

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Gorbachev: Soviets won't build SDI system

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union "is doing all that the United States is doing" to defend against nuclear attack, but will not build a space-based system, Mikhail S. Gorbachev said in an interview broadcast Monday.

Acknowledging what the Reagan administration has long contended, the Soviet leader said: "I guess we are engaged in research, basic research, which related to these aspects which are covered by the SDI in the United States."  
SDI means Strategic Defense Initiative,

the formal name President Reagan has given the space-based defense project commonly called "star wars."

In response to a suggestion that the Soviets are trying to militarize space in the same way envisioned by star wars, however, Gorbachev said:

"We will not build an SDI. We will not deploy SDI, and we call upon the United States to act likewise."

Gorbachev spoke in a one-hour question-and-answer session with Tom Brokaw broadcast by NBC News to American viewers a week before the Communist Party

chief's trip to Washington for his third summit with Reagan.

He said he is ready to compromise to reach a deal for scrapping half the superpowers' long-range nuclear weapons.

During the summit, they are expected to sign a treaty getting rid of all intermediate-range missiles.

"We have some steps that we could take to meet the American position halfway," Gorbachev said.

He added, however, that he was not going to Washington to negotiate the fu-

ture of star wars, which the Kremlin contends is limited to research by the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

Although the Senate never ratified that treaty, both sides have observed its terms.

"Let America indulge in research," Gorbachev said. "Insofar as SDI does not run counter to ABM. That is not a subject for negotiations."

During the interview, taped Saturday in the Kremlin, Gorbachev parried Brokaw's pointed questions about human rights; the firing of his former protegee, Boris Yeltsin;

and whether he discusses matters with his wife, Raisa.

In his first interview with a U.S. network, Gorbachev offered little insight into the conduct of Soviet affairs or his governing methods.

Asked whether he talks to his wife about national policies and politics, the 56-year-old leader replied: "We discuss everything."

Brokaw asked, "Including Soviet affairs at the highest level?"

Gorbachev said, "I think that I have answered your question in total. We discuss everything."

## Two candidates reject elections under junta

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Two leading presidential candidates on Monday rejected any elections organized by the ruling junta, adding to the unlikelihood Haiti can salvage plans for the first free balloting in 30 years.

A third candidate virtually ruled out his participation in such a vote.

Haitians stayed home Monday, fearful of deadly streets where men with machine guns and machetes killed at least 34 people and wounded 75 in a weekend of terror that destroyed elections.

The violence forced the cancellation of elections that would have given this impoverished Caribbean nation its first elected president and legislature since 1957, when Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier began the family dictatorship that ended Feb. 7, 1986.

In other developments, the Dominican Republic closed its border with Haiti Monday because of the unrest.

A Dominican air force plane evacuated a dozen Dominican reporters

and anyone else who wanted to leave, the country's foreign minister, Donald Reid Cabral said.

Sylvio Claude, a presidential candidate and founder of the Christian Democratic Party, said "No elections are possible under the junta. They're the ones shooting people."

Another candidate, Marc Bazin, leader of the Movement for the Installation of Democracy in Haiti, demanded that elections be run by the Provisional Electoral Council, according to his press secretary, Leslie Paen.

## Caperton honored at reception for support to higher education

By Kimberly House  
Reporter

Sen. Kent Caperton said it was a dismaying day in his public service when he saw a "black mark" by Texas' name indicating the legislature had cut funding for higher education in their most recently completed budget cycle.

"That's not what we want to be in Texas," Caperton, D-Bryan, said Monday. "That's not what our history's about; that's not what our future's about and that's not what we believe in."

The Texas A&M Chapter of the Texas Association of College Teachers honored Caperton at a reception for his support and contributions toward higher education and presented him with a plaque.

"We do, I think, share a fundamental belief in the future that education both at the public level and higher education level are to a very large extent a reflection of how much we believe in ourselves and how much we believe in our future," Caperton said.

"It was an honor to be able to be part of the effort that will be crit-



Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan

icized by some but I think which was the wise decision and which will pay off in long-term dividends, certainly in future generations," he said.

David Anderson, English professor and A&M chapter president of TACT, said the association is a lobbying organization that tries to influence elected officials to support higher education.

"We're lobbying for the best interest of Texas," Anderson said. "We

want a strong university system with good students, highly qualified faculty and excellent facilities. Good education is in the best interest of everyone."

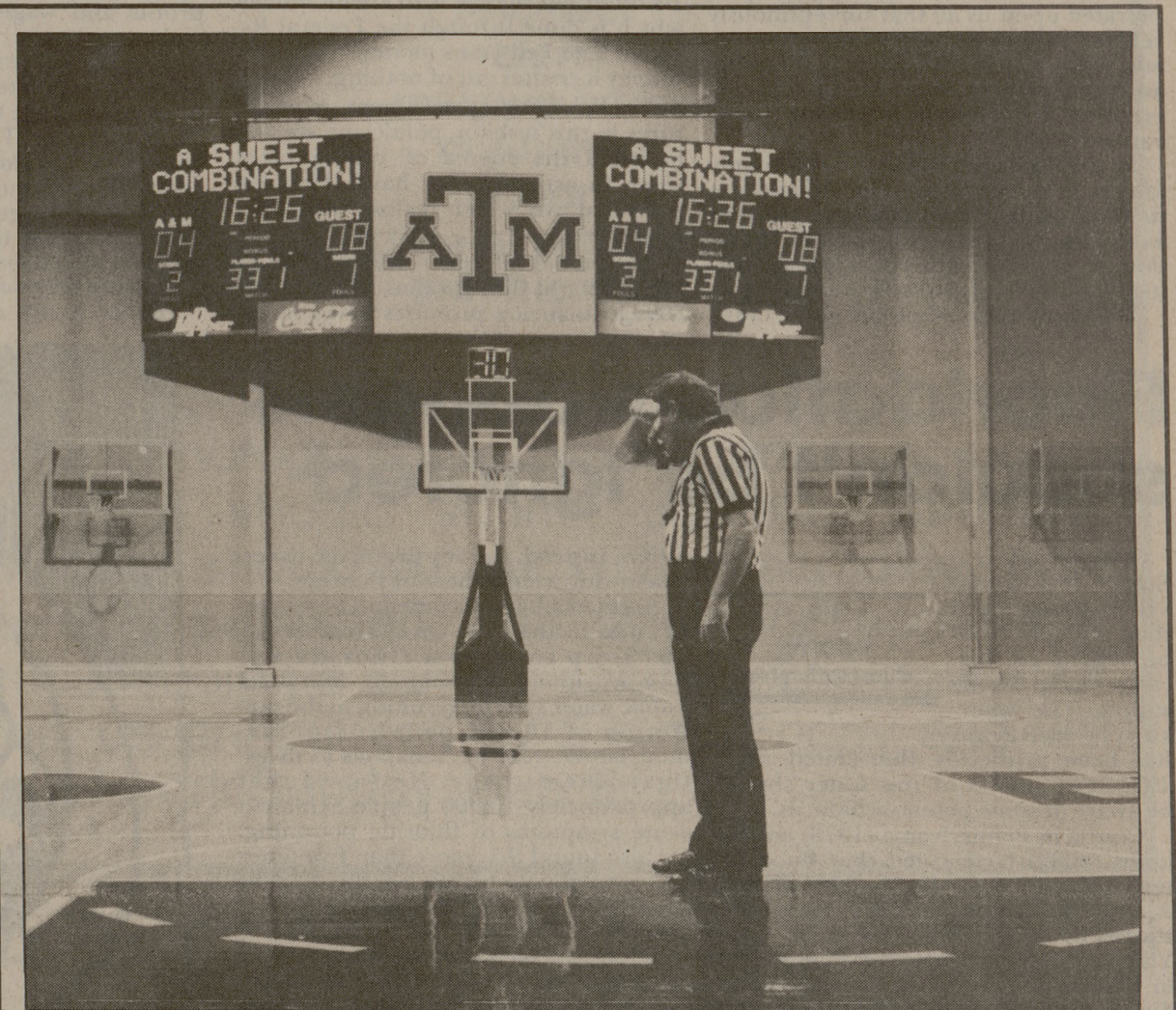
Anderson said Caperton is on some important committees in the legislature and that the key one, perhaps, for TACT is the Legislative Budget Board.

"This meeting today is an opportunity for us to express to Sen. Caperton our appreciation of his efforts in support of higher education in Texas," Anderson said. "We are very lucky to have an elected official like Sen. Caperton."

Caperton said he was flattered and deeply appreciated the honor.

According to the TACT brochure, the organization, founded in 1948, is a voluntary association of faculty, librarians, administrative staff and research personnel in public senior colleges and universities in Texas that speaks out before policy-making bodies on salaries, benefits, teaching conditions and other concerns of the organization's members.

Caperton, Class of '71, has been serving as state senator since May 1980.



## A break in the action

A referee for Monday night's Lady Aggie game against Pan American University wipes his brow early on considering the task ahead in keeping up

with the Aggies' scoring. Pan American took the lead for a short while before the Aggies stomped back to a 110-50 victory. See related story, page 9.

Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

## 3 A&M researchers develop test for detecting chlamydia

By Jenny Hynes  
Reporter

Three researchers in Texas A&M College of Medicine's pathology and laboratory medicine department have worked out a more efficient testing process to detect chlamydia, one of the newest and least-understood sexually transmitted diseases.

The technology used in the researchers' new process is also used in the diagnosis of several kinds of cancer and in other diagnostic procedures.

Consequences of chlamydia — which is caused by the organism Chlamydia Trachomatis — range from fallopian-tube inflammation to sterility and death.

The disease also leads to trachoma, the most common cause of blindness worldwide, and is to blame for more deaths than gonorrhea.

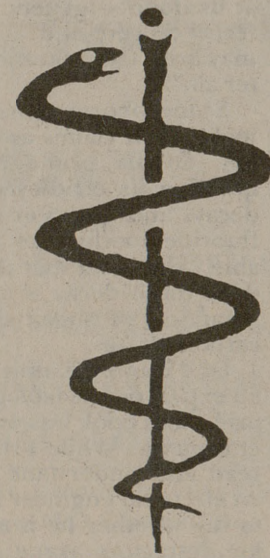
"It is by far the most common sexually transmitted disease in the University community here by far," said Dr. Luther Lindner, one of the researchers studying the disease.

Working with Dr. Sonja Geerling, a senior lecturer, and John Nettum, an assistant professor, Lindner has spent more than five years studying the bacterium that causes chlamydia and finding ways to diagnose the disease.

"One of the big problems with chlamydia that people need to be aware of is that the majority of people infected with chlamydia don't have symptoms," said Lindner, who is an associate professor in the pathology department. "Or, if they have any, they are often so minor and non-specific they don't associate them with anything."

When the team began its research, the incidence of chlamydia in those studied at A&M was 12.3 percent. This figure was determined by analyzing samples obtained from 496 women visiting Planned Parenthood in College Station.

Lindner said in the 2½ years since the group developed and put into practice a method for diagnosing ch-



lamydia, the rate has been cut in half.

"How much of that is due to our testing and how much is due to the fact that people are scared of sexually transmitted diseases now, I don't know," he said. "I like to think that our testing accounted for at least part of that."

Before the A&M researchers began studying the disease, no reliable method existed for diagnosing the chlamydia.

The researchers developed a system for testing chlamydia using antibodies also used in the diagnosis of kidney cancer.

"The system that we worked out is a nice system," Lindner said. "It works fairly reliably and is probably as good a system as there is right now."

Immunofluorescence diagnoses disease using monoclonal antibodies, or special proteins, he said.

"It is used to identify a number of other infectious diseases," Lindner said. "The thing that made it possible to use for chlamydia was the development of a good monoclonal antibody."

Before the new method was developed, cell culture and cytological testing were used to find the disease, but both methods have drawbacks.

"The organism can be grown in cell culture but that is a very tedious and expensive business," Lindner said. "It really wasn't practical for testing the general population. Because of that we were really missing most infections."

Lindner said the culture procedure takes at least 48 hours to give results and even then is not reliable. "The whole thing was a big mess," he said.

The researchers also looked at cytological testing, or evaluating Pap smears for characteristics common in women with chlamydia, as a diagnosis procedure.

"We, as well as a lot of other people, had our doubts as to whether that was any good or not," Lindner said. Sure enough, the group found this method of testing also inferior.

"It turned out that the cytology was really very poor in detecting chlamydia," he said. The test was not sensitive and gave a high percentage of false positive results.

Finally, the group settled on a system of immunofluorescence to diagnose chlamydia, and developed a preliminary screening procedure to weed out those who need the test.

Lindner said several drugs are effective in treating chlamydia, especially the long-acting tetracyclines, a type of antibiotic.

"It's important to make the right diagnosis, though, because the drugs that are good for treating chlamydia are not necessarily good for treating other sexually transmitted diseases," he said.

Now the group is waiting to receive some tissue samples from a population in Zimbabwe to further study chlamydia. Lindner said the researchers hope to further refine the test and determine chlamydia rates in populations that have not yet been studied.

See Test, page 11

## Silver Taps will honor three Aggies

The solemn sound of buglers and the sharp ring of gunfire will be heard on campus when Silver Taps is held tonight at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building to honor three Texas A&M students who died in October and November.

The deceased students are Geoffrey Matongo Kapatsa, 35, Angela Michelle McKee, 18, and Gena Lynn Thornton, 20. Kapatsa, a graduate student in entomology from Lusaka, Zambia, died on Oct. 9 after a lengthy illness.

McKee, a freshman elementary education major from Kaufman, died of heart failure on Oct. 31.

Thornton, a junior from Houston majoring in animal science, died in an automobile accident Nov. 20 in College Station.

Shortly before the ceremony, lights will be extinguished and the campus hushed. Then the Ross Volunteers honor guard will march into the area near the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue and fire a volley salute.

Buglers will play a special arrangement of "Taps" in a final tribute to the students.

All A&M students are encouraged to attend this event.

## Survey: Average pay of top-ranking faculty rises by 8.5 percent

AUSTIN (AP) — Salaries for those in the top four faculty ranks at Texas' public universities averaged an 8.5 percent increase for the 1987-88 school year, officials reported Monday.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board said a new survey shows that the top four faculty ranks — professor, associate professor, assistant professor and instructor — now earn an average of \$36,991, up from \$34,080 in the 1986-87 academic year.

Full professors earn an average of \$47,437, up 8 percent from the \$43,934 average paid last year.

In the 1986-87 academic year, Texas faculty salary increases averaged 2.1 percent, and some education officials had complained that universities in other states were raising Texas institutions.

"Last year, our faculty salaries lagged the national average by 8.9 percent and trailed salaries offered in the 10 largest states by 15.7 percent," Hal Daugherty Jr., coordinating board chairman, said.

"We're seeing a major improvement in this year's averages due to the faculty salary increases approved (by the Legislature) to help retain and attract outstanding faculty," he said.

Officials said information won't be available until March to see how Texas salaries compare with the 10 largest states.

According to the survey, 1987-88 average salaries and percentage increases over 1986-87 for the other ranks are: associate professors, \$35,111, up 8 percent; assistant professors, \$29,777, up 8.8 percent; instructors, \$21,741, up 4.2 percent; lecturers, \$20,508, up 9.9 percent, and teaching assistants, \$12,929, up 6.9 percent.

The survey also found that the highest average salaries in Texas, based on the top four faculty ranks, are paid by the University of Texas-Austin, \$45,004; UT-Dallas, \$42,223; Texas A&M, \$41,584; University of Houston-University Park, \$41,236; Texas Tech, \$37,053; UT-Arlington, \$36,788, and North Texas State, \$36,118.

Kenneth Ashworth, state higher education commissioner, said that for Texas to take the lead in research and development work, the state must "make a sustained financial commitment" to both research programs and faculty salaries.

"We can put millions of dollars into research, but if we cannot attract and hold on to the outstanding faculty to conduct that research, our investment will not earn the kind of economic return Texas needs," he said.

At the state's public junior colleges, faculty salaries increased 4.1 percent, the survey said.