

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

## The Umbrella Brigade

Spectators attending final review on Saturday sported umbrellas of varying shapes and sizes to protect themselves from the scorching sun

and sweltering humidity. Temperatures reached 82 degrees but the humidity was 51 percent, making the outdoors a bit unbearable.

## Faculty Senate elects officers, OKs plan for transferring credit

By Lee Schexnaider  
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate elected its officers and approved a resolution that would change A&M's treatment of transfer credit at its meeting Monday afternoon.

Dr. C. Richard Shumway, an agricultural economics professor and Senate secretary, was elected as the new speaker, defeating his opponent, Dr. Leonard D. Ponder, 43-34.

Dr. B. Don Russell, an associate professor of electrical engineering, was elected deputy speaker over Dr. John H. Wormuth of the College of Geosciences by a vote of 50 to 29.

A&M's Dr. Gary E. Hart, professor of genetics and soil and crop sciences, defeated Dr. Walter L. Buenger, associate professor of history, for the position of secretary-treasurer. Hart won by a vote of 54 to 20.

Senators elected to the Executive Committee include Ponder; Wormuth; Buenger; Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, head of the humanities department; Peter S. Rose, finance professor and Dr. William H. Bassichis, associate professor of physics.

The Senate also approved a resolution changing the way transfer credit is handled at A&M. The resolution proposes to put transfer grades on the same basis as courses taken at A&M on a

satisfactory-unsatisfactory basis. A grade of C or higher would be needed in a course for it to transfer.

Current University policy holds that students must have a passing grade in a class to transfer it from an accredited university and a minimum grade of C to transfer it from a non-accredited public college in Texas.

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— Dr. Peter J. Hugill, academic affairs committee chairman

Dr. Peter J. Hugill, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented the resolution to the Senate. Hugill said the aim of the original resolution sent to Vandiver was to make sure courses that received a D at other institutions would not be accepted as transfer credit.

"President Vandiver returned (the resolution) to the Senate with the claim that (the policy) meant unfair treatment," Hugill said. "We, as Academic Affairs Committee, looked back at that and realized that in the catalog it says that if you take work on a satisfactory-unsatisfactory basis at

Texas A&M University, you must get a grade of C or better to be counted as satisfactory.

"In effect, the D is the same as an F — it counts as unsatisfactory. So we felt there was considerable discrepancy between our position and the president's position. So we tried to find a compromise."

Hugill said the compromise was to ensure that transfer work would be credited according to the same criteria as courses taken on a satisfactory-unsatisfactory basis.

Hugill said Tuesday that the main concern of the bill is with grades from junior colleges.

"Essentially, if you look at the grade point ratio, it isn't very good," he said. "They are not being vigorous in their academic standards. We are not happy with those standards. Some classes at junior colleges have 50 percent A's. This is bad for A&M's reputation."

Another issue before the Senate was whether to discontinue the mining engineering and safety engineering degree programs. Memorandums from the engineering department cite low enrollment as the justification for the programs' withdrawal.

Dr. Brann Johnson, associate professor of geology and geophysics, said the mining engineering program had been deleted from the University catalog before any official action was taken to discontinue it.

## Research assistant: A&M may benefit despite rejection of supercollider site

By Carolyn Garcia  
Senior Staff Writer

In the Texas race for the superconducting supercollider, Dallas and Amarillo crossed the finish line together, while Burleson County — Texas A&M's runner — was left at the starting gate.

Rather than a single site, a state commission decided Tuesday to choose two sites to offer Gov. Bill Clements.

If Clements accepts the proposed sites, final proposals will be sent to the U.S. Department of Energy, which is expected to announce the \$6 billion atom smasher's address in January 1989.

The Texas National Research Laboratory Commission chose Dallas unanimously by a voice vote, but had to cast ballots to decide between Austin and Amarillo.

The Burleson County site was eliminated Monday.

In its quest to become a "world university," Texas A&M University was looking to add to its already bulging research portfolio. John Millhollon, assistant for research park development, said that although the enormous atom smasher won't be built in A&M's back yard, the University still will benefit if the DOE chooses Texas to house the project.

"It was really a disappointment," Millhollon said. "It would have meant more to A&M if it were 30 miles away rather than 150, but we will still benefit from it. I am sure the University will still support it. It would have been better if it were

## Commission picks 2 areas to propose as project sites

AUSTIN (AP) — A state commission chose sites outside Dallas and Amarillo Tuesday to pitch as potential Texas homes for the lucrative "supercollider" project.

The Texas National Research Laboratory Commission chose the site south of Dallas that rings Waxahachie by unanimous voice vote, but it had to take a ballot vote to decide between Austin and Amarillo for the second choice.

"The Dallas proposal and the Austin proposal are very similar in my view," commission chairman Peter Flawn said. "The Amarillo proposal, on the other hand, offers a different kind of site, a West Texas kind of site, if you will."

Steve Howerton, chairman of the Dallas-Fort Worth Superconducting Super Collider Authority, said, "We're ecstatic. The site won on its technical merits."

Howerton said many "God-given things," such as a major airport and the area's amenities, led to commission's top choice. The proposals are

closer, but I don't see support dropping because of the locality."

Although the proposal for the local site offered a lucrative incentives package — \$591 million over 20 years — the site was rejected. The

to be shipped to the U.S. Department of Energy by Aug. 3.

Earlier Tuesday, four of six finalists in statewide competition for the \$6 billion atom-smashing project made their final bids before the commission.

A debate in the Legislature over how many sites should be selected was settled Tuesday morning with a measure ordering the panel to choose at least two. The other finalists also agreed to rally behind those that were selected.

The group proposing the site near Amarillo told commissioners to consider choosing "an attractive smaller city" instead of two big cities. "In the beginning God created this site for the SSC," Amarillo National Bank President Richard Ware said.

Amarillo Mayor Glen Parkey said, "They may have concluded (that) to submit Austin and Dallas-Fort Worth would have been a single entry." He added that Amarillo was aided by data it collected on its site's geology and estimated costs.

absence of a major airport, the presence of relatively poor geological conditions and potential problems with land acquisition contributed to the commission's decision to eliminate the Burleson County site from

from the race.

Wherever the giant facility, which will be the world's largest and most powerful atom smasher, finally is built, the location will enjoy research and financial growth, Millhollon said.

The facility, 52 miles in circumference, will cost no less than \$4.4 billion to build, will create approximately 2,500 permanent jobs and will have an annual operating budget of \$250 million.

Although A&M will not be able to enjoy having the facility built in Burleson County, it will continue striving to be a world-renowned research institution, Millhollon said.

"It would have been a big benefit for A&M — there's no doubt about it," he said. "When you think you're good enough and start to feel complacent, you start to deteriorate. Some of those universities we've passed up are going to be looking at us, to see what we're doing and how we're doing it."

"Quality is the key factor. The project would have been something that would have contributed to excellence in scholarships and research. It would have been a great boon for the University."

The Texas A&M University Research Park would have experienced growth had the supercollider been built in the local area, he said.

"There is a smaller collider just outside of Chicago and the road running between Chicago and the research site has become a major thoroughfare lined with high-tech and research businesses," he said. "I think we (the research park) would have gotten some support from it."

## Former adviser accepts blame for deception

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former National Security Adviser Robert C. McFarlane, conceding memory lapses and "some tortured language," said Tuesday that if anyone is at fault for misleading Congress about the Iran-Contra affair, "I am."

McFarlane, testifying under oath for the second full day at the House-Senate hearings, was asked in various ways whether there had been a cover-up after the outlines of the affair became public last Nov. 25.

In one highly personal, dramatic exchange at the end of the day, McFarlane was asked by Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, D-Md., if some of his responses to Congress in past years about compliance with a ban on U.S. military aid to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels "were overstated."

"I think that's true," McFarlane said.

"In all of this, who or what were you trying to shield or protect?" Sarbanes asked.

After a pause, McFarlane said, "Very likely myself, my reputation, my own record of performance."

Sarbanes persisted, "And only that?"

"I believe, Sen. Sarbanes, that President Reagan's motives and direction to his subordinates throughout this enterprise has always been in keeping with the law and national values," McFarlane said. "I don't think he is at fault here, and if anybody is, I am."

In general, though, McFarlane parried close questioning, such as that conducted for most of the day by John Nields, counsel for the House committee.

In other developments:

• At the White House, Reagan was asked about his possible involvement in seeking foreign financial support for the Contras while a congressional ban on U.S. military aid was in effect. "I've said that I'm not going to answer any questions on those things until this (investigation) is over" the president told reporters during a picture-taking session with Republican congressional leaders. "If I were going to answer any questions, I'd say, 'No.'"

• Later in the day, Reagan, receiving a medal for his efforts on behalf of democracy in Latin America, declared, "We must remember that in Nicaragua the freedom fighters' fight is our fight." He commented before being presented the Gold Insignia of the Pan American Society, made up of executives from companies that do business in Latin America.

• McFarlane, a former Marine officer, defended his former National Security Council aide, Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, after being asked why he did not rein North in. "I'm afraid that in the past two days, that Ollie is really getting a bum rap," he said.

• The hearings opened Tuesday with news that one mysterious aspect of the tangled affair might have

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— Robert C. McFarlane, former national security adviser

been solved. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Senate committee, announced that investigators had accounted for a missing \$10 million that the Sultan of Brunei donated to the Nicaraguan rebels at the request of the Reagan administration.

The money was deposited into the wrong Swiss bank account, Inouye said, apparently by mistake, and the bank involved has filed criminal charges seeking the return of the money. He declined to name the person who received the money.

After that, Nields began his cross-examination of McFarlane, whose testimony is considered important because of his almost daily contact with Reagan from October 1983 through December 1985 while McFarlane was the president's national security adviser. McFarlane worked closely with North and with Rear Adm. John Poindexter, who succeeded McFarlane in his White House post.

McFarlane, under questioning from Nields, denied that he, Poindexter and North have adjusted their stories to say they were unaware that Israel was shipping U.S.-made missiles to Iran in November 1985 as part of a plan to gain the release of U.S. hostages.

A chronology that all three contributed to, prepared for use by White House officials last November, said the shipment contained oil drilling parts rather than weapons.

## Records: Texas prisons among worst violators of wastewater laws

DALLAS (AP) — The Texas prison system is one of the state's worst violators of laws against polluting public water, state and federal records show.

At many of the 27 prisons operated by the Texas Department of Corrections, discharges of millions of gallons of raw or poorly treated water have spilled from sewage treatment plants, livestock feedlots and other facilities into rivers, records show.

The streams receiving the wastes include portions of the Trinity and Brazos rivers that are used as drinking supplies downstream from the prisons.

In some cases, the Dallas Morning News reported Tuesday, the water was discharged even though the department had no state or federal permits to dump it. Also, discharges have contained levels of pollutants far exceeding limits specified in permits.

"(The TDC's) primary job is incarcerating the criminals who have done the rest of us bad," said Myron Knudson, director of the water division of the Environmental Protection Agency's office in Dallas. "And they've let a lot of things slip in wastewater treatment."

Faced with budgetary constraints and a teeming convict population, TDC officials say they are trying to improve sewage-treatment deficiencies.

Robert E. Petty, assistant direc-

tor for prison construction said, "We've had problems. I'm not going to tell you that everything operates 100 percent correctly."

Yet despite years of documented pollution violations at state prisons, only recently have regulators taken steps to force the department into compliance with state and federal laws.

An enforcement report prepared in March by the water commission staff listed chronic violations, some dating back years, at a half-dozen prison units.

About 150,000 gallons of wastewater daily have spilled into a branch of the Trinity River from the meat-packing plant at the Coffield Unit in Anderson County for at least the past year, EPA and water commission records show.

At the Beto II unit in Anderson County, a levee broke on a holding pond in July 1983, causing 200,000 gallons of sewage to pour into the Trinity, endangering fish, according to records.

The water commission report said the TDC could be fined up to \$176,000 for the violations, but the staff recommends the fine be waived because it would impose a financial hardship on the agency.

The enforcement report also recommends the department be ordered to make improvements at sewage treatment plants throughout the prison system so that they will be in compliance with state standards.