

# The Battalion

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## Soviets announce arms reduction

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The 50,000 Soviet troops being pulled out of Eastern Europe will take the nuclear missiles and other arms under their control with them, the Soviet foreign minister said Thursday.

A NATO spokesman welcomed the announcement by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze as encouraging. U.S. arms negotiator Stephen Ledogar said the speech was "very upbeat, very positive," but warned against reading more into the statement than the Kremlin intended.

Shevardnadze's speech came on the final day of a gathering that produced a 35-nation human rights accord. Shevardnadze said the agreement was the product of a changing relationship between East and West.

"The Vienna meeting has shaken up the Iron Curtain, weakened its rusty supports, made new breaches in it and hastened its

corrosion," he said, referring to the East-West division as Winston Churchill described it 40 years ago.

"Truth must be visible," Shevardnadze said in promising that the Kremlin would publish before the end of the month a timetable for troop removal.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, in a unilateral move, announced in December that Soviet forces would be cut by 500,000 soldiers, including 50,000 stationed in Eastern Europe.

Shevardnadze said the troops departing Eastern Europe will take with them "all their organic armaments, including tactical nuclear systems."

He also said the Soviet Union has stopped modernizing its short-range nuclear weapons and called on the United States to follow suit.

Those arms are tactical missiles with a

range of less than 312 miles. The Soviet Union and the United States signed an accord more than a year ago to eliminate all intermediate-range nuclear forces and are negotiating for deep cuts in strategic arms.

Ledogar, the U.S. ambassador to arms talks that are to start in March, said modernization is an option the United States would like to keep until NATO and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact have an equal number of troops, tanks and other non-nuclear forces.

"We don't want to abandon the nuclear leg of the deterrent until we have a much better situation on conventional forces," he told the Associated Press.

During a brief exchange with reporters after his speech, Shevardnadze made it clear that only short-range weapons that are part of the military units to be with-

drawn will be dismantled without conditions.

He said he could not say what percentage of the Kremlin's short-range stockpile

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— Eduard Shevardnadze,  
Soviet foreign minister

would remain deployed but that these figures and others will be released in detail be-

fore the March 9 start of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe negotiations.

Those talks are mandated in the human rights accord approved Sunday by the United States, Soviet Union, Canada and 32 European nations. The agreement also calls for freer travel, emigration, speech and religious practices.

Shevardnadze held a brief, impromptu news conference later in the day, and was asked to describe the difference between the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain he disparaged in his speech.

He said the wall, which has divided Berlin since it was erected 27 years ago, is a matter for East Germany.

East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer alluded to the wall in a speech Thursday and suggested that calls for it to be torn down infringe on his nation's sovereign rights.



Photo by Kathy Haveman

### Catch the wave!

Pete Rubio, a grounds maintenance worker on campus, takes advantage of a brief let-up in the showers Thursday afternoon to clear the

area around Beutel Health Center of some run-off water. Rain has been the rule the first week of the semester.

## Students can cash in on feeling bad

By Sherri Roberts  
Staff Writer

Although the thought of being a human guinea pig for the sake of science is less than appealing to many students, some are cashing in on the experience.

Receiving \$40 for having a cold or flu virus may seem too good to be true. However, independent research companies such as Paull Research Institute and G&S Studies, Inc. offer just that to students willing to participate in clinical studies.

The studies are funded and designed by pharmaceutical companies who contract with the independent research companies to conduct clinical studies, which test various drugs and their effects on individuals suffering with certain ailments.

Jennifer Jessing, director of marketing and development at Paull Research International, said the company receives an average of 200 calls a week from prospective volunteers. This number varies, however, upon the time of the year and the number of studies taking place, she said.

In the spring, at the height of allergy season, Paull receives an influx of calls from individuals interested in participating in an allergy study, she said, whereas an increase of calls from individuals interested in cold studies is received in the winter.

Bryan-College Station has a higher pollen count than many regions in Texas because of its geographic location. This contributes to aggravated allergies for many individuals, Jessing said.

She said that although a majority of volunteers are initially attracted to the studies because of the money incentive, they often become genuinely interested in the project as they learn more about its potential benefits toward themselves and others.

"The study offers them the opportunity to learn about their disease process," she said.

The purpose of the money incentive is to compensate individuals for the time they spend in participating in the study, she said. Studies such as the four-week mountain cedar allergy study offer a \$300 monetary incentive, as opposed to the \$40 offered to individuals who participate in a four-hour headache study, she said.

Before participating in a study, volunteers are required to sign a consent form which states the purpose, procedures, and potential risks and benefits of the study, Jessing said. The consent form also lists the drugs the volunteer may receive.

Before being tested on humans, drugs used in the study must undergo extensive laboratory testing, including tests on animals, Jessing said. After reviewing this data, the Food and Drug Administration will grant approval for the testing of the

drug on humans if it feels the drug's benefits outweigh its costs, she said.

"We will not put any patient at extreme risk," Jessing said. "Our medical doctor assesses risk."

In addition to a medical director who oversees patient care, Paull has nurses, a nutritionist, and various other health educators on staff, she said.

Tom Brown, a senior economics major, said he received \$200 for his participation in a five-week ragweed study conducted by Paull in September.

"I did it mainly because I have real bad ragweed allergies and I wanted to see if I would have any success with this medication," he said.

Brown said employees at Paull gave him a physical, performed scratch tests, and took blood samples to evaluate his health condition and to determine if he suffered from the allergy.

Once accepted for the study, he was instructed to take a nasal spray twice a day and to return to the clinic every Friday for the next five weeks so that his progress could be monitored.

"I spent a total of 10-12 hours at the institute," Brown said.

Although the medication he was given didn't control all aspects of his allergies, Brown said it did a better job of relieving his symptoms than other medications he had taken.

Brown is now participating in a mountain cedar allergy study at Paull. Although he joined the first study for medical purposes, he said, his primary motive for joining the second study was for the money.

Jessing said many of Paull's research volunteers, a majority of whom are Texas A&M students, have previously participated in studies at Paull.

"A majority of people come back, and we know them by name," she said. "They know what to expect and that we conduct our research in a very professional manner."

While students who take part in Paull's studies do so on a voluntary basis, some students participate in various research studies to meet class requirements.

Diane Jones, assistant professor of psychology, said students in PSYC 107: Introduction to Psychology, are required to participate in four hours of research or to demonstrate an equivalent method of learning about research methods.

"Because psychology is a research-based discipline, it is important that students understand the different approaches and methods used to conduct research," she said.

Students participate in studies dealing with subjects such as dating relationships, stress, and the effects of family on one's friendship network, she said.

## Expert: Growth hormones used in cattle not dangerous to health

By Ashley A. Bailey  
Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, growth-promoting hormones used in beef production are not dangerous to consumers, a leader of Texas A&M's Meats and Muscle Biology Section said.

Dr. H. Russell Cross, holder of the E. M. Rosenthal Chair and a professor of animal science, said decades of research in the United States and abroad have provided no evidence that growth-promoting hormones pose any danger of cancer, birth defects, reproductive damage or any other known disorder to humans.

"These same and similar hormones occur naturally in the human body and at levels thousands of times higher than the residues in meat from treated cattle," Cross said. "The issue is not debatable. There is no evidence."

The beef cattle industry began using growth-promoting hormones, which promote feed conversion efficiency and increase the ratio of lean meat to fat, in hopes of accommodating the consumers' demands for a leaner product at a low price, he said.

"The beef industry has responded so quickly to this consumer signal that they showed a 27 percent reduction in fat in the retail meat case in less than two years," Cross said.

So, if growth-promoting hormones are safe and economical, then why have the common market

countries, also known as the European Economic Community (EEC), banned the import of meat from animals treated with growth-promoting hormones?

Cross said the ban was started by well-organized farmer unions in the EEC and has accelerated into what the EEC is calling a consumer activist movement against hormones because of safety. In reality, Cross said, the U.S. government does not believe it's a safety issue, but rather a trade restriction.

Cross said EEC beef producers are much more heavily subsidized than U.S. beef producers, which has resulted in great excesses.

"The excess is so large that they are storing beef on ships offshore," he said. "So, the last thing a European farmer wants is our beef coming into their countries."

As a result of this trade restriction, the U.S. government has slapped 100 percent tariffs on \$150 million of EEC products exported to the United States, Cross said. A significant danger, however, is that the United States' retaliation could touch off a more widespread trade war between the United States and the Common Market countries, he said.

Adding an ironic twist to the situation is the fact that the only potential health hazard from hormones is from meat imported from Europe, he said.

"Since the EEC has made the use of hormones illegal, a tremendous 'black market' for illegal

drugs has developed in Europe," Cross said. "USDA officials suspect that the use of these 'cocktail mixtures' of drugs is widespread in some countries and the residue levels are quite high."

These illegal drugs are not implanted into the ear in a slow release implant (as required in the United States) but are injected directly into the muscle of the animal.

Cross said the residue levels found in European livestock are 10- to 15-times higher than those found in U.S. livestock. The EEC has no residue-monitoring program and the EEC frequently disobeys residue laws, he said.

These infractions are grounds for the United States to take the EEC off the list of countries we import from. This is a much more harsh step than tariffs, Cross said, because it would mean nothing could be exported to the United States from Europe.

Cross said, "The dangers here are political and economic rather than health-related because only a small fraction of the fresh meat exported each year by American producers goes to European markets."

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## FBI investigates exchange fraud

CHICAGO (AP) — The FBI is investigating allegations of widespread fraud at the nation's two biggest futures exchanges, officials said Thursday.

FBI agents posed as traders in the investigation, which focuses on 50 to 100 brokers, traders and executives at the Chicago Board of Trade and Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Tribune reported Thursday, citing unidentified sources.

FBI spokesman Diane Rivers and Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Gillogly in Chicago would neither con-

firm nor deny such an investigation was under way.

But law enforcement officials in Washington, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the Justice Department was investigating allegations of fraud at the two exchanges.

"We are now aware of an investigation and we intend to cooperate with it," Chicago Mercantile spokesman Andrew Yemma said.

Chicago Merc attorney Jerrold Salzman said he was contacted late Wednesday by several traders who had been subpoenaed by the FBI.

However, the Board of Trade "has no knowledge of surveillance activities of any nature being conducted on the trading floors or any other Board of Trade location," Chairman Karsten Mahlmann said in a statement Thursday.

Over a two-year period, investigators secretly tape-recorded hundreds of conversations on the exchanges' trading floors, the Tribune said.

Investigators believe traders cheated customers out of millions of dollars in the execution of buy-and-sell orders at the exchanges.

## Reagan says last goodbyes, Bush salutes parting mentor

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Bush spent his last day as vice president Thursday rehearsing the presidential inaugural address he will deliver at noon Friday and saluting the mentor whose shoes, he said, would be "pretty darn hard to fill."

On the eve of his installation into the heavy responsibilities of office, Bush was upbeat. "I really feel this," he said. "Our best days are yet to come."

Bush spent much of the day out of the public eye, preparing for one sentimental last visit to the Oval Office as a loyal subordinate, giving in-

terviews and rehearsing the 15-minute address which will set the tone of his administration.

For this state occasion, Washington's weather was glorious. Visitors and Washingtonians alike strolled with topcoats unbuttoned in the balmy-for-January sunshine. A mixture of sunshine and clouds, with an afternoon chill, was predicted for Friday, when Bush takes the oath.

Four years ago, the weather was so harsh President Reagan had to be sworn in indoors and his inauguration parade was cancelled.

Reagan spent his last full day in office saying goodbyes.

### Notice

The Battalion will begin publishing a bi-weekly entertainment section Monday.

The four-page entertainment section, which replaces At Ease, will run on Mondays and Thursdays. It will include movie and music reviews, feature stories and other regular features.