

A&M think-tank brings Soviet-bloc advisers to Houston

UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

Mikhail Gorbachev's top arms adviser is a surprise addition to a Soviet delegation appearing in Houston today through Friday at the Mosher Institute for Defense Studies symposium on arms control.

Dr. Oleg Grinevsky, one of three Soviet ambassadors-at-large and principal adviser to Gorbachev arms control since 1986, will speak at the meeting sponsored by the Texas A&M University Institute. Grinevsky has been spokesman for the Soviet leader at arms control sessions during the Reagan-Gorbachev summits and joins a Soviet delegation that includes a top official from the Kremlin's principal think-tank on U.S. affairs.

"The unexpected addition of Grinevsky to the Soviet delegation is of major significance, as it suggests the Soviets may view the symposium as an important forum for publicly staking out their arms control ideas while the Bush administration is still reviewing its policy options," Dr. Ron Hatchett, associate director of the Mosher Institute and a former U.S. arms negotiator, said.

The Mosher defense think-tank at A&M is bringing together negotiators from all the major arm control talks for a unique international conference, "Towards a More Stable Military Balance in Europe," Hatchett said.

The recently formed institute is headed by noted historian Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, president emeritus of Texas A&M and a member of the Army Science Board.

At the meeting, Western, neutral and Soviet Bloc arms negotiators will discuss implications of the INF treaty, the control of biological and chemical weapons, and the conventional military balance in Europe.

Formal talks on conventional

forces and confidence-and-security building measures, under recently agreed mandates, are set to begin in late March, Hatchett said. The Mosher Institute symposium will give the NATO, Soviet, East European, neutral and non-aligned countries an opportunity to exchange views in an informal setting, he said.

"This could prevent a false start when actual negotiations begin," Hatchett added.

Another addition also indicative of the importance the Soviets may be placing on the Mosher symposium is attendance by Maj. Gen. Vladimir Bolyatko from the Soviet Ministry of Defense. Bolyatko represents the Soviet military in the U.S.-Soviet military talks set up last summer by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Administration William Crowe and his then-Soviet counterpart Marshal Akhromyev, Hatchett said.

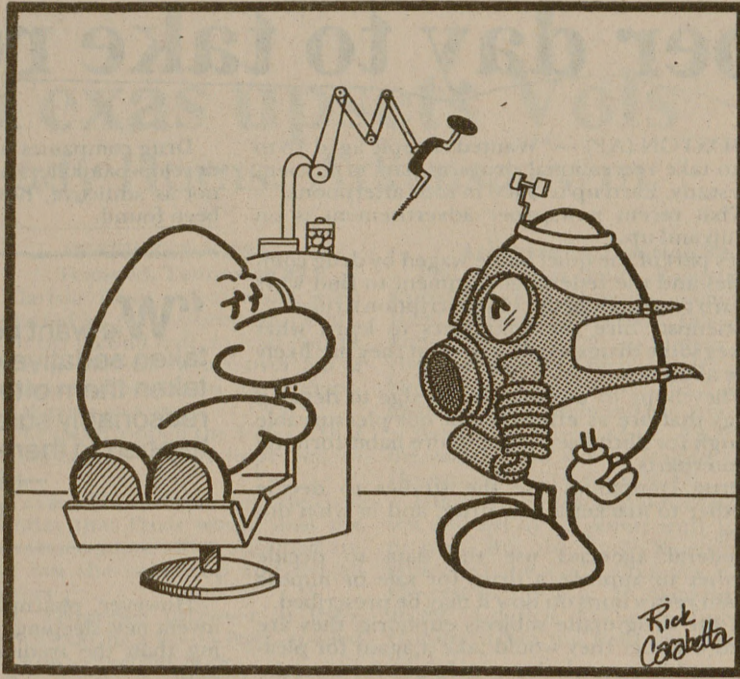
Already scheduled to attend as part of the seven-man Soviet delegation are Dr. Andrei Kokoshin, deputy director of the Institute for the Study of the USA and Canada at the USSR Academy of Sciences that advises Gorbachev, and Ambassador Oleg Khlestov, former chief Soviet conventional forces negotiator.

Among the United States participants are four ambassadors, including Stephen Ledogar, U.S. representative to the Negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, and other current or former heads of U.S. delegations to arms control talks.

The Mosher Institute will also feature key negotiators from Austria, Switzerland, France, West Germany, the United Kingdom, Poland and other countries.

People interested in attending the symposium should contact Hatchett at the Mosher Institute on the Texas A&M Campus at 845-9900.

Scrambled Eggs



OKAY, LET'S HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT TOOTH.

Drowned teens' parents hope lawsuits prevent similar camp tragedies

KERRVILLE (AP) — The parents of four teen-agers who drowned in a bus accident in the flooded Guadalupe River in 1987 say they believe their lawsuits that were settled out of court have helped to prevent a similar tragedy from occurring.

The families of the four teen-agers had been seeking a total of \$11.7 million in damages, but State District Judge V. Murray Jordan on Monday sealed the settlement at the request of the parties.

The families of John Bankston Jr., 17, and Leslie Gossett, 14, plus sisters Stacey Smith, 16, and Tonya Smith, 14, had filed the lawsuits against the Pot O' Gold Ranch Camp of Comfort, its operators, Huisache Avenue Baptist Church in San Antonio, and two camp administrators, the Rev. Claud Bonam Sr., and his daughter-in-law, Zeldia Bonam.

The four teen-agers were among 10 who drowned on July 17, 1987, when a bus and van from Seagoville Road Baptist Church of Balch Springs was swept by flood waters of the Guadalupe River near the camp, about three miles southeast of Comfort.

John Bankston Sr., father of the teen-ager who saved numerous lives before he disappeared under the Guadalupe River and whose body has not been found, said he hoped the suit and settlement will prevent a similar accident.

"It's hard to explain how hard it's been," Bankston told reporters Monday. "It's something that we would rather not have gone through, but through all of this, all these camps will take this measure to ensure the safety of the people at these camps because children can't make up their minds like a grownup can."

"We're of course glad that it's over with," Bankston said. "Camp safety was the main thing and I think we have accomplished that."

Bonam told reporters outside the Kerr County Courthouse he made a public apology to the families and said changes will be made at the camp to avoid future flood problems, but declined to say the camp was at fault.

"We regret most deeply that such a flood came our way," Bonam said. "Most importantly, we are working with the Sons of Hermann Lodge, the adjacent land owner, to have an alternate route out."

The campers were exiting the camp en route home, but had to travel within 200 feet of the Guadalupe River, which had overflowed its banks.

Several other lawsuits from several of the victims' families and some of the 33 survivors are pending. Attorneys for the camp said they did not know how the settlement would affect those cases.

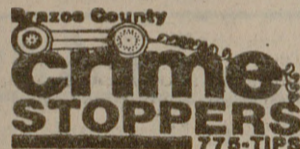
Crime Stoppers seeks info on attempted sexual assault

On Monday, Nov. 28, 1988 a man attempted to sexually assault a female in a house in the 800 block of Kalonchoe Street in College Station.

The assailant entered the house after removing a window screen and prying open a dining room window. He then entered the 23-year-old female's bedroom, sat on top of her, and threatened her with a utility knife with the intention of sexually assaulting her.

The victim was able to struggle free and escape unharmed to a neighbor's home.

Anyone with information that could be helpful in this crime



should contact Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When called, Crime Stoppers will issue a special coded number to protect the caller's identity.

If the call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay the caller up to \$1,000.

Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the whereabouts of any wanted fugitive.

65-year-old history buff 'horns in' on art world with carvings

HUGHES SPRINGS (AP) — For a man who never studied history seriously, George Irvin is hinging in on it late in life.

He strives for authenticity in developing his hobbies: scrimshaw, buckskinning and knifemaking.

The 65-year-old says history was not one of his favorite subjects in school, but it became a passion about 1980.

Until last summer, the native Texan never had visited the Lone Star State's mecca, the Alamo in San Antonio.

Texas history is one of the recurring themes sketched on the horns Irvin sells in his Hughes Springs, Texas, shop. At present, he is carving the names of all the Alamo defenders on a horn.

Scrimshaw is an art that dates back to whaling days, Irvin said. Sailors commonly would carve on whales' teeth during the lonely days at sea. Its popularity spread to land in the form of horns

used to store gunpowder, salt, rum and other perishable items.

Story horns caught Irvin's interest in the 1980s.

"I was afraid to do it," he said. "I'm no artist."

One of his first was the history of his wife's family. Nell Riddle Irvin's family landed on the East Coast back in the 1700s and the horn map traces their journeys from there to Northeast Texas.

Horns are hard to find, he says. He buys them at garage sales, flea markets and some from dealers in places like Monroe, La.

The horn itself ideally should be white or cream in color. The throat, or tip, should be black or brown, Irvin said.

Most horns he gets are still in their original state, and must be scraped and cleaned. The horn can be shaped after it has been boiled in water 30 minutes.

"Boiling a horn can be unhealthy," Irvin said. "Your wife might kill you." He says the horn emits a horrible smell in the process much like burned hair.

Once he has a scrimshaw pattern or picture on the horn, he applies black ink to fill in the cracks and the horn is ready for sale once the base plugs are in place.

Irvin makes the base plugs, which close up the end of the horn, of poplar, pine, cherry or walnut wood. He attaches them to the horn by drilling in round toothpicks.

When complete, the horns are watertight and airtight, ready for use.

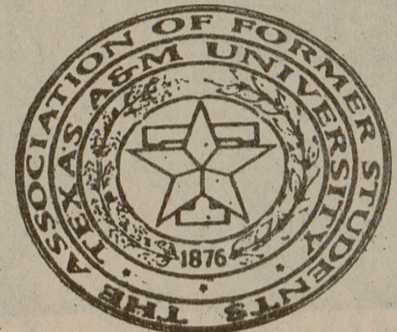
To accompany the specially made individual gunpowder kegs, Irvin makes knives, buckskin pouches and clothing for the modern day mountain man in his two-story shop, the Fort St. George, complete with fireplace and an antique tool collection.

PHI ETA SIGMA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society will this year award \$35,000 in graduate and undergraduate scholarships and awards to selected members of Phi Eta Sigma across the nation. There are \$2,000 awards for seniors who plan to enter graduate or professional schools in Spring 1989. There are \$500 awards that are to be given to juniors and sophomores for the Fall of 1989.

Any eligible member of Phi Eta Sigma who is interested in applying for one of the awards or scholarships should get in touch with Dr. Curtis Lard in 109 Kleburg, phone 845-3712. Only Phi Eta Sigma members are eligible for the scholarships. The deadline for applications is February 14, 1989.

BUCK WEIRUS SPIRIT AWARDS



APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

May be picked up at various locations to include:

Department of Student Activities
Vice President for Student Services
MSC, Student Affairs

Deadline for application is 5:00 p.m. on February 10.

SSC PRESENTS:

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