

Gorbachev pledges to accept limits on presidential power

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev bowed to criticism of his constitutional reforms Tuesday, saying he will accept tighter limits on presidential power and try to accommodate republics clamoring for more autonomy.

Gorbachev, acknowledging the political give-and-take forming in the freer atmosphere he has fostered, told the Supreme Soviet, or parliament:

"Our own socialist system of 'checks and balances' is taking shape in this country, designed to protect society from any violations of socialist legality at the highest state level."

The Supreme Soviet is considering during its three-day session a package of almost 120 articles of legislation first published five weeks ago that Gorbachev says are the first major step toward a political system based on law, not central dictate.

But the draft laws faced stiff criticism that they actually strengthen the presidency, which Gorbachev assumed on Oct. 1, against the legislature, and strengthen Moscow's power against that of the 15 Soviet republics.

The unprecedented criticism of the proposed legislation was highlighted by the Estonian republic's Nov. 16 "declaration of sovereignty" over all internal affairs and demand to review all new Soviet legislation. Several Supreme Soviet deputies, including two top officials from the Baltic republics, registered dissatisfaction Tuesday with elements of the reform.

Arnold Ruutel, the Estonian president, told reporters that Supreme

Soviet deputies only received copies of the amended proposals on Tuesday. They have not been published.

But Gorbachev, detailing some of the changes to the 1,500 Supreme Soviet members, said, "It is obvious that some of the provisions of the bills were not formulated precisely enough and caused quite a few critical remarks in the course of discussions."

"The draft now gives the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet the right to repeal decrees and decisions by its President, and orders by the Supreme Soviet president," Gorbachev said.

That was implied in the Soviet Constitution, which requires Supreme Soviet confirmation of directives of the President, the highest executive body on which Gorbachev serves as chairman.

Gorbachev's reforms call for the formation next year of a Congress of People's Deputies, a 2,250-member legislative body that will include representation from the Communist Party, trade and creative unions, and social organizations as well as geographical legislative districts. The Congress will choose a smaller Supreme Soviet, which is to become more active.

Judge refuses to drop 2 charges against North

WASHINGTON (AP) — The judge in the Iran-Contra case on Tuesday upheld two of the central charges against Oliver L. North but dismissed the third count.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell refused to dismiss the two charges of conspiracy to defraud the government and theft of government property against the former National Security Council aide that arose from the diversion of U.S.-Iran arms-sale proceeds to the Nicaraguan rebels.

"The indictment clearly alleges a conspiracy, which involved concealing the very existence of the profits of the enterprise from the start and hiding from Congress information relating to the conspirators' assistance for the Contras," Gesell said.

"Its purpose depended on deceit from the start, and acts of concealment were actually part of the commission of the substantive crime," the judge said of North's contention the conspiracy count was invalid because it alleged more than one criminal conspiracy.

But Gesell dismissed a wire fraud charge, saying it "is, in many ways, a cumulative count" that would only create "substantial confusion in the minds of the jurors."

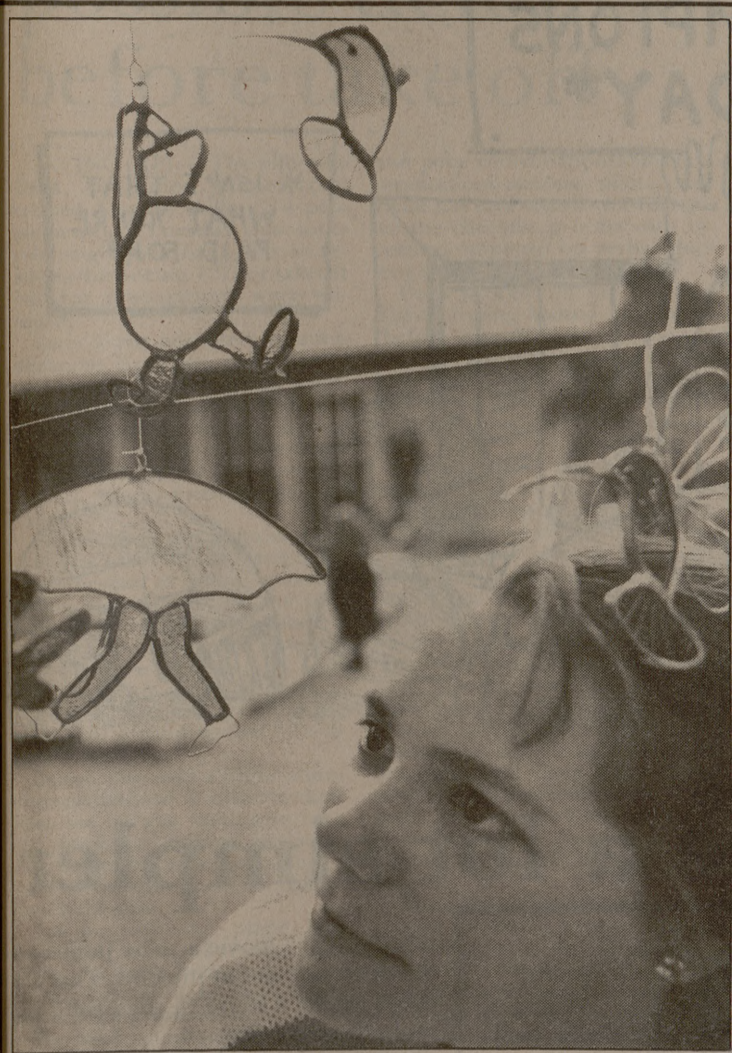
All three charges also were filed against North's co-defendants: former national security adviser John M. Poindexter and arms dealers Albert Hakim and retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord.

Gesell's dismissal of the wire fraud count suggests that charge may also

be dropped against the other defendants, who are scheduled to be tried separately.

The judge refused to dismiss six charges that North lied to congressional committees that investigated whether he and other members of the National Security Council staff were covertly providing military aid to the Contras in violation of the law.

So far, Gesell has ruled on 34 of North's 37 pre-trial motions. He has dismissed only two of the 16 original counts against North, including a charge that the retired Marine lieutenant colonel obstructed an FBI probe of the installation of a security fence around his Great Falls, Va. home.



Getting a closer look

Photo by Kathy Haveman

Danise Simpson, a senior landscape architecture major, looks at stained glass at the arts and crafts fair at Rudder Fountain Tuesday afternoon. Stained glass was just one of the many crafts available at the fair.

Clements honors Rudder with marker in France

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements placed a historical marker in France honoring James Earl Rudder, who served as a president of Texas A&M.

Historically, the marker symbolizes Rudder's involvement in World War II. Rudder led a regiment of U.S. Army Rangers in the D-Day invasion of the beaches in Normandy, France.

After World War II, Rudder was elected Texas land commissioner. Locally, he is better known as having served as president of

Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System.

Rudder was born in Eden in Concho County in 1910. He died in 1970, and later received such honors as having A&M's Rudder Tower named in the honor of his name and life.

Clements was accompanied Tuesday by French officials during the marker dedication ceremonies, according to a news release.

The governor made several comments

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— Gov. Bill Clements

about Rudder, including calling him, a great American, a great Texan and a great soldier. Clements said Rudder received the honor to pay tribute to his patriotism and life.

"The marker will stand as a lasting tribute to Rudder's heroism and the bravery of the 225 men he led into battle during the second World War," Clements said.

Clements said Rudder's other honors

served to exemplify why the marker was such a deserved tribute.

During the service of the war Rudder is honored for, he and his soldiers fought for 212 days before being relieved. Ninety of the men Rudder led survived the mission.

Clements ended his 19-day stay in Spain and France, where he met with government and business officials and discussed ways to increase trade and cultural ties between their countries and Texas.

CS police officer: Having good times does not justify irresponsible drinking

By Richard Tijerina
Staff Writer

Being charged with driving while intoxicated can make one both socially and financially liable, and the price one ends up paying is not worth the fun one may have while being drunk, according to College Station Police Lt. Bob Price.

Price, who works with drug and alcohol education in the College Station school systems, and A&M student attorney Trip Walter were the special speakers at an Alcohol and the Law Presentation Tuesday night by BACCHUS, the Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students.

The presentation hoped to inform students of the processes involved in a DWI arrest and the consequences that arise from it.

Price said the whole process of making a DWI arrest is a lengthy process, which includes the field sobriety test and the breath test at the police department. The whole process can last longer than an hour, and DWI suspects are always videotaped while taking the alcohol breath test at the police station.

"The officer will look for the driver who is driving slower than normal, that (is) trying to be cautious," he said. "Alcohol is a depressant, and it slows down your reaction time. They'll be hitting curbs, medians, crossing stripes. These are the things we look for."

Price said these indications are strong enough to merit enough probable cause to pull a car over.

Police officers concentrate DWI efforts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and Price said it is not hard to spot a drunk driver.

"We have a DWI task force that pay officers time and a half their normal salaries to go out and look for DWI," he said. "They concentrate on the weekends. Thursday night is usually the big night. Once you've seen a couple of them, DWI's are easy to spot."

If the field officers feel the driver has failed the field sobriety test, the suspect will be taken to the police department to take an alcohol breath

test. A person is legally intoxicated if he scores a .10 on the test, meaning that ten percent of their blood content is alcohol. Officers will read the suspect his Miranda rights and administer the test after 15 minutes.

Refusal to take the alcohol breath test or a blood alcohol test may result in a suspension of the suspect's driver's license for 90 days. Walter said it is possible to appeal the suspension in court.

"You have 20 days from the time you receive the letter from the DPS telling you your license is suspended to appeal that suspension," Walter said. "The sole issue of that hearing is whether or not the officer had probable cause to stop the individual for DWI."

Walter said the individual has no control over being videotaped at the station, but he does have the right to do nothing at all. However, he said this would only result in the suspension of the driver's license.

Walter said the consequences of refusing to take the breath or blood tests would include the loss of the driver's license, but that sometimes it can be a necessary step to fight the offense in court.

"In my mind when I think about not submitting to the breath or blood test, and I know this is a hard determination to make, I think you'd have to be in the mind set that you want to contest this all the way," he said. "If you refuse these things and later on you want to plea bar-

gain with the county attorney, my opinion is you won't get a very good deal out of the plea bargain as you would if you had submitted to the tests."

Walter and Price both said that although state law does not hold the host of a party responsible for any deaths or damages that come from someone he served alcohol, it can happen, particularly since laws are present in other states that do hold the host responsible.

Such laws, they said, could be used as precedents in a Texas court of law to prosecute the host.

Price said the fun someone can have while under the influence of alcohol is in no way equal to the prices they can pay if arrested for DWI.

Students debate resolution on drugs

By Sharon Maberry
Staff Writer

Texas A&M students have strong opinions both for and against a resolution to suspend constitutional rights to combat illegal drugs. About 300 students were on hand Tuesday in the MSC for a debate about the resolution. The debate was presented by the Texas A&M Debate Society.

Ellen Hetherington, a junior speech communications major, argued for the resolution by upholding that the United States Constitution is flexible because its framers could not have foreseen modern day situations such as extensive drug abuse.

"The reason there is no clause in the Constitution regarding this issue is because in 1787 there was no drug problem," Hetherington said. "We need a change of current policy to combat illegal drugs. Just Say No' is just not working."

We need to suspend the rights of everyone encouraging illegal drugs.

"How long will we infringe on the rights of innocent people to protect the rights of the guilty?" she asked. "Our rights cease when they infringe on the rights of others."

Hetherington said America's drug problem can be curbed by suspending the rights of drug sellers and users.

Monique Daniel, a freshman philosophy major, argued that approving the resolution would eventually jeopardize everyone's rights by a snowball effect.

"If this resolution is passed, every right and liberty we have may be threatened," Daniel said. "There is no limitation to its bounds and it will go beyond our control. If we take away the rights of one, the rights of all are threatened."

"The constitutional rights of the United States are guaranteed to all: not just to the innocent, but to the guilty as well. My opponent seems to feel that the rights of the guilty are not as important as those of the innocent. We in the United States are innocent until proven guilty. How

do we determine who's innocent and who's guilty if we take away constitutional rights?"

Daniel said the drug problem is being successfully fought by current policies on local, regional and national levels. Elected officials will not condone the selling or using of drugs. Congress has created a Cabinet-level position solely to solve the drug problem. Also, illegal search and seizure policies are not supported by Congress, she said.

"If we solve the problem on an individual level, as the national programs are doing, by starting with the education of children, the problem will be solved without taking away constitutional rights because without demand, the supply will disappear," Daniel said.

"The Constitution protects us in every facet of our being. Are we willing to allow this to be threatened?"

Heated reactions from the audience followed the two speakers, both for and against the resolution. One student said that acceptance of the resolution would go against the

Shuttle buses will be running for last game

By Timothy J. Hammons
Staff Writer

Outer route shuttle buses will offer free shuttle service to campus for the Alabama football game starting at 3 p.m. Thursday. The buses will continue to run until one hour after the game.

During the game, one bus will run on each shuttle route.

Bus Operations Manager Doug Williams said the unusual circum-

stances of the game make the extra shuttle service necessary.

"People will still be in class and parking lots will be full," Williams said. "Many people will expect to park at Kyle Field, but will not be able to."

After 6 p.m., all routes will stop only on Throckmorton Street by the University president's house and on Jersey Street by the Former Students Center. Between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., students may board the shuttles at the Throckmorton or Jersey stops or the regular bus stops.

Bus passes will not be required to ride the shuttle, Williams said.

"I'm optimistic about this venture because there is no cost to anyone," Williams said. "We had tremendous use during bonfire. Hopefully this crowd will be more orderly."

If weather's OK Hurricane Bowl will be played

Weather permitting, kickoff for the Hurricane Bowl — the rescheduled game between Texas A&M and the University of Alabama — will be at 7:38 p.m. Thursday at Kyle Field.

The Corps of Cadets will step off from the band hall for marching at 5:40 p.m. During the pre-game ceremonies, skydivers from Aggies Over Texas will land at the 50-yard line with the game ball.

Official Yell practice will be held at Kyle Field tonight at 7 p.m. A "Hurricane Ball" will follow at 8 p.m. at the Hall of Fame.