

The Battalion

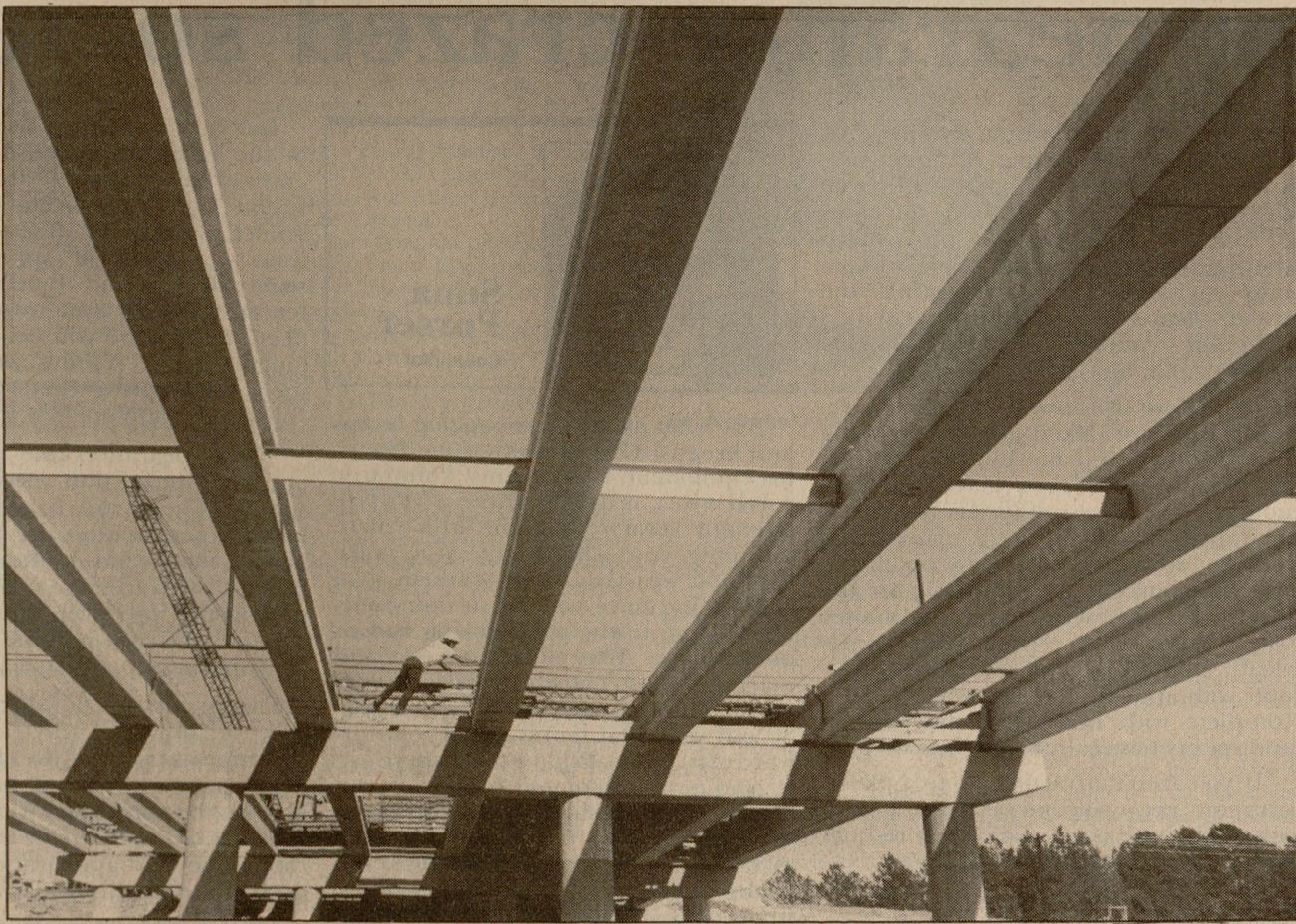


Photo by Jay Janner

Looking between the lines

Jay Cruz Dimas of McKowan Bridge Company works on the Rock Prairie Road overpass on Highway 6 south in College Station Monday afternoon. The project should be completed and open to southbound traffic in two to three months.

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Soviet reforms call for more choices, limited promises

MOSCOW (AP) — The long-awaited Soviet election reform calls for a choice of candidates but sharply limits what they can advocate.

"The program of the candidate must not contradict the Constitution or Soviet law," says the draft election law published in Sunday's newspapers.

It is not clear whether that restricts candidates to mere promises, like more meat in stores or a new movie theater.

But since the Constitution defines the Soviet Union as a socialist nation led by the Communist Party, the phrase seems to rule out other political parties, and tie unaffiliated candidates to the communist system.

Still, citizens may see something slightly akin to a Western-style election campaign for the first time next spring, as nominees grapple with new concepts like competing candidates, television time and a campaign staff.

The draft law says candidates for the 2,250 seats in the new Congress of People's Deputies will be given time off from work to campaign, free public transportation within their district, and access to the state-run media. They also may ask 10 friends to help them campaign.

The election proposal is part of an overhaul of the government proposed by President Mikhail Gorbachev at the party conference in June. The lengthy draft laws published this weekend are to be debated in the media before the current Supreme Soviet legislature considers them in November.

Traditionally, Soviet elections have had only one candidate for each position, so campaigning was limited to a biography and a few nights to meet the candidate. Election officials obtained 99 percent voter participation by persuading busy citizens to have a relative take their identification to the polls and vote on their behalf.

Fledgling opposition groups like the Democratic Union may find it tough to field a candidate in the face of a requirement that candidates for territorial districts be nominated by workers' groups of at least 500 people.

The Democratic Union itself would seem to be specifically barred from participation since it seeks to repeal the section of the Constitution that grants a monopoly to the Communist Party.

However, the reform law seems to open possibilities for groups with broad backing, such as the nationalistic People's Front organizations in the Baltic republics. These associations in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have won official approval by advocating not just cultural freedom but also economic reforms akin to those of Gorbachev.

The People's Front of Estonia and its counterpart, the Lithuanian Restructuring Group, have said they plan to put forward candidates.

The draft law also gives candidates complete immunity from arrest and prosecution without approval of the Central Election Commission, a provision that a legal expert writing in the latest edition

of Ogonyok magazine said is necessary to ensure deputies against unjust persecution.

"Imagine an unprotected deputy controls the prosecutor's office, exposes illegalities, tries to fight the mafia, and courageously criticizes the police and prosecutors at a session of the council," A.N. Yakovlev, a professor of law at the Academy of Sciences, said.

"This cannot be a reality, because tomorrow he will be arrested on trumped-up charges," he said.

Boulter gives facts of race at A&M forum

By James D. Ezell
Staff Writer

U.S. Senate candidate Beau Boulter questioned the ethics of his opponent Lloyd Bentsen for running for both the Senate and the vice presidency before an audience of approximately 50 people at Monday night's MSC Political Forum. He is the Republican nominee in the senate race.

"I'm not running for both my House seat and the Senate seat because I'm not allowed to do that," Boulter said. "I wouldn't do that even if I was allowed to."

"I really want to serve people in the U.S. Senate. I'm the only candidate running for the Senate that really wants to be there. To me it's not a consolation prize. Bentsen considers the seat to be a consolation prize."

Boulter was referring to Bentsen's dual candidacy for the Senate as well as the vice presidency under Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts. Under Texas law, Bentsen is allowed to seek both offices simultaneously.

Boulter discussed his views on how to aid the ailing Texas oil economy. He criticized Dukakis for not knowing about the oil industry.

"I've always favored an oil import fee, but we're not going to have one so there's not much point in talking about it," Boulter said. "There's just not any support for it. The tax incentives and tax credits are much more doable. I want to see Texas once again be the engine that drives the train of economic growth."

Boulter stressed he would be best suited to serve Vice President George Bush in the Senate by giving him a Republican controlled Congress.

"My vision and my plan for Texas are to continue with the progress that we have been making under President Reagan and George Bush," Boulter said. "I think that George Bush will be the next president, but he will sure need some help in the U.S. Senate."

A&I student, two A&M athletes involved in public disturbance

By Stephen Masters
Senior Staff Writer

A public disturbance report was filed Monday by the College Station Police in an incident involving two Texas A&M athletes and a Texas A&I student.

Page Allen Sacky, a 28-year-old Texas A&I student, told *The Battalion* the disturbance began Sunday evening when a student athlete and another individual accosted his brother's girlfriend while at Dirty Juan's restaurant in Woodstone Center.

Sacky said he asked them to leave the woman alone prior to the fight breaking out where the other athlete became involved.

Sacky said "a couple of members of the football team" threatened him following the fight in front of police officers.

The CSPD released one page of a four page report Monday. The public portion of an incident report filed by officer Joe Henning lists Sacky as the complainant. Other names are mentioned in the released portion of the report.

Henning directed all questions to the department's public information officer, but no one from the PIO was available Monday night.

A spokesperson for the CSPD said there were eight names other than Sacky's mentioned on the final page of the report, but said the names of the individuals were not open to the public.

The spokesman said other names were of "either witnesses or people involved in some way or another in the incident."

The spokesman told *The Battalion* that no charges had been filed because none can be filed for a public disturbance. She said if assault charges are to be filed, the complainant will have to do so in person.

Sacky, who lives in Corpus Christi, said he told Henning at the scene he wanted to press charges and was told he could do so at a later date.

He said Monday that if he had to return to College Station to press charges, he would do so.

Sacky suffered a cut over the eye which required stitches and said his vision is still blurry.

A related incident report for criminal mischief listed damage to a motor vehicle

in the parking lot which the owner blamed on "several fights that erupted in the parking lot earlier." The damage was estimated at \$1,650.

Sacky said he did not remember how the car became damaged.

"All I remember is there were four of us between two cars," he said. "I'm still kind of fuzzy on the whole thing."

"It just seems kind of strange, because just a couple of hours before we were watching them play ball."

Delays plague flu vaccine supply

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Production of the nation's supply of flu vaccine has been delayed up to two months, and supplies will be short during the best time to protect patients, pharmaceutical firms and public health officials said Monday.

The companies blame the problem on late notification from the federal Centers for Disease Control about what type of vaccine would be

needed this year. The CDC says the problem stems from the fact that some of the viruses causing this year's flu take unusually long to cultivate for vaccines.

The largest producer of the vaccines, Wyeth Laboratories Inc., of St. Davids in suburban Philadelphia, usually has shipped the bulk of its 9 million doses by September.

Company spokesman Audrey

Asby said that this year, Wyeth will be sending vaccine to physicians through early to mid-November. Then it will take additional time to get people in for their shots.

Paul Stehr-Green, an immunologist with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, said the highest risk group for the flu, and traditionally last on the list of those immunized, are older people living in close quarters in big-city nursing homes.

A&M institute looks for scholars, experts

By Alan Sembera
Senior Staff Writer

Directors of Texas A&M's newly established Mosher Institute for Defense Studies are looking for all parts of Texas for interested scholars and experts in an attempt to create a major military think tank here.

Dr. Arthur Blair, deputy director of the Institute, said he thinks Texas is a good place to create a military think tank because of its large research capability.

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The Mosher think tank also will be different from other think tanks, Blair said, because it will look at defense in the context of the military's interaction with society.

He said the institute will consult experts from many fields. Areas studied will include economics, history, sociology, psychology, political science, medicine, art, philosophy and ethics.

The Institute takes a multidisciplinary approach because wars involve societies, he said, so all aspects of society must be integrated into a national defense policy.

Although the planners behind the institute have far-reaching goals, the staff currently consists of only four people.

The institute is directed by former A&M President Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, who resigned as president in September to head the institute. In addition to having served seven years as A&M's president, he is a military historian and has held several national defense-related advisory positions.

The staff also boasts a former arms negotiator, Dr. Ron Hatchett.

Hatchett, who is in charge of military programs at the institute, was the Defense Department's chief conventional arms negotiator in Europe until August.

But the institute is still in its embryonic stage, Blair said it would probably take three or four months to get organized. Even then, he added, the full-time staff at A&M will remain relatively small.

"We don't want to waste money by building a large staff that sits around doing nothing," Blair said. "We want people, in effect, on call, who have volunteered to work in certain areas."

"We'll know their areas of expertise and if a proposal comes in, we can go through the proposal, see what kind of experts we need, then write the people on our roster."

Those people will be considered to be research associates, Blair said. Interested researchers can

apply to become associates of the institute by submitting their resumes.

Blair said he has written to every college and university in Texas inviting the faculty members to apply to become research associates. Graduate students also can submit resumes to the institute, he said.

When research associates are used on a project, he said, they probably will stay on their own campuses and use their own laboratories.

"If you look at all the colleges and universities in Texas, we ought to have enough experts to handle darn near anything."

**Dr. Arthur Blair,
Deputy Director, Mosher Institute**

Also, he added, they will not be paid unless they work on a funded project.

In addition to conducting defense research, the institute also will organize about two defense-related conferences every year, Blair said.

The Institute's first conference will be in January, he said. The conference will feature top arms negotiators from the United States, the Soviet Union, Sweden, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, Germany and other European countries.

The negotiators will exchange ideas informally on what arms control negotiations are possible to establish a more stable balance in Europe.

Topics of discussion will include the possibility of negotiations on chemical and biological weapons, and increasing the openness about what other countries' militaries are doing.

The Mosher Institute also is preparing to do research on civil defense planning.

This type of research will deal with urban problems resulting from military or paramilitary activity, terrorist attacks, natural disasters and major accidents, Blair said.

"It's all in dealing with the unexpected," Blair said. "Suppose some tornado comes in and dumps a freight car into a reservoir and contaminates all the water? What are you going to do?"

"People are sick," he said. "Can you truck in

enough water? Do you even have a plan to? Where would you get the water? Where would you get the vehicles?"

"Just asking simple questions like that may not have occurred to people," Blair said.

"Dr. Vandiver and I know that probably every city in Texas has some sort of disaster plan if we have a great big fire or tornado or hurricane," he said. "But I'm not just exactly as sure as I'd like to be that these plans have been tested and really work very well."

"What would you do if a hurricane came through Houston or Galveston?" he said. "What would you do if a tornado hit Dallas? Suppose we had a major chemical spill here in Bryan-College Station. Is Bryan-College Station prepared to handle that?"

One of the things the Institute aims to accomplish, Blair said, is to offer Texas cities help with disaster planning.

The Institute is considering setting up a simulation center to test disaster plans, Blair said.

The tests would involve having the officials from a city going through a simulated disaster. The disaster would be controlled by a team of experts, he said.

In the simulation exercise, gaps in disaster planning could be uncovered in advance.

Blair said the Institute would like to offer the simulation service free to Texas cities. But for that plan to work, he said, the Texas Legislature must approve an extra \$70,000 per year in A&M's special-item budget to pay for the simulation center.

To show the Legislature how the simulation center would work, Blair said, he is considering performing a trial simulation in Bryan-College Station early next year.

"What I'd do is have a disaster right on the boundary of Bryan-College Station," Blair said, "where both of them would have to get involved, and plenty of people from A&M."

He said the simulation would test the officials' knowledge of what local resources are available and who is responsible for different problems created by the disaster.

In addition to the \$70,000 per year requested for the simulation center, Blair said, the Institute also is requesting an extra \$90,000 per year for overhead and publishing.

The Institute currently is supported by a \$175,000 grant from Edward Mosher, Class of '28. Mosher will fund the Institute at that level for 10 years.

The Institute plans eventually to wean itself from outside support, Blair said, and will attempt to support itself through grants and contracts from the government and private industry.

"If at the end of 10 years we can't do it on our own . . . and we haven't built up a reputation where grants are coming in, then we've flat failed," he said. "The object is to be self-sufficient, but it will take a while to build a reputation."