

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Aquino fires Cabinet after failure of coup

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino fired her entire Cabinet, including controversial Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, after the army foiled a coup attempt Sunday by dissident officers and political foes.

Aquino credited army chief of staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos with taking "preventative measures against the recklessness of some elements in the military."

She warned that stern measures would be taken if anyone tried to un-

dermine her nine-month-old government.

The president also accused the communist rebels, who have waged a 17-year insurgency, of showing no interest in peace and said she would end negotiations if a cease-fire is not reached this month. Enrile and other critics accused her of being soft on the rebels.

Aquino spoke over national television.

Ramos issued a statement confirming that politicians loyal to de-

posed President Ferdinand E. Marcos, backed by "some elements in the military," had planned to set up a rival government. He said the situation was under control.

He did not identify plotters or mention Enrile. The defense chief, who served under Marcos but helped oust him last February, has been increasingly critical of Aquino.

A senior government official said the plot involved taking over the National Assembly, reinstating the pro-Marcos National Assembly abolished

by Aquino and calling presidential elections.

The official, who demanded anonymity, said more than 100 members of a military faction identified with Enrile were in on the plot, with the coup to begin at 2 a.m. Sunday. The government learned of it at 10 a.m. Saturday, he said.

Troops loyal to Aquino surrounded radio and television stations in Manila and elsewhere Saturday, and tightened security at the presidential palace.

On Sunday, after holding a lengthy Cabinet meeting, Aquino announced on television that she had asked all Cabinet members to resign.

She said Enrile complied, and she immediately swore in his replacement, Deputy Defense Minister Rafael Ilo.

Ilo, 66, later met with officers of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, who, like Enrile, wanted a tougher line taken against communist insurgents.

"He (Ilo) asked for unity and we

said yes," said Col. Gregorio Honasan, Enrile's security chief.

Enrile refused to see reporters who gathered outside his home at a fashionable suburban village, but sent out his daughter, Katrina.

She said Enrile "is taking it very well," and added, "We've waited for this day for such a long time," referring to her father's leaving government after more than two decades.

Ilo told reporters he did not think there would be "a reaction" from pro-Enrile soldiers.

Bombing kills 112 Iranians

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraqi warplanes bombed two western Iranian cities Sunday, killing 112 civilians, Iran reported. It vowed to retaliate by shelling Iraqi cities.

Iraq confirmed it bombed the cities, Bakhtaran and Islamabad Gharb. It said the targets were an air base, an oil refinery and military camps.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said the attack killed 98 civilians and wounded others in Bakhtaran, also known as Kermanshah. It said 25 houses were destroyed or badly damaged.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Iraqi bombs killed 14 people and destroyed eight houses in Islamabad Gharb, also known as Shahabad.

War information headquarters in Tehran said Iranian forces would shell Iraqi cities "in retaliation for the savage Iraqi air raids," IRNA reported.

The Iraqi News Agency said squadrons of Iraqi jets bombed the two cities and left "the targets on fire and covered with smoke."

The state-run agency, monitored in Nicosia, said two civilians were wounded by Iranian shelling Sunday in the city of Khanaqin 100 miles northeast of Basra.

The two sides have been at war since September 1980. Their battle claims can rarely be verified since the combatants do not as a rule allow independent observers into war zones.



Skinhead

A member of the TCU marching band performs his rendition of "Farmers Fight" at the A&M-TCU football game Saturday. Several of the musicians

donned rubber skull caps and yelled, "Hey, we're skinheads, too" while doing the yell. The Aggies defeated TCU 74-10.

Photo by Greg Bailey

Legislators seek joint laboratory for sea research

By Mona Palmer

Assistant City Editor

and

Sondra Pickard

Senior Staff Writer

State Sen. Chet Brooks told the Texas A&M Board of Regents Friday that he and other representatives from Galveston are working on a proposal to create a "window to the sea" laboratory and research institute at Galveston.

The institute would be a consortium including the A&M University System, the University of Texas System and possibly other higher education components, he said.

He added that the response from the Select Committee on Higher Education has been favorable.

In a letter Brooks circulated to the Regents, he said the Maritime Academy mission at A&M at Galveston must be preserved as a natural base and resource for the new institute.

He added that the Galveston university could be a significant force in the state's economy but its undergraduate program must be strengthened.

"Since 1981, there have been no new course offerings, primarily because of opposition of the Coordinating Board (of the Texas college and university system)," Brooks said.

Brooks cited a new program, computer science for maritime studies, that was approved by the Regents. The Coordinating Board has not even permitted the item to come up on its agenda, he said.

Regent William McKenzie of Dallas said the Galveston university is having problems that can't be ignored and cited decreased enrollment and roadblocks from the coordinating board. But, he said, the

Regents support the university and want it to grow.

He agreed that a complete maritime program won't "cut the mustard" and that the university's program needs to expand to include other areas of study.

"There's no thought by this board to do away with the program," he said, "but we need to enhance it and make it grow."

"We want to continue that school. We have a solid investment down there."

After Brooks' presentation, the Planning and Building Committee convened to discuss construction projects for the University System.

Gen. Wesley E. Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, addressed two projects slated for the A&M campus.

A representative from a Houston architecture firm introduced a preliminary design for the new Computer Science and Aerospace Engineering Building. The design was a seven-floor building and included an underground floor which would house laser laboratories and wind and water tunnels.

The total cost for the project was estimated at \$11.1 million.

Peel also addressed the Duncan Dining Hall renovations which have a projected cost of about \$5 million. The bid for the project was awarded to Hill Constructors, Inc. of Houston at a low bid of \$4 million.

Duncan will close officially Monday at noon, he said, and will remain closed until renovations are completed next fall.

Peel assured the Board that the project would be completed within

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Student hurt in hit-and-run accident

By Mike Sullivan

Staff Writer

A man who was hit by a car while he was driving a motorcycle on campus early Sunday morning was listed in critical condition with a skull fracture at Herman Hospital in Houston Sunday night, Texas A&M's director of security and traffic said Sunday.

Bob Wiatt said Richard H. Cutrer Jr., 21, was hit on Bizzell Street while driving a friend's 1985 Honda motorcycle at about 1 a.m. Sunday by a car driven by a high school senior from New Braunfels.

Quoting from the police report on the case, Wiatt said the 17-year-old girl, who was visiting a friend at A&M, was arrested and later charged with driving while intoxicated and failure to stop and render aid and was taken to the Brazos County Jail at about 2 a.m.

Witnesses told University Police that a car

pulled out of Parking Annex 24 onto Bizzell Street and ran into Cutrer, who swerved to avoid the crash, Wiatt said.

Wiatt said the girl and her passenger, Deborah Zimmerman, a 21-year-old student at A&M, did not stop after they hit Cutrer, and University Police had to locate them based on descriptions of the car given by witnesses.

Wiatt said the girl drove to the parking lot by Mosher Hall, and she and Zimmerman went to Zimmerman's dorm room in Krueger Hall.

"Based on witnesses' descriptions of the car, our officers found it and then located the girl and her student friend," Wiatt said.

He said the girls told officers that they knew they had hit something but kept driving.

"They (Zimmerman and the girl) said they heard 'thump, thump, thump' but they didn't know what it was and just kept on going," Wiatt said.

Wiatt said Zimmerman and the girl told offi-

cers that they had been drinking at a local bar and that they also had been drinking with some friends at a friend's house.

Wiatt said the A.P. Beutel Health Center ambulance took Cutrer to Humana Hospital in Bryan, and he was then taken to Herman Hospital.

He said police still hadn't determined where Cutrer was from, and they hadn't been able to contact the owner of the motorcycle he was driving late Sunday evening.

Betty Kolsta, a relative of Cutrer's who was at the hospital, said Cutrer is not a student at A&M, but she said she thinks he was living and working in the Bryan-College Station area.

Kolsta said Cutrer, who was not wearing a helmet when he was hit, is unconscious and in an intensive care unit.

"It's a live or die situation right now," she said. "We won't know anything for the next 72 hours."

HSE plans to broadcast Aggie bonfire

University News Service

The Aggie bonfire will have a potential audience of a quarter of a million viewers this year when broadcast via satellite to a five-state area on the Home Sports Entertainment cable network.

The broadcast, a cooperative effort of HSE and Texas A&M's public television station, can be seen by viewers in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico who subscribe to HSE, as well as by local viewers on KAMU-TV, Channel 15. It will air at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Crowds numbering up to 40,000 have been on hand at Duncan Field to watch the blaze. In addition to the actual lighting, the hour-long HSE presentation will include interviews with Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill, members of the football team, students involved in building the bonfire and various University administrators.

Help may be around the corner for chronic bores, scientists say

NEW YORK (AP) — Researchers are studying an acute social disease whose victims at one time or another afflict almost everyone around them: bores.

The scientists are looking at why some people are boring, in what ways they can be boring, and just how boring they can get. They've even established a "boringness index."

Among other things, their studies suggest that, to those who have to listen to them, people who complain about themselves and mutter trivialities are worse than people who overuse slang or try too hard to be nice.

They also found that boring conversation tends to include more questions and utterances like "Uh-huh," with fewer statements of fact or self-disclosure, than more interesting talk.

The experiments are among the first in an area that could lead to help for "chronically and excessively boring persons," the researchers wrote in the November issue of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

"We're all boring sometimes and we're all interesting sometimes (but) some people are more boring than others," said Mark Leary, assistant

psychology professor at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., co-author of the report with three students.

The work may sound tedious but it's "a first step in a whole new direction that we need to know more about," said Harry Reis, psychology professor at the University of Rochester in New York.

The experiments were based on a survey of undergraduate students and analyses of brief conversations between undergraduates who had just met.

More work will be needed to see if the conclusions apply to other kinds of people and situations, Leary said.

In one experiment, 42 students suggested 210 tiresome things other people do that bore them, which researchers distilled into 43 themes for a second survey of 297 students.

That survey found that the most boring behaviors were banality, such as talking about trivial or superficial things or showing interest in only one topic, and "negative egocentrism," which essentially meant complaining about oneself and showing disinterest in others.

The least objectionable behaviors were "boring ingratiation," or trying to be funny and nice to impress oth-

ers, and a mixture of distracting behaviors such as going off on tangents or overusing small talk or slang, such as:

"Hey wow, man, this was far out, it was too cool," Leary said in a telephone interview.

"It gets a little old," he said.

A second study focused on five-minute conversations between 52 pairs of strangers.

Transcripts were reviewed by 12 undergraduates who rated a randomly chosen person in each conversation for boringness. That person's conversation also was studied for grammatical form and communicative intent, and the results compared to his "boringness index."

You might get tired of people who talk on and on and on, but the study found that more boring people tended to talk less. In addition, their conversation tended to have higher proportions of questions and of simple acknowledgements that they were listening, such as "uh-huh."

"They were not reporting their own feelings and attitudes and opinions as much as the less boring people were," Leary said. And they made fewer statements of fact, he said.

Board nominates first male since '84 as Battalion editor

By Olivier Uyttebroeck

Staff Writer

Loren Steffy, Fall 1986 Opinion Page editor, was nominated for *Battalion* editor for Spring 1987 and is the first male to be nominated for this position since 1984.

The Student Publications Board, which is composed of three students, three faculty members and an administrator, chose Steffy, whose nomination must be approved by Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver.

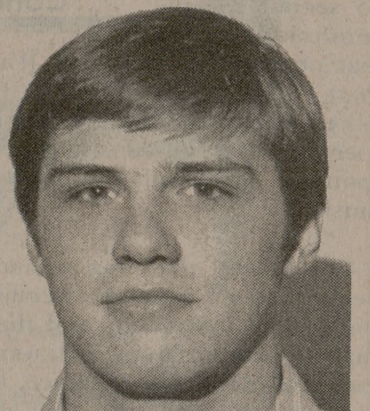
Steffy has been Opinion Page editor for *The Battalion* for the last one and one-half years. He was first hired as a columnist in December 1984.

Steffy brings devotion to the job. He's always up at the newsroom — talking to callers (usually irate letter writers), typing something into a terminal, telling a story or combing through one of the many publications he reads.

Steffy replaces Cathie Anderson on Dec. 11. He graduates in December, but will take spring classes.

Steffy, who will serve as editor through May, says he doesn't think any major changes are in order.

"I think that one of the problems we always have is that everyone blusters into this position with sweeping changes in mind," he says. "I think one of the best things that could happen is that we didn't have any sweeping changes. I think there's a certain amount of continuity you've got to strive for."



Loren Steffy

Steffy says that since five editors will be leaving the paper at the end of the semester, this continuity is necessary.

"One of the problems is the turnover," he says. "The way that always manifests itself is that everyone comes in and wants to change everything. I think we really just need to tone up the things we already have going for us — if you don't build on what you've already established, you don't make any progress."

One of his criticisms of *The Battalion* is that there's too much emphasis on event coverage and not enough long-term issue awareness.

"We might do a really good job of covering things when they first happen, but then we'll do a lousy job of follow-up," he said. "That's something that I'd like to see improved."