

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Soviets aid Afghans with troops in battle

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Soviet troops rushed in just nine miles west of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, to shore up Afghan forces besieged by anti-Marxist guerrillas, Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

In southeastern Afghanistan, they added, the heaviest fighting of the nine-year war has reduced to rubble the provincial capital of Kandahar, once the country's second-largest city.

In Moscow, visiting United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday that he and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have agreed that negotiations on a solution to the Afghan situation might be concluded soon. Perez de Cuellar did not go into details. U.N.-sponsored negotiations in Geneva recessed in March and no date was set for resumption.

Diplomatic sources in Islamabad, demanding that they not be identified further, said that Islamic insurgents have closed in on the town of Paghman, just west of Kabul.

The rebels are fighting government forces and their Soviet backers. Outside observers are rarely allowed inside Afghanistan and verification of war claims is not possible as a rule.

Afghan militia and security forces suffered heavy losses in a guerrilla attack last Wednesday on Paghman and Soviet reinforcements arrived 48 hours later, the sources said.

Diplomats in Islamabad said first reports since that

Soviet deployment described massive artillery barrages and destruction of orchards, vineyards and houses throughout the area.

They said many people fled to Kabul to escape indiscriminate shelling by about 90 Soviet guns. Soviet helicopters were reported ferrying troops and equipment from Kabul but not attempting air strikes, apparently for fear of guerrilla surface-to-air missiles.

Diplomats in Kabul said the Kabul-Paghman road was under government control only two hours a day.

Various sources, including travelers, said Kandahar was without electricity, water and telephones most of last week. Guerrillas are using sophisticated U.S. and British anti-aircraft missiles and shot down up to nine Soviet and Afghan aircraft in the third week of June, the sources said.

Diplomats and other observers said the Soviet-Afghan air threat was sharply curtailed after insurgents received U.S.-made Stinger heat-seeking missiles last fall.

The Hezb-I-Islami, a major mujahideen group fighting to oust the Marxist government and turn Afghanistan into a Moslem state, said guerrillas shot down 16 Soviet planes and seven helicopters throughout the country in the first two weeks of June.

Reports from Kandahar say the Soviets began bulldozing guerrilla strongholds in the suburbs and widening roads in the center to allow use of tanks and armor.

Caperton sees success in opening government

By Robert Morris
Staff Writer

For the last six years, Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, has worked toward opening the doors behind which many public administrators have conveniently hidden.

Last Thursday marked the successful completion of that effort.

Beginning Sept. 1, the strengthened Open Meetings Act, which was signed into law by Gov. Bill Clements, will help make government more accountable to the public.

The openness issue isn't new. Efforts to add muscle to the law began in 1977. Caperton's involvement came in 1981 as a freshman senator.

"I became convinced that there were many loopholes in the open meetings law as it was written and

that it needed to be strengthened," he said.

Caperton stressed the importance of the new law.

"I feel that it's very important that we promote openness at all levels of government," he said. "I think that's essential to a democracy."

Under the current law, governmental bodies are allowed to meet in private sessions to discuss a variety of matters.

While the new law doesn't change the criteria for calling a closed meeting, it does require certified agendas or tape recordings at all such meetings.

The tapes or agendas could be made available to members of the public who challenge action by a governmental body, and any action taken by public officials who violate the law could be voided.

The focus of the bill is to "ensure that we only have discussions going on that are exempted legitimately under the act," Caperton said.

Early on, the state universities provided heated opposition to the bill; however, they eventually testified in favor of it, he said.

Further opposition came from several areas, including cities, counties and school boards.

"They felt like it was too much of a burden on their local units of government to have to comply with these requirements," Caperton said. "My answer to that was that that's one of the prices we have to pay for serving in a democracy."

While the bill was widely supported by both Democrats and Republicans, Caperton said Gov. Bill Clements was not a factor in the passage of the legislation.

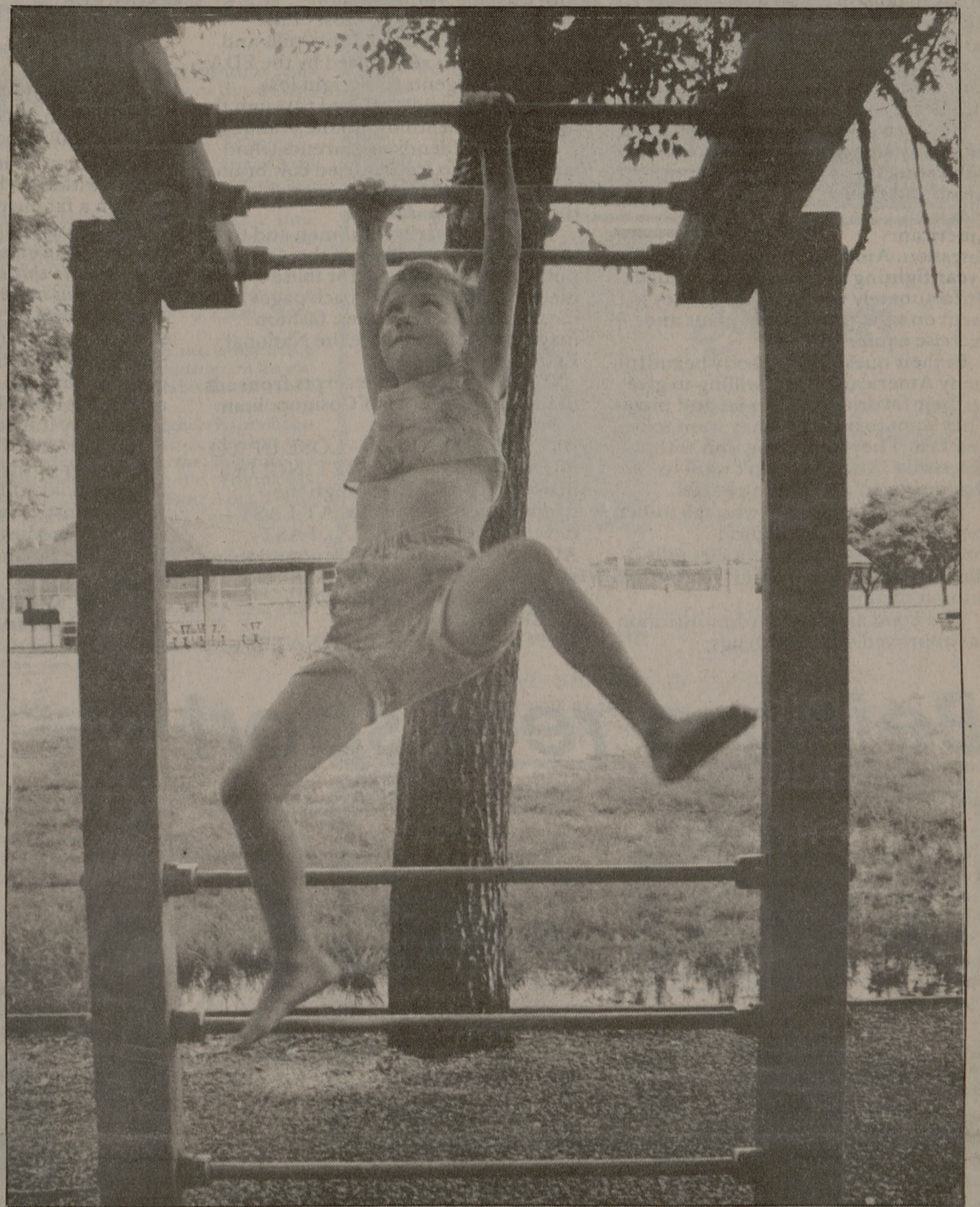


Photo by Sarah Cowan

Monkey Business

Polly O'Brian, 6, swings on the monkey bars at Thomas Park Tuesday morning, while the Swim-

For-Diabetes swim-a-thon takes place. O'Brian's brother and sister were also at the park.

Vandiver: Passage of bill will hurt efforts to recruit faculty

By Kirsten Dietz
Senior Staff Writer

Outstanding faculty will be difficult to retain and recruit if the Texas House gives final approval to a bill temporarily cutting the state's contribution to the faculty retirement plan, Texas A&M officials said Tuesday.

"Every time you turn around, the Legislature seems to be saying to the higher educational world, 'We love you, but we're not going to pay you very much. You're going to have to stay here on faith,'" A&M President Frank Vandiver said. "That's fine, but I think people have been staying here on faith for several years. When they get better offers from other states and their plate here is a little thinner, they're going to go where they can eat and get more money. How do you fight that if you don't have the treasury

to back it up?"

Dr. Clinton A. Phillips, A&M's dean of faculties and associate provost, said, "That isn't how you treat your faithful servants."

The House gave preliminary approval Monday to a bill that would save \$24.4 million by temporarily cutting the state's contribution to the Optional Retirement Plan, which covers about 90 percent of the state's college faculty members. The bill was opposed and criticized by some House members, including Richard Smith, R-Bryan, and Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, chairman of the House higher education committee.

Smith said he opposed the bill because it defeats the purpose of the ORP, which is to compete with other states in recruiting outstanding faculty. The state is working at cross purposes by raising faculty salaries and cutting retirement benefits, he said.

The bill, sponsored by Ed Kuempel, R-Seguin, still faces a final House vote before it can be sent to the Senate.

Currently, the state contributes 8.5 percent of a faculty member's annual salary to the retirement fund. The bill would lower that contribution to 7.5 percent until Sept. 1, 1989, when it would revert to 8.5 percent.

The bill also requires faculty members to keep their jobs for three years before becoming eligible to get their money out of the system. They now wait one year.

The Personnel and Welfare committee of A&M's Faculty Senate will meet Thursday to draft a resolution protesting the temporary measure. It will be presented as an emergency resolution at the Senate's July 13 meeting.

Speaker C. Richard Shumway said the

when the 69th Legislature took similar action.

"You cut the fringe package and it causes a real impediment to hiring outstanding people," he said. "It's one of those things we'll live through. There are worse things that could have happened. But it doesn't convey a consistent commitment to higher education."

Phillips and Vandiver agree. "It (the cut) will be taken as symbolic of the attitude of the Legislature toward faculty and state employees generally," Phillips said. "When you impair a person's retirement program, that's bound to be interpreted very badly by the people affected, even though it's temporary."

Vandiver said, "I think the message going out to higher education on yet one more front is that the state is saying all the

right things and then cutting the monetary support. They're not putting their money where their mouth is. And that bothers me because we're having serious recruiting and retention problems, which are both intertwined heavily.

"I understand the state's problems and I sympathize with the Legislature, but my problem is that I have part of the state's objectives in my purview and I can't meet my objectives without help from the state treasury."

If the bill goes to the Senate, a spokesman for Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, a member of the education committee, said the bill probably will be defeated. Caperton opposes the bill, she said, for the same reason Smith did — faculty cannot be attracted or retained if benefits are cut while salaries are raised.

New summer finals schedule devised to ease dorm-student moving woes

By Yvonne DeGraw
Staff Writer

At first glance, the finals schedule for the first summer session appears to be a big inconvenience.

Students who take 8 a.m. classes may learn new material in the morning that will be covered on the final exam that evening.

Other students don't have it much better. Their finals start at 8 a.m. the next day. Both faculty and students are sure to dislike giving and receiving finals on a Saturday.

But a second look shows this to be much better than the Horror That Could Have Been.

Finals for the first summer session were originally scheduled for Monday, July 13 — the day after students living on campus for a single term are required to move in or out.

Allison Kruest, president of the A&M chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary, proposed the revised schedule last summer after watching the diffi-

Class Time	Exam Time
8-9:30 a.m.	July 10, 7-9 p.m.
10-11:30 a.m.	July 11, 8-10 a.m.
12-1:30 p.m.	July 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
2-3:30 p.m.	July 11, 3-5 p.m.

culties other students had with the schedule.

She says first-term-only students are required to move out of their rooms by noon on Sunday, July 12, so that second-term students can move in beginning at 5 p.m. the same day.

Her letter attracted the attention of the Academic Operations Committee last fall. The committee has 15 members, most of whom are associate and assistant deans from the various colleges, according to Registrar Donald

Carter.

The original schedule would have required some students to study while others were moving out, he says. Many students would have had to juggle finals and finding a place to sleep.

There are 1,650 students living on the Texas A&M campus this summer, according to the housing office.

Carter says the AOC approved the proposal last October, but the registrar's office failed to amend the summer schedule of classes

when it went to press in March.

His office has sent several memos to inform students and faculty of the change.

The revised schedule of finals for the first term of the summer session is as follows:

Friday, July 10 at 7 to 9 p.m.

classes meeting 8 to 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 11 at 8 to 10 a.m.

classes meeting 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 11 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

classes meeting noon to 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 11 at 3 to 5 p.m.

classes meeting 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The finals schedule for the second term and the 10-week semester have not been changed.

Kruest says she is happy with the changes.

"All it took was that one letter," she says.

"Students really need that two-day break, especially during the summer when things move so

quickly," she says.

New list of candidates for Supreme Court job sent to key senators

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration presented the names of about a dozen possible Supreme Court nominees to key senators Tuesday. The Senate Judiciary Committee chairman said some potential nominees would sail through, but others would be in for "a very hot summer" in the Senate.

Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., said he and Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd held blunt discussions on the list with Attorney Gen. Edwin Meese III and White House chief of staff Howard Baker.

Earlier, Meese and Baker discussed the list, about a dozen people, with Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas and Strom Thurmond, ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee.

Biden told reporters after the 45-minute meeting, "Clearly, there are some on there who I believe would go through like a hot knife through butter."

Others, he said, have "hard edges, with ideologically honed points of

view." For them, Biden said, it "would be a very hot summer and a very hot fall."

Biden said the two presidential emissaries met with the two majority party officials because "they truly wanted a sense from the chairman of the committee and the leader of the Senate if any problems would arise. A congressional source, speaking only on condition he not be identified, said the list included Judge Robert Bork of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. A staunch conservative and advocate of judicial restraint, Bork has been considered the favorite for the nomination.

The source said other names on the list included Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah; Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala., a conservative and former state Supreme Court chief justice; and federal appeals court judges: Richard A. Posner of Chicago, J. Clifford Wallace of San Diego, William Wilkins of Columbia, S.C.; and Patrick Higginbotham of Dallas.