18 months ago to arrange top-secret deliveries to Tehran of U.S. arms desperately needed by Iran in its see-saw war with Iraq.

The shipments, made with the personal approval of Reagan, began last year and led to the release of

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## Pre-registration set for Monday

Pre-registration for Spring 1987 begins Monday, as graduate students and seniors get the first opportunity to make use of Texas A&M's new telephone registration system.

Students must register during their designated times, or they will not be permitted to register until the open registration and drop-add periods.

Phone lines will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 10 through Dec. 20, and Jan. 7 through Jan. 9.

Phone lines will be open Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Jan. 12 through Jan. 23 for open registration and drop-add.

The registration schedule for the Spring is as follows:

- Nov. 10-15, graduate students and seniors.
- Nov. 17-22, juniors.
- Nov. 24-29, sophomores.
- Dec. 1-6, freshmen.
- Dec. 18-20, open registration and drop-add.
- Jan. 7-9, open registration and drop-add.
- Jan. 12-16, open registration and drop-add.
- Jan. 19-23, open registration and drop-add.

## GSU says it could fold without rate increases

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Gulf States Utilities Co. could go bankrupt in March without emergency rate increases from Louisiana and Texas, company officials said in documents filed with a federal agency.

Bill Benedetto, a spokesman for the utility, said GSU would be the first investor-owned utility to go bankrupt since the Great Depression.

The filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission marked the first time the utility set a date for possible bankruptcy.

By federal regulations, utilities must keep the SEC abreast of their problems.

GSU has been saying it needs \$100 million in emergency interim rate increases in both states to be able to borrow the additional \$200 million it needs to meet interest and

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— GSU President E. Linn Draper Jr.

cash payments that come due in the first week of March.

Should it become necessary for the company to seek protection under the Bankruptcy Code, many uncertainties exist, GSU wrote to the SEC.

"There is substantial risk that a bankruptcy filing would adversely affect the shareholders' abilities to exercise their corporate rights and

privileges, and there can be no assurances that any equity would survive for the benefit of shareholders," GSU wrote.

"Purchasers of preferred and preference stock should take such matters into account as well."

Benedetto said that if the emergency rate increase is granted by the Public Service Commission, residential rates in Louisiana would increase by about \$8 per month or 27 cents per day.

He said the average residential customer in GSU's Louisiana service area now pays \$65 per month for electricity.

This summer, GSU filed a \$202 million full rate increase request with the PSC and since has filed the emergency interim request.

GSU will file a similar rate increase request in Texas this year, Benedetto said.

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He said, "GSU's financial problems are caused by three major factors: economic depressions in Texas and Louisiana, federal regulations which prompted the company to build the \$4.3 billion River Bend nuclear plant and residential rates that have been frozen in Louisiana since 1982."

Benedetto said that GSU has tried to cut its costs by eliminating 200 job positions, giving early retirement to

more than 300 employees, eliminating dividends on common stock and restructuring its debt.

GSU President E. Linn Draper Jr. said in a press release, "Our cost-cutting efforts have helped reduce our cash shortfall."

"However, cost reductions alone will neither solve nor eliminate the shortfall."

"We cannot finance our way out of this problem. There is no chance of raising the funds we need without reasonable rate relief."

Public Service Commissioner Louis Lambert has criticized GSU for not doing everything possible to cut its debt and to raise money. Lambert has given GSU a list of things it can do to raise money, including foregoing payments on preference stock, selling some of its assets outright and selling and leasing back some of its other assets.

## McIlhane files lawsuit over letter mailed to voters

By Olivier Uytendaele  
Staff Writer

A former College Station mayoral candidate has filed suit against the owner of a local advertising agency, whom she says produced a letter saying negative things about her and mailed it to voters in the days before the April 1986 election.

Lynn McIlhane's suit also names unknown members of an organization called Citizens for a Better College Station as defendants for its part in creating and distributing the letter.

According to the suit, the letter constitutes a violation of the Texas Election Code because it doesn't properly identify the individuals who paid for the letter. For this reason, the letter constitutes an improper use of campaign funds, the suit says.

Pete Tucker, the owner of Absolute Advertising and the only defendant identified by name in the suit, says McIlhane knows who was responsible for creating and mailing the letters. He also says he thinks he has been singled out unfairly.

Tucker said he was never paid for printing and mailing the letter. When the letter became controversial, the people who originally agreed to pay for it denied having anything to do with it, he said.

Tucker said he was advised by his lawyer, Travis Bryan III, not to name the individuals who hired him to print and distribute the letter.

At the time of the elections, Larry Ringer, McIlhane's challenger, had an account at Absolute Advertising. Ringer said he knew nothing of the letters.

McIlhane says she has no certain idea who is behind the letter. "If Mr. Tucker feels he's being singled out, he's in the driver's seat," McIlhane said. "He's the one who claims he was only doing his job. Then let him say who he worked for."

The suit, filed Oct. 29, also named the State of Texas as an interested party and a copy of the suit will be served to Attorney General Jim Mattox's office. The suit notes that persons found in violation of the Texas Election Code are liable to the state for a sum of money equal to three times that involved in the violation.

Tucker responded that since he wasn't paid for the letter, he can't be held liable by the state for any amount of money.

McIlhane said she was not aware that her lawyer, Austin attorney Randall B. Wood, had named the state as an interested party in the suit. She said her motivation in filing the suit is to set a standard for community elections and ensure fair tactics are used in future elections.

## Millions eligible to remain in U.S.

# Reagan OKs immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, signing into law the most sweeping immigration reform in more than 30 years, expressed hope Thursday that the measure will preserve "one of the most sacred possessions of our people — American citizenship."

Millions of illegal aliens may become eligible to remain in the United States legally under the act, approved in the waning days of the 99th Congress after years of political wrangling.

But sponsors of the measure have expressed fears the complex law may trigger an administrative nightmare.

Reagan, before signing the measure, noted that illegal immigration should not be seen as a problem between the United States and its neighbors.

Some opponents of the measure had argued the bill would prompt widespread discrimination against such groups as Hispanics.

With nearly two dozen lawmakers and administration officials standing behind him, Reagan used four pens to sign the two-inch thick bill during a brief ceremony in the Roosevelt Room.

For aliens who have been living in the United States illegally since before 1982, the bill contains an amnesty provision that will enable them to obtain temporary legal residency. That can be converted to permanent residency status after 18 months for those who can demonstrate a minimal understanding of English and some knowledge of U.S. history and government.

Officials do not know how many people will fit in that category but expect several million applications.

Under the measure, the government changes hiring practices across the country by requiring all employers to verify that newly-hired employees are legal U.S. residents.

And those caught hiring illegal aliens will be subject to tough new penalties — a system of civil fines and criminal prosecutions that could

result in prison terms for habitual offenders.

Officials also must administer a new program for thousands of migrant foreign workers who enter the country to harvest perishable fruits and vegetables.

Rep. Peter Rodino, D-N.J., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and long-time proponent of immigration reform, said the law means employers know there is a

penalty for hiring illegal aliens.

The employer sanctions would be phased in after a six-month education period. The following year, first offenders can be issued warning citations, and repeat offenders would become subject to \$3,000 to \$10,000 fines for each illegal alien they hire.

Those who make it a practice to hire undocumented workers could face up to six months in prison.

## Future of arms control, summits in doubt

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze failed Thursday to make headway toward curbing nuclear weapons and left the future of arms control and superpower summits in doubt.

Shultz told reporters after his five hours of talks with Shevardnadze over two days: "I can't say that the meetings have moved arms control matters along in any significant way and I regret this."

Shevardnadze said he was returning to Moscow with a bitter taste after being confronted with "a mixed bag of old mothballed views and approaches."

Summing up the meetings, which took place while Shevardnadze and Shultz were in Vienna for a conference on human rights and East-West relations, one senior U.S. official said: "It was a bust."

Another senior U.S. official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said there would be no further high-level sessions until the Soviets indicated a willingness to negotiate constructively.

Shevardnadze said another superpower summit will depend on further contacts. He said talks will be continued. Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev agreed last November to a meeting with President Reagan in Washington this year.

Shultz said the subject never came up in his talks with Shevardnadze.

Speaking of efforts to reverse the arms race, Shultz said: "This is a long-paced negotiation, I'm sure, and it has its rhythm... The pace cannot be forced by either party."

U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva are to recess next week until January. Shultz offered to have U.S. and Soviet experts meet in the interim, but Shevardnadze apparently did not accept.

A package of U.S. proposals, reflecting the tentative arms reduction accords reached in last month's Iceland summit, were presented last week to Soviet negotiators.

U.S. officials said the Soviets have not responded to the proposal package. Shevardnadze, at an airport news conference, said the Soviets would put forth new proposals Friday at Geneva. He said the proposals would be guided by the positions reached at Reykjavik.

A senior U.S. official said he expected no change in basic Soviet positions.

The official said the Soviets would again demand testing of "Star Wars" technology be limited to laboratories, abolishing all strategic weapons by 1996, and an end to U.S. development of short-range nuclear weapons to be used for Western Europe's defense.