

The Battalion



FORECAST for WEDNESDAY:
Morning clouds giving way to a mostly sunny, warm and humid afternoon.

HIGH:86

LOW:63

Wright 'intends to fight' committee charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Jim Wright, opening his defense against a string of ethics committee charges, sought Tuesday to rally Democratic colleagues and told them, "I intend to fight and I intend to win."

He said that while he may have made mistakes in judgment, "I have never done anything to dishonor this institution and I never will."

In a half-hour speech to a private session of the Democratic Caucus in the House chamber, and later in press releases, Wright

chose to concentrate his defense on one issue: the charge that his wife, Betty, did no substantial work for the \$72,000 she received from a Fort Worth friend from 1980 to 1984.

But more troubling to many of his colleagues were charges that Wright sought to evade House limits on outside earned income through seven bulk sales of his book, "Reflections of a Public Man," most of them made in lieu of accepting speaking fees from interest groups.

Wright received a standing ovation at the

end of his caucus speech, which included an admission that he had made some errors in judgment and "may have made some mistakes in my life," participants said.

Wright's lawyer, William C. Oldaker, was consulting with the ethics committee to arrange a speedy appearance for the speaker before the committee to answer the formal charges.

Following his speech, most Democratic House members interviewed voiced tentative support for Wright. Many said they had not yet read the ethics committee's vo-

luminous report formally charging him with 69 instances of rules violations, and added that they were waiting to see whether the panel takes all of those issues to a disciplinary hearing.

But they acknowledged that growing political heat from their home districts — and what lawmakers hear when they go home for the long Passover weekend — would play a role in whether Wright remains as speaker.

"The recess will have some role, because every member is undoubtedly aware that if

we have to make difficult votes in defense of the speaker, those will be used in 30-second Republican political ads against us" in the next election, said Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont.

"The easy thing for Democrats to do is to throw Jim Wright over the side and instantly install (House Majority Leader) Tom Foley behind the wheel," Williams said. "It may be that the toughest political vote of our lives will be the one to save him."

Prosecutor compares North to Adolf Hitler, Joe Isuzu

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oliver North was portrayed to his trial jury Tuesday as a liar who couldn't stop, and as "the Joe Isuzu of government" who followed Hitler's maxim that "the victor will never be asked if he told the truth."

"If Ollie North wanted to get it done, he didn't care if he broke the law," said prosecutor John Kecker in final arguments at North's trial.

But, in return, defense lawyer Brendan Sullivan said anyone "who links Colonel North to Adolf Hitler is not credible and should not be believed." He called the comparison outrageous.

"This man is not Adolf Hitler," Sullivan said, "and he doesn't do things like Adolf Hitler."

The defense lawyer was scornful

of his opponents, saying everything the government sees North as doing "is through a dirty glass."

Why shouldn't North have thrown papers away, he asked, when they referred to the secret operations of the government.

"In this case, the government is off track and running wild, and you should stop it," Sullivan told the jury.

North, the former National Security Council aide who was at the center of the Iran-Contra vortex, sat stone-faced at the defense table as prosecutor Kecker methodically tried to dismantle his American-hero image.

"Telling the truth is something you learned at your mother's knee," Kecker said. "Government by decep-

tion is not a free government. Government by deception is not a democratic government. Government by deception is not a government under the rule of law."

After North's lawyer finishes his closing argument Wednesday, there will be rebuttal and then the trial — now in its 12th week — will go to the jury, which will then be sequestered.

"I will be asking you to return a verdict of guilty as to each of these 12 counts against Oliver North," Prosecutor Kecker told the jury Tuesday.

He said, "The tragedy of Oliver North is of a man who cared so much for freedom in Nicaragua, but forgot about the demands of freedom and democracy here at home."

Civilians flee Beirut as troops cease fire to allow evacuation

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Thousands of civilians fled west Beirut Tuesday as Christian and Syrian gunners held their fire briefly to allow the evacuation of 70 severely wounded Moslems to a French hospital ship.

Hundreds of cars packed with suitcases, mattresses and blankets sped down a seaside highway to south and east Lebanon as the wounded were assembled outside the home of acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss.

Eight people were killed and 43 wounded overnight as the city's divided population huddled in bunkers and bomb shelters for a third night. That raised the toll to 270 killed and 975 wounded since fighting erupted March 8.

Pillars of flame from burning buildings lighted the sky and the city was laden with smoke as Christian army units and Syrian and Moslem gunners bombarded the capital with rocket, artillery and tank fire.

France's President Francois Mitterrand asked President Bush, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and other world leaders Tuesday to help end the fighting in

this former French colony, said Mitterrand spokesman Hubert Vedrine.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported a telephone conversation between Mitterrand and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "crystallized the idea of making joint efforts at the international level to halt the bloodshed."

The Arab League Council called an emergency meeting for Friday on Lebanon, although it has failed to end the fighting with three failed cease-fires.

The council comprises foreign ministers of the 22 member states which in 1976 granted Syria a mandate to pacify Lebanon.

Damascus maintains 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

"I can't take it any more," said Farah Shatilla of west Beirut. "We can live without bread, electricity and water. But hearing the screams of death and agony of our neighbors, this I can't take."

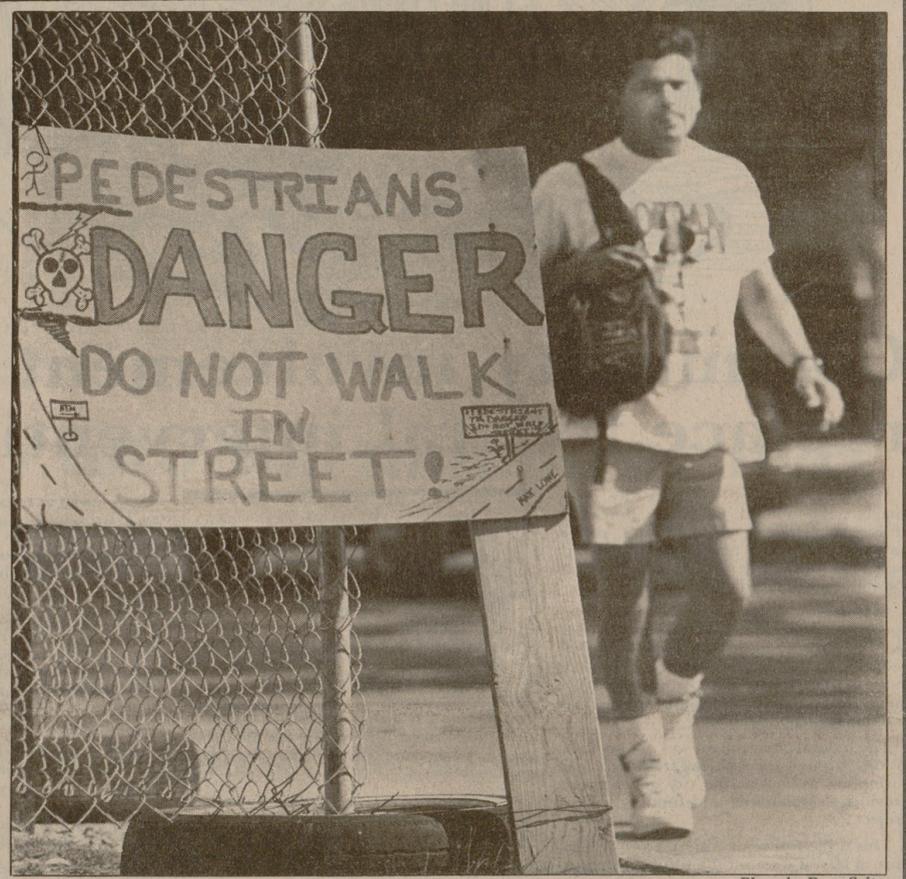


Photo by Dean Saito

Sign of the times

Graffiti livens up this sign on the corner of Parking Lot 60 near G. Rollie White Coliseum. This student, as many others, chose not to

heed the warnings and ventured into the construction area Tuesday. This sign is one of several warning of campus construction.

Soviet dissident says Gorbachev's policy of glasnost producing confusion, turmoil

By Melissa Naumann

REPORTER

Confusion is what has prevailed in the Soviet Union under the new *glasnost* policy, the first Soviet dissident allowed back in Moscow since the beginning of *glasnost* said Tuesday at a program sponsored by MSC Political Forum.

Dr. Alexander Goldfarb said the most obvious indicator of the confusion during his last visit to the Soviet Union was an interview with a reporter from a popular weekly Soviet magazine. After Goldfarb candidly answered her questions about why he left the Soviet Union in 1975, she told him the editor might choose not to publish the article because his reasons for leaving were political.

"She said it is true that censorship was abolished," Goldfarb said. "The problem is that all of the press is still owned by the government, and the editor-in-chief was an employee of the government."

This type of paradox is representative of the turmoil the Soviet Union is experiencing, Goldfarb said.

"The Soviet Union recently has ceased to become a monolithic entity," he said. "At the moment, the Soviet Union is indeed an eclectic entity."

Goldfarb said one reason for the confusion is the growing dissatisfaction of the people on the geographical fringes of the Soviet Union. The unity of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is being threatened as these highly ethnic

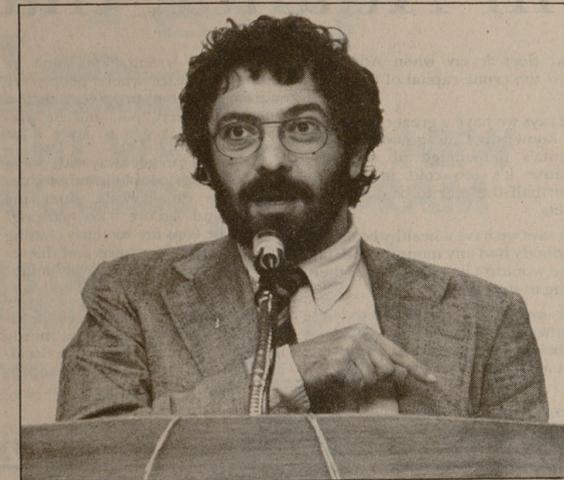


Photo by Kathy Haveman

Alexander Goldfarb

republics, such as Estonia and Lithuania, strive to become more independent, he said.

Another contributor to the turmoil is an "ideological vacuum" in the Soviet Union, he said. Americans may see themselves as lacking concrete political ideals, but the Soviet situation is more extreme.

"(Soviet) people's hearts and minds are up for grabs by any influence that will come in," he said.

One of the two major influences is the Western culture,

Goldfarb said. As Western ideas and products, such as Coca-Cola and pantyhose, infiltrate the Soviet Union, some Soviets are becoming more receptive to the Western way of life, he said.

The conductors of the Western influence are educated people, including professionals and university employees, who haven't shared in the political power, he said.

Goldfarb said the other influence is the re-emergence of traditional ideas that were destroyed

and suppressed by the Bolshevik regime.

The people who support a return to traditional ideas want a return to rural life and are violently xenophobic, rejecting everything foreign, he said.

"They want to forcefully expel non-Russian people," Goldfarb said. "They say we should become Russia for Russians."

The tension between the supporters of Western ideas and the supporters of traditional ideas is overwhelming, he said.

"The passion of this debate is so high that you quite often hear the words 'civil war' when you are there," he said.

He said another cause for confusion is President Mikhail Gorbachev's lack of consistency.

For example, in the Soviet Union, Gorbachev speaks of a national destiny like a nationalist leader, Goldfarb said.

"(But) when he comes here (to the United States), he is a Western-style socialist, like (French President Francois) Mitterrand," Goldfarb said. "From those who have met him, you cannot get a sense of what this man is up to."

Goldfarb said Gorbachev has gained a great deal of political power, but to keep it, he must deal with the growing dissatisfaction among the people. Shortages in Moscow of necessities such as meat, produce and shoes have caused the public to trust him less.

"I think his immediate political problem is that the people are unhappy," he said. "A major source of frustration is meeting consumer demands."

Police link most victims in Mexico to drug trade

MATAMOROS, Mexico (AP) — Most of the 15 bodies exhumed in a rural area west of here during the past week were those of drug traffickers and not random victims of an occult-influenced drug ring's human sacrifices, a Mexican police official said Tuesday.

Juan Benitez Ayala, commander of the Federal Judicial Police in this border city, also said the investigation has shifted to Mexico City, where officials believe several murders are linked to the drug ring's "godfather," 26-year-old Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo.

Constanzo was among the 11 indicted by a federal grand jury in McAllen Tuesday on drug charges. Also among those indicted was a woman who has been called the "godmother" of the cult, four men in custody in Mexico, a man arrested in Houston on Monday and four who remained at large late Tuesday.

They were indicted on charges of conspiracy to import marijuana; importing marijuana; conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute the drug; and possession with intent to distribute, authorities said.

Benitez refused to comment on statements he made to reporters on Monday, when he speculated that Sara Aldrete Villarreal, 24, the cult's reported "godmother," may have been killed by Constanzo because she knew too much about the organization.

On the U.S. side of the border, officials said they thought she was still alive, even though Mexican officials reported finding some of her personal effects in an apartment containing an apparent occult altar.

"It just might be a put-on," said Cameron County Sheriff Alex Perez in Brownsville. "If they did find a purse or found a passport, that may have been just a trick by Sara and

Constanzo to (make it appear) she is dead... I think she is still alive."

He said the investigation in Matamoros has shown that most of the 13 bodies unearthed at the Santa Elena Ranch 20 miles west of Matamoros last week, and another two found Sunday at a nearby cooperative farm were drug smugglers.

"I have information about only four people who were sacrificed and the great majority were drug traffickers," Benitez said.

Of the 15 victims, "some were tortured, some were only shot, and there were the young people who were sacrificed."

University of Texas student Mark Kilroy, 21, of Santa Fe, Texas, was one of the four sacrificial victims not involved in the drug business, Benitez said.

He did not say which others appeared to be sacrificed, but said at least eight and possibly more of the victims were either associates or rivals of the Constanzo group.

Officials have searched at least three residences in Mexico City linked to the group, Benitez said.

"There are a lot of murders in the Colonia Roma (an area of Mexico City) connected to Constanzo," he said.

A 20-year-old woman, Maria Teresa Quintana, arrested in Mexico City on Sunday in connection with the case was "totally involved" in the occult practices of some members of the group, who sought magical protection for the smuggling business.

Her brother, Martin Quintana, is one of three men for whom new federal drug-related warrants were issued Monday in Brownsville.

Quintana, and the other named in the new warrants, Malio Fabio, are believed to have participated in the occult faction of the Constanzo organization.