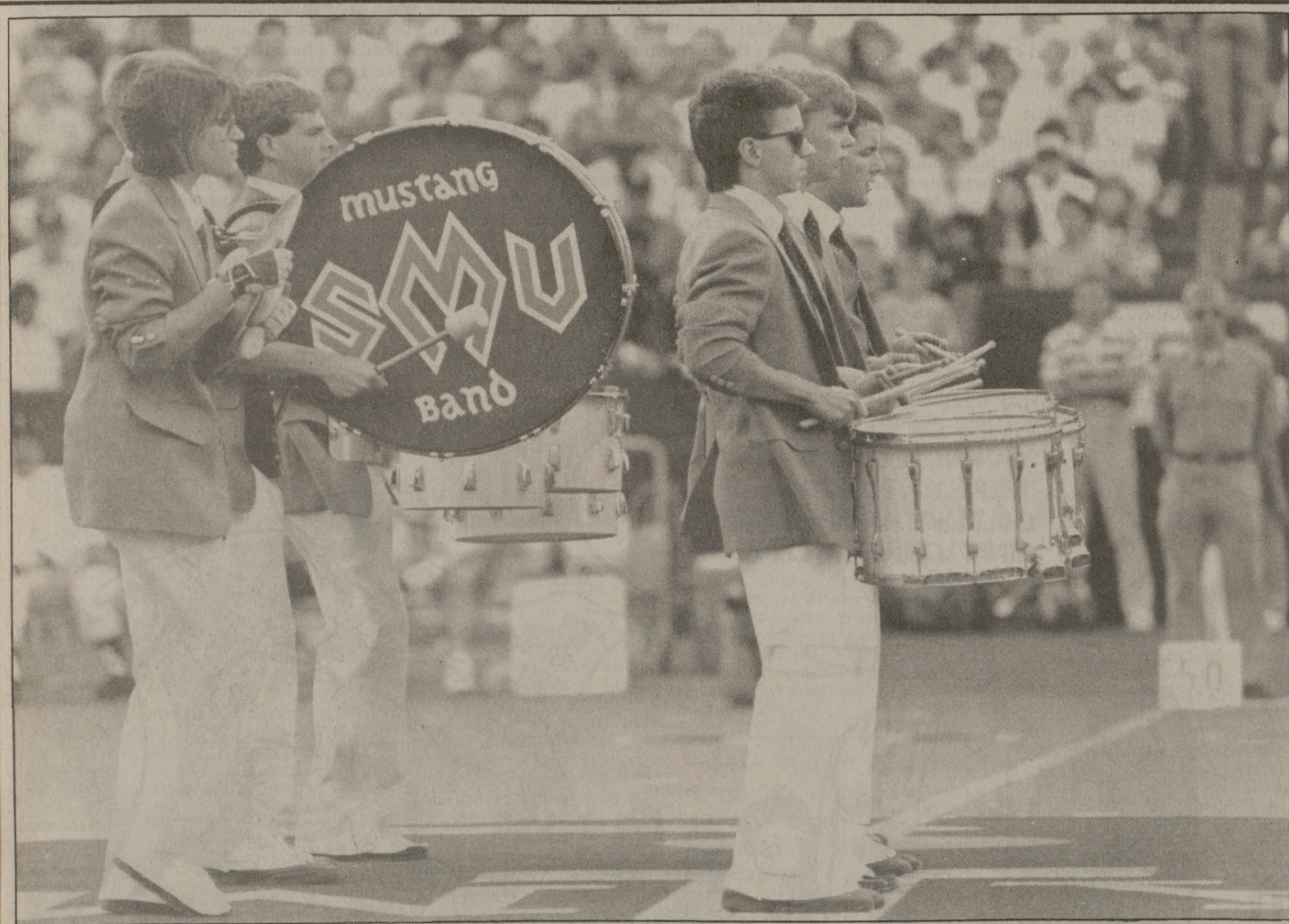


Texas A&M The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

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Little drummer band

The percussion section of the Southern Methodist University band plays during halftime this weekend at the A&M game. The Mustang

band was invited to perform at the Aggie game as a show of good sportsmanship toward the school.

Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Court nominee faces questions on cable deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Douglas H. Ginsburg had almost \$140,000 invested in a cable television corporation when he "personally handled" a Justice Department effort to have the court extend First Amendment protection to cable operators.

An administration source close to Ginsburg said Sunday that Ginsburg apparently did not raise the possibility of staying out of the case with Justice Department superiors or with agency ethics officers.

He said Ginsburg discussed the situation with a subordinate.

The Supreme Court, on June 2, 1986, adopted Ginsburg's arguments in a decision that will reduce government regulation of cable operators.

"It is a First Amendment rights case that had economic consequences to it . . .," a former federal ethics official familiar with the cable case but not with Ginsburg's role in it said.

"If I'm holding cable stock, that is a good thing for me."

Ginsburg, nominated by President Reagan to succeed retired Justice Lewis Powell on the court, apparently did not violate criminal conflict of interest laws because the company in which he invested was not a direct party to the case even though it could benefit from the ruling.

But ethics experts said Ginsburg's

actions could be viewed as skirting a presidential executive order forbidding actions that create an appearance of a conflict of interest or of favoritism.

Violation of that order carries administrative penalties, such as a letter of reprimand or suspension.

Ginsburg, through his informal spokesman W. Stephen Cannon, declined on Sunday to comment on his role in the cable case until he has an opportunity to review his records.

A former head of the Justice Department's antitrust division and now a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judge, Ginsburg, 41, is little known to the public, and his professional performance is being scrutinized by the Senate Judiciary Committee in preparation for confirmation hearings.

Ginsburg was assistant attorney general in charge of the antitrust division at the Justice Department when the Reagan administration filed a friend-of-the-court brief in a Los Angeles cable television case.

During his confirmation hearings last year, Ginsburg wrote the Judiciary Committee that the cable case was among the 10 "most significant litigated matters that I personally handled."

"I was a principal participant in determining the government's position . . . and supervised the drafting of our brief," he wrote of the cable brief.

Election ballot provides record number of propositions

By Doug Driskell
Staff Writer

Tomorrow is an election day different than any other election day. It comes at a time when Texas is in financial despair. For Bryan-College Station, there are no city policies on the ballot. It is an off-election.

This ballot has more propositions on it than ever before in Texas history. There are 25 constitutional amendment propositions and two referendums on the ballot. This is seen as a hurdle for proposition campaigners to overcome.

"Part of the problem we see from the ballot standpoint, is the fact that there are more propositions on the ballot than ever before in the history of Texas," Tom Vickers, Bexar County Judge and chairman of the Ballot Texas Committee, said. "This could have a tendency to be confusing to the average voter."

Proposition 19 and referendum 2 have had much attention.

Proposition 19, if voted into law, would provide \$500 million in general obligation bonds to help convince the federal government to locate the supercollider in Texas, Vickers said.

If the supercollider is built it is expected to create 4,500 construction jobs and 5,600 jobs in services and supply resulting in \$20 million added into the Texas economy during the life of the project, said Matt Wain, a representative of the Supercollider Committee.

Proposition 19 has no organized position, Vickers said.

Referendum 2 pertains to the legalization of pari-mutuel betting on horse and dog races. Supporters of the Texas Horse Racing Association

of this referendum see the legalization of pari-mutuel betting as bringing the horse breeding industry back to Texas, therefore bringing more money into Texas.

Opponents, like the Texans Who Care, see pari-mutuel betting bringing organized crime to Texas. They argue the money brought in from pari-mutuel betting is not enough to really help the budget.

Other amendments on referendum on the ballot are:

- Amendment No. 1 — This would establish a grain warehouse self-insurance fund to guarantee payment to farmers, with public money, in case of defaults.

This proposition is a result of some grain warehouses going out of business and leaving farmers without full payment for the grain they had stored in the warehouse. If passed, it should reduce cost of business for the operation of grain elevators. It would provide assurance to farmers to have grain in state-approved warehouses.

The downside is that it will rely on state taxes until the funds are built up.

- Amendment No. 2 — This would raise property taxes in certain unincorporated, rural, fire districts.

- Amendment No. 3 — If passed, this will limit school tax increases on the homestead of surviving elderly spouses.

- Amendment No. 4 — This would permit the Legislature to authorize the loans and grants that would fund the Texas Agricultural Fund, the Texas Small Business Incubator fund and the Texas Product Development Fund, which would be established by Proposition No. 6. It

also would permit local governments to issue general obligation bonds for economic development programs, subject to voter approval. Alone, it would not obligate any state money. Other constitutional amendments would have to be approved to allocate money.

- Amendment No. 5 — This amendment would allow the State Highway Department and the Texas Turnpike Authority to cooperate in road and bridge building using public monies to guarantee bond issues.

- Amendment No. 6 — This would permit the Legislature to finance Texas products and businesses.

- Amendment No. 7 — This would provide state bonds for local public works projects. This could help Bryan-College Station. It would allow local communities to borrow money from the state thus giving a lower interest rate than if they borrowed from private institutions.

- Amendment No. 8 — This would provide bonds to pay for correctional, mental health and mental retardation facilities.

- Amendment No. 9 — This would allow legislators to seek different state offices while restricting pay increases for the new office they may have previously voted to approve. The current state constitution says any legislator who voted on a pay increase for the attorney general could not later run for attorney general. If approved, legislators could run or be appointed to an office, but they would not receive their pay increase until a certain time period has elapsed.

- Amendment No. 10 — This would allow local voters to approve

measures that would exempt certain personal property not used to produce income from taxes.

- Amendment No. 11 — This would exempt property held within the state temporarily for manufacturing and processing. If a ship were to import steel for the building of an oil rig that steel would not be taxed until the construction began.

- Amendment No. 12 — This would allow married couples to own community property with the right of survivorship.

- Amendment No. 13 — This would allow creations of districts to provide emergency fire and medical services. These districts could create new taxes to support these services.

- Amendment No. 14 — This would allow the state a limited right to appeal in criminal cases. Currently the state does not have this right.

- Amendment No. 15 — This would do away with the office of County Treasurer in Fayette, Nueces and Gregg Counties.

- Amendment No. 16 — This would allow for more than one justice of the peace in larger counties.

- Amendment No. 17 — This would give the state legislature, not the courts, the power to determine how much liability a city has for each of its activities. If passed it could stabilize insurance costs for cities. This directly affects Bryan-College Station.

- Amendment No. 18 — This would create jail districts that would construct and operate county jails.

- Amendment No. 19 — This would provide state money for the supercollider supercollider.

- Amendment No. 20 — This would allow for the tax exemption of idle offshore oil equipment.

- Amendment No. 21 — This would include the speaker of the house as member of executive agencies or committees.

- Amendment No. 22 — This would limit the appointing of office vacancies by a lame-duck governor.

- Amendment No. 23 — This would issue \$400 million in bonds for water supply, water quality and flood control.

- Amendment No. 24 — This

would allow one county to work for another without compensation.

- Amendment No. 25 — This would allow hospital districts to change boundary jurisdiction with the district's voter approval. It would also permit Amarillo Hospital District to serve Randall County residents.

- Referendum No. 1 — A "no" vote would allow citizens to elect the members of the State Board of Education. A "yes" vote would mean retaining the appointed board system. This will not effect the quality of education.

- Referendum No. 2 — This would legalize pari-mutuel betting on horse and dog races.

Research assistance was given by Dr. Gary Halter in the Political Science Department, Dr. Roland D. Smith in the Agriculture Economics Department and the Free Market Foundation.

The polling location on campus will be in the Memorial Student Center. For off-campus locations, call (409) 361-4490.

A&M's patented research development could prove useful in testing, fighting AIDS

By Jenny Hynes
Reporter

A recently patented process created through Texas A&M research may prove useful in accurately testing and fighting the AIDS virus.

"If we are correct, we may have an explosive impact because the procedure would have uses as a test and a vaccine," says Stephen Wechter, a scientist who was involved in the project as a research assistant for the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at A&M's College of Medicine.

Dr. Luther Lindner, an associate professor in the department, was also involved in the research, which developed a procedure that has detected acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) during laboratory tests.

Unlike AIDS tests now on the market, which test for the presence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus, a factor found in those exposed to the AIDS virus, the new process uses a different concept.

"We identify people with AIDS using something else — a specific antibody," Wechter says. "I feel that we have a predictive test for those exposed to HIV who may get the disease."

In developing their testing method, which was patented in September, Lindner and Wechter used a colony of monkeys already showing clinical signs similar to those found in human AIDS patients. From these animals they isolated antibodies — disease-fighting cells — that react with human AIDS tissue.

Lindner says while there is great potential for the project, more research is needed to produce a useful test.

"It still is basically a fairly crude system," he says. "What remains to be done is to identify exactly what the antibodies were reacting to and their relationship to the disease. Once that is done we can determine whether the thing can actually be developed."

Wechter says the process could eventually help in the fight against AIDS in three ways: production of a vaccine to prevent the disease, a method of screening for AIDS before symptoms appear and a drug to treat the disease.

The research, which Lindner says was conducted over a period of about 1½ years, stopped two years ago — before a usable product was formed. He says this was because of the sale of the animal colony and the lack of appropriate researchers at A&M who

could continue the study.

Wechter has since formed his own company, Scientific Ventures International, and is working in Houston to secure support for more research on the finding.

Lindner says although their work is promising, no company has yet contracted for licensing of the research for two reasons.

"First of all, it is not a developed system at this point," he says. "(The companies) can't look at it and say, 'This is going to be commercially valuable,' so anyone who picks up the patent is taking a big gamble."

"The other thing is the time frame. Because there are already a bunch of commercial tests out based on the HIV, getting this to a commercially viable point would take a couple more years."

Lindner and Wechter hold rights to the process and will receive royalties if any commercial use is made of their findings.

"Assuming anything ever comes of it — after the expenses of the patent are paid off and that sort of wonderful stuff — something would probably eventually come down the pipeline," Lindner says.

After patent expenses are paid from royalties, the University and the developers split the income evenly.

Security adviser expects Senate to approve nuclear missile treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — National security adviser Frank C. Carlucci said Sunday that a U.S.-Soviet accord on intermediate-range nuclear missiles is "98 percent of the way there" and predicted Senate ratification.

However, a leading Senate Democrat warned that the superpower pact could be doomed if conservative Republicans tamper with it by attaching amendments on issues like the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

"I do think that there could be problems," said Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., the Senate Democratic whip who is also a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence.

"There are 15-20 very conservative Republican senators who I think are very likely to take on the treaty directly, and I think there are others who might take it on by indirection. . .," he said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press." "They might well suggest various reservations or amendments that would, in effect, kill it."

Sen. Richard Lugar, a leading Republican and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also predicted some tough sailing in the Senate for an INF treaty.

"I think there are a number of Republican senators, and there'll be a few Democrats who are not in favor of any treaty with the Soviet Union, feel it's unverifiable, unenforceable," the Indiana Republican said on

ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley."

Lugar said he is inclined to favor the treaty but is holding off a final decision until he sees the finished version.

Carlucci, who accompanied Secretary of State George P. Shultz on his trip to Moscow a week and a half ago, said he didn't foresee any problems in Congress for the treaty.

"We think it will be ratified," he said on the NBC program. "It's a good treaty."

"It's been carefully worked out and the verification provisions are going to be the most intrusive in the history of arms control."

Carlucci said the accord is "98 percent of the way there."