

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Superpowers report progress at meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze reported progress Tuesday toward an arms control pact that could be signed at the next superpower summit meeting.

Shultz said there was "some progress" in talks between U.S. and Soviet experts, while Shevardnadze declared, "I think we are now

discussing all these questions more constructively than previously."

They met for nearly five hours over the day, with talks ranging over Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, human rights and other issues.

"This is a step forward," Shevardnadze said in describing their talks on nuclear weapons. He said he was "looking with optimism" upon prospects for a summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

In Moscow, meanwhile, the official news agency Tass quoted Gorbachev as saying that a treaty eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles could be worked out this year by the superpowers, and an accord to cut strategic weapons was possible early next year.

Gorbachev said a treaty eliminating U.S. and Soviet medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles is "possible and realistic."

"The Soviet Union is proceeding from the premise that a relevant treaty could be worked out before the end of the current year," he said.

Gorbachev made the upbeat statement in an article released shortly after midnight Wednesday as Shultz and Shevardnadze met to work out the details of an arms treaty.

Cautiously, however, Shevardnadze also told reporters "there are some points we have to work on a little more" before a treaty to ban U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range missiles is nailed down.

"It is, for the time being, difficult to speak about results," he said. "We are engaged in a very serious, profound, businesslike discussion of very urgent issues."

The talks are expected to wind up sometime after noon today. Shultz will then hold a news conference at the State Department. Shevardnadze scheduled a 4:30 p.m. session at the Soviet embassy.

The State Department spokesman declined to say if any of these goals were met.

## Severe winds, rains cause heavy flooding on University campus

By Elisa Hutchins  
Staff Writer

Heavy rains and high winds Wednesday night caused severe flooding in buildings, damaged cars in several parking lots and activated several intrusion alarms around the campus, including one for the president's house, Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic, said.

Unofficial rainfall statistics at TX-TV, Channel 3 in Bryan, estimated rainfall at the station at 1.76 inches between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. with wind gusts around 40 knots.

Six to 7 feet of water filled staff parking lot 57 next to the Zachry building at N. Bizzell Street and caused a three-car pile up.

One of the car owners involved, George Brown, an industrial engineering graduate student, said his 1980 Chevrolet Impala floated in the parking lot wall.

A 1981 Volkswagen Rabbit received most of the damage, he said. It ended up next to mine and then a 1985 Mercedes Benz floated on top of the hood.

Brown said no one was hurt and the car and the Rabbit were water-damaged and towed from the lot.

Two chemical engineering students, Richard Hess and Naynesai, swept out water from the ground floor level of the Zachry building. Hess said there was no damage to equipment and that the building would remain open.

Most of the ground level rooms in the Blocker Building were flooded.

Academic Computer Center manager Larry Bowles said, "Water came in from the front doors. People were cleared from the center around 8:15 p.m. because although only a small amount of water was on the floor at the center, there was a possibility of electrical shock."

Center student-worker Rick Troth said there are 130 micro-computers valued at \$1,500 each and a main frame computer valued at \$300,000 in the center. None of the computers was damaged by the flooding.

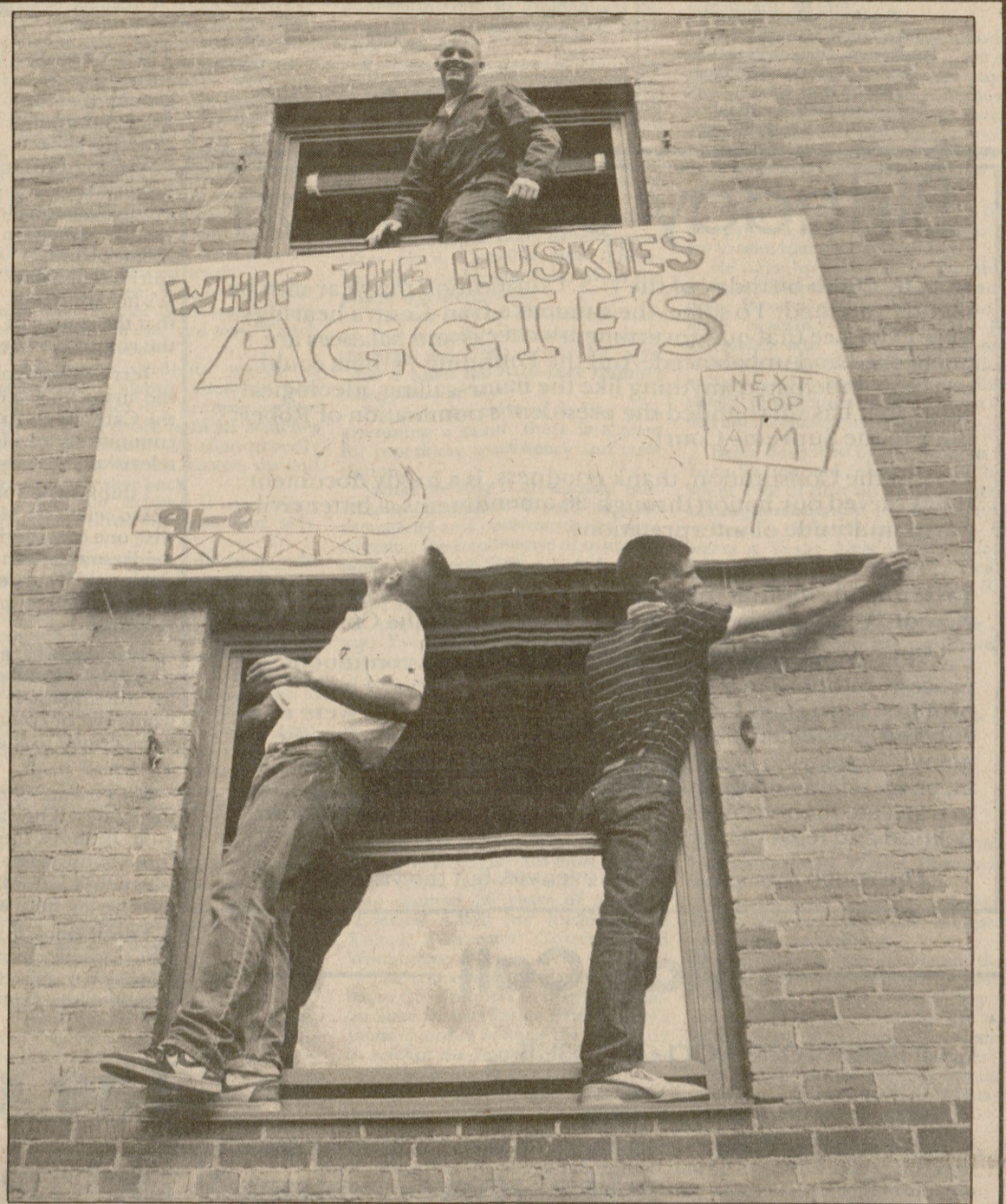
Elsewhere in the building, a seven-member crew began clean-up at 10:30 p.m. in 14 classrooms that received extensive water and mud.

Troth said water came in through the front because the drain clogged with leaves and water built up in the low lying area.

Another student-worker said the lower levels of the building flooded last year, but that this was much worse.

Bowles said, "We had a lot of help from workers who barricaded the center doorways so water wouldn't damage the computers. They were quick thinking and saved a lot of equipment."

Tony Lapaglia, area maintenance foreman for the Physical Plant, said they would be cleaning up the water and mud all night so that the building will be usable in the morning.



Sign of the times

Freshmen cadets of Squadron 3 hang a spirit sign outside Dorm 1 for the upcoming football game between the Aggies and the Washington Huskies.

Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Brad Fuqua of Houston handles the top of the sign while Jack Sile, left and David Scanlon, right, both from San Antonio, check the bottom.

## Bork defends position on Watergate in hearings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Bork, parrying attacks on his integrity by Democratic senators, Wednesday he acted honorably and bravely in 1973 when he fired special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

In a dramatic retelling of what Bork led "an enormous governmental crisis," he said that as soon as Cox was dismissed, "I promptly acted to safeguard the special prosecution. I understood from the beginning my moral and professional lives were at stake if something happened to the special prosecution force."

Questions on what has become known as the Saturday Night Massacre marked an interruption in attacks — soon to resume — on Bork's political and judicial ideology as opponents sought additional grounds to defeat his confirmation.

Until his nomination last July, Bork was best known by the general public for his actions the night of Oct. 20, 1973.

That Saturday night, Nixon ordered Cox fired when the Harvard professor insisted the president surrender White House tapes to the special prosecutor's office. In quick

succession, then-Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned, his top deputy, William French Smith, was fired after refusing to dismiss Cox, and Bork, the third-ranking Justice Department official, carried out the president's order.

Bork, noting he has frequently explained his role in the Cox firing before, revealed Wednesday that he rejected a White House request in the summer of 1973 to resign his Justice Department post of solicitor general to become Nixon's chief defense lawyer.

He said he persuaded then-White House

Chief of Staff Alexander M. Haig that "I was not the right man for the job," — and that Nixon indicated he harbored no hard feelings about the rejection.

Bork acknowledged, as some critics have charged, that he did not "instantaneously" move to replace Cox with a new special prosecutor.

He said that initially he and others in the Nixon administration thought Cox's deputies could do the job of pursuing the Watergate investigation.

"We realized the need to appoint a new

one because the American people would not be mollified without one," he said.

Responding to pointed questions from Democratic Sens. Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware, Bork denied he ever weighed any actions that would abort the Watergate investigation.

Bork said that White House officials were taken aback by the resignations of the top Justice Department officials and the public outcry that followed.

## State funds of \$21 million recovered

AUSTIN (AP) — State officials announced Wednesday that all of the \$21 million in state money that was improperly deposited in unsecured accounts in a British West Indies bank has been recovered.

Attorney General Jim Mattox said Texas American Bank of Fort Worth, trustee for the Texas Housing Agency, had assumed responsibility for the final \$2.8 million that was still unrecovered and had deposited that amount in the agency's account.

"We don't want this to happen again," Mattox told a news conference. "State money cannot be risked and foreign business should not be allowed to profit from Texas taxpayers' money."

The wayward \$21 million came from bonds issued by the housing agency for use in home loan programs. The agency had intended for the money to be invested in certificates of deposit in various San Antonio financial institutions.

Instead, the money was deposited with Equity Continental Bank Ltd. of Montserrat, British West Indies. Not all the agency's money was secured while it remained with Equity Continental, officials said.

## LSG addresses laws affecting University

# Legislative group lobbies for students

By Drew Leder  
Staff Writer

With enrollment exceeding 39,000 this semester, the students of Texas A&M make up a sizeable interest group in Texas.

Every student is affected by legislation that comes out of Austin, but determining what laws are in students' best interest can be difficult.

This is what the Legislative Study Group at A&M attempts to do.

The LSG, comprised of student volunteers, represents A&M students in the Texas Legislature by identifying important student issues and lobbying positions advocated by A&M's Student Senate.

During the last session, which lasted from Jan. 1 to May 31, the LSG got involved with the following legislative issues, succeeding in five of the six positions it supported:

- **Student government** Working in cooperation with the Texas Student Lobby — the representative group from the University of Texas — the LSG lobbied for the defeat of a bill that would have allowed college students to vote every four years on whether to abolish their student government.

The bill, which died without a formal hearing in either the House or Senate, would also have made cer-

tain student service fees optional — including, for example, the fee allocated for the production of a student newspaper.

Carolyn Foster, administrative director of the LSG, says the group's position against the bill was "in the interest of student government," as well as "for self-preservation."

- **Tuition rates** The LSG also worked for the defeat of a bill that would have taken the authority to raise the tuition at Texas colleges and universities away from the Legislature and put it in the hands of the governing boards of the schools.

The final version of the bill signed by the governor allowed the governing boards to set graduate tuition rates, but not undergraduate rates, which remain at the discretion of the Legislature.

Foster calls the compromise "a major accomplishment."

- She says the authority to set tuition should be in the hands of elected officials, not with board members who are mostly upper-class and are sometimes out of touch with students.

The LSG still believes the power to set all tuition rates should not rest with the governing boards, Mark Browning, the group's director, says.

The group is looking for ways to get the graduate tuition authority re-

turned to the Legislature, Browning says.

- **Hazing** A bill backed by the LSG, which later became law, spells out exactly what is considered hazing and stiffens penalties for those participating in or failing to report a hazing incident.

According to the law, consent by the person being hazed is not a defense in a hazing incident.

Foster says this law clears up uncertainty in the definition and treatment of hazing incidents.

- **Student services funding** The LSG also lobbied successfully for the removal of an amendment from a bill that would have prohibited funding from student service fees for groups advocating the passage or defeat of legislation.

Had this amendment not been removed, A&M and other higher education facilities in the state would not be allowed an official student representative group in the Legislature.

- **Student security deposits** Testifying before the Senate Jurisprudence Committee, the LSG attempted to have legislation passed that would have required landlords to keep security deposit funds in an account separate from general operating funds, preventing them from being used to satisfy debts in the case of bankruptcy.

This legislation was initiated by the LSG after a 700-unit apartment complex in Bryan-College Station went bankrupt in 1984.

Some students living in the complex were forced to wait several months for the return of their security deposits.

The bill was passed by the Senate but died in the House.

The LSG originated and began lobbying for issues it deemed relevant to A&M students in 1979 and officially became a part of Student Government in 1982.

It receives about \$300 a year from student service fees, most of which is used to cover office expenses, Browning says.

The LSG also gets a stipend from the Association of Former Students of between \$500 and \$1,000 a year to cover traveling expenses.

Foster says the objective of the LSG is to be "a constant voice in Austin relevant to students' everyday lives."

The LSG works closely with state legislators and student groups from other universities.

It also may testify before House and Senate committees.

Although the LSG spends a good deal of time lobbying for issues, Browning says this is not the primary work done by the group.

"Research is what it's all about," he says.

Before any lobbying is done, the issues are thoroughly researched and sometimes ideas are solicited from political science professors on how best to present a position to the Legislature, Browning says.

The members' work can involve talking with legislators, helping groups from other universities with presentations or giving testimony before legislative committees, he says.

The LSG must receive authorization from a state representative to advocate a position before the Legislature, Browning says.

Usually the group looks to local state legislators for support, he says.

The LSG currently has eight members, but hopes to get about 15 more this semester, Foster says. Most of the group's past members were political science majors.

This semester, the LSG expects to look into income contingent loans for students and a law that requires education majors to work full-time one semester as unsalaried student teachers. The law doesn't allow education majors enough time to take other jobs to help pay school expenses, Browning says.