

Friday, October 19, 1989

College unions group gathers in MSC today for annual conference

By Todd Connelley
Of The Battalion Staff

The Association of College Unions-International, ACU-I, will hold its annual Fall Conference in the MSC this weekend. Student union delegates from schools in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas are expected to attend. The ACU-I holds regional conferences for students and student activity professors featuring leadership and staff development workshops, said Jim Damm, student chairman for the conference. The ACU-I also sponsors the regional gaming tournaments and the college bowl. The conference kicks off Friday night with an opening dinner followed by the Judy Tenuta concert, Damm said.

"After the concert we will have an International Dance Mixer," he said.

On Saturday the tone of the conference will turn serious with a full day of educational sessions. "We will have sessions on topics like: college bookstore operations, multicultural awareness and student-staff advisor relations," Damm explained. Saturday evening will feature "Night at the MSC," showcasing the activities of different MSC committees.

Sunday more educational sessions are planned followed by a closing banquet.

"Right now we have 50 schools registered," Damm said. "We're planning on about 200 people. The cost of \$75 per delegate covers the concert and the dinners."

Overworked Texas federal courts need 6 more judges, Brooks says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee said Thursday he would back efforts to create six federal judgeships for two Texas judicial districts he said are burdened with "an almost insurmountable problem" as the nation's leaders in new drug cases.

Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Beaumont, met with the chief judges of the Southern and Western districts of Texas and said afterward that there is no question the six additional judgeships are needed.

The Southern District averages 107 drug cases per judge, which is 420 percent above the national average, while the Western District averages 89 drug cases per judge, putting it at 331 percent above the national average. The national average of drug cases per judge is 21.

The Southern District, which led the country with 1,394 new drug cases in the year that ended June 30, is seeking four additional judgeships

while the Western District, which was second place with 622 drug cases, is seeking another two judges.

Brooks said Chief U.S. District Court Judges James DeAnda of Houston and Lucius D. Bunton of Odessa "are on the front line of our battle against drugs in the country and handle more cases than any other sitting judges in the country on these very controversial and difficult situations."

"They're requesting, and obviously do need, some assistance," Brooks said in an interview. "No question that they deserve those (six judgeships). And I hope we can get those six for them. These six certainly seem to be fully justified."

The districts split the Texas-Mexico border between them, which helps to account for the high number of drug cases. In addition, the Southern District includes a stretch of Gulf Coast, where officials say drug smugglers are active.

Anti-drug legislation approved by the Senate authorizes an additional 20 U.S. district court judges to be placed around the country in districts most heavily impacted by drug-related criminal felony filings.

Bunton and DeAnda said Congress, acting on the recommendations of the Judicial Conference, would decide where to place the new judges if the bill becomes law.

Brooks said their request would be

taken up with a "sympathetic attitude" when the drug bill is considered by his committee.

"These judges are both chief judges, with tremendous responsibility and dedication or they wouldn't be up here trying to present a case that only enables them to better cope with a very difficult, almost insurmountable problem with which they are faced," Brooks said.

ISA holds olympics for 33 organizations to improve relations

By Andrea Warrenburg
Of The Battalion Staff

Thirty-three Texas A&M international student organizations will participate in a mini-olympics this weekend and next weekend in an effort to improve ties between international students.

"The main purpose of the mini-olympics is to have a major activity involving as many associations as a time (as possible) to socialize and compete," said Costos Kotzabassis, a graduate student in agricultural engineering from Greece and chairman of the mini-olympics committee.

The 1989 mini-olympics is sponsored by the Texas A&M International Students Association. With 115 countries represented on the A&M campus, the ISA is an umbrella organization encompassing 46

clubs organized by country. Suzanne Drolesky, assistant international student advisor, said American students share an interest in sports with international students.

"Students from other countries are just as sports conscious as we are, and this gives them an opportunity to compete — by country," Drolesky said.

The 13 events scheduled are soccer, badminton, volleyball, basketball, raquetball, table tennis, tennis, bowling, swimming, chess, a marathon, a bike marathon and an obstacle course.

The winners of this weekend's events will go on to compete Oct. 27-29. The prize for first place in each event will be awarded at the closing ceremonies Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. in DeWare Field House. First-place winners will receive an ISA T-shirt and a plaque.

Military task force to fight border's drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Southwestern senators are confirming that the Pentagon plans a joint task force, to be based at Fort Bliss in El Paso, to coordinate the military's assault on illegal drug trafficking along the Southwest border.

The military will say nothing about the Joint Task Force 6. But congressional officials confirm the Fort Bliss outfit — involving personnel from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines — would coordinate military drug enforcement activities along the Southwest border.

"The objective of JTF-6 is to monitor the border through radar, remote sensors and air and land patrols," Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said Thursday. "It would be a joint military effort, bringing together specialists capable of engaging in special missions and activities."

Gramm said Defense Secretary Dick Cheney must still authorize the task force and its Fort Bliss command center, but Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., said the military already has mobilized anti-drug personnel on the border.

DeConcini confirmed that the task force's command center would be based at Fort Bliss in El Paso.

Fort Bliss also is the headquarters of Operation Alliance and home of the El Paso Intelligence Center, a storage point for intelligence information operated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

DeConcini said he first learned about the military's presence in late September when contacted by Pima County, Ariz., Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik.

Dupnik is a member of the board of Operation Alliance, an interagency task force that coordinates anti-drug efforts by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies along the border.

DeConcini said Dupnik was concerned the military was moving onto the border without notifying Operation Alliance. The Arizona senator then got the Senate to approve an amendment that requires the military to consult with the alliance on border drug maneuvers.

DeConcini also met with Maj. Gen. Arnold Schlossberg Jr., deputy assistant secretary of defense for drug policy and enforcement. "He came right over and told me how it happened, that they now had it back in gear and are going through procedure, including the border alliance."

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