



# East German Communist Party expels Krenz

WEST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's Communist Party on Sunday expelled Egon Krenz, the ousted leader who opened the Berlin Wall, and lost its popular No. 2 official in a resignation that could cripple the already hobbled party.

The Communists offered the opposition "co-responsibility" in the government until May elections, abolished their clasped-hands emblem and offered to change their party's name.

Also Sunday, the government threw former Parliament speaker Horst Sindermann into prison along with two other former members of the now-disgraced leadership,

and it opened a criminal probe of the Communist finance minister on charges of graft.

Wolfgang Berghofer, a reformer who was the Communist Party's deputy chairman, resigned along with 39 other prominent members in his home city of Dresden, the official news agency ADN said.

Berghofer, the 46-year-old mayor of Dresden, is credited with helping to head off a potential massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in October. He became the first East German leader to urge adoption of a free-market economy.

Berghofer said he will support "social democratic" principles. He is widely re-

ported to be joining the opposition Social Democratic party, although Sunday's announcement made no mention of such a step.

Berghofer's move put the Communist Party's future in "extreme danger," East German state television said.

His desertion is expected to spark a further mass exodus from the party, whose membership has plunged from nearly 2.3 million in 1987 to 1.2 million today.

In Bonn, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government pronounced the Communists "guilty" of dragging East Ger-

many into its current crisis.

In a marathon meeting, the East German Communists:

- Rejected demands that it disband, but promised "radical reform and consolidation."
- Rehabilitated 47 East Germans punished for speaking out against former hard-line Communist leaders.
- Expelled Krenz and 13 members and non-voting members of the ousted Politburo.

Krenz immediately appealed his expulsion, becoming the first former top leader to fight back publicly. A dozen former leaders were kicked out in December, and nine

are in prison awaiting corruption trials.

The official announcement did not specify a reason for Sunday's purge. However, the Communists are moving to rid themselves of the last of the top officials associated with Erich Honecker, the hard-liner replaced by Krenz on Oct. 18 after 18 years in power.

Honecker was kicked out of the party in December and now faces an indictment for high treason.

In an interview with the Bild newspaper of Hamburg after his expulsion from the party, Krenz was quoted as saying: "Finding another job is difficult. I will probably become a writer."

## A&M officials meet with Bush, discuss library

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Mum's the word about a meeting Thursday in Washington D.C. among three Texas A&M officials and President Bush concerning the location of his presidential library.

A&M Chancellor Perry Adkisson, Board of Regents Chairman William McKenzie and Mike Halbouty, chairman of a committee working to bring the presidential library to A&M, met with the first family Thursday evening.

The officials went to present A&M's proposal for building the presidential library here rather than at the University of Houston or Rice University, the two other universities actively competing for the landmark.

But none of the people involved in the meeting are saying anything about how it went or who the front-runner might be.

McKenzie said he had no comment about the outcome of the meeting. A&M President William Mobley also declined to comment.

"I'm not trying to be evasive," Mobley said. "This is an important and delicate issue and I think any answer to your question will have to come from Washington."

The White House press office said Friday, however, it did not even know that A&M officials met with Bush.

Officials from UH and Rice met with the Bushes last week to make a joint proposal that the library be built in Houston's Hermann Park near Rice. Each school has met with Bush privately to campaign for the library.

The Houston Chronicle said Wednesday that sources close to the president have said A&M is the likely site for the library. The same story, however, quoted another unnamed source who said Bush is still undecided.

Dr. Daniel Fallon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and chairman of the Bush Presidential Library Academic Planning Committee, said he expects the president to make a decision about the library within a month.

## All aboard!



A small celebration was held Saturday morning at the College Station Amtrak Terminal announcing daily departures to Dallas

and Houston on Amtrak. The program featured College Station Mayor Larry Ringer as a guest speaker.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

## Barrels buried at Riverside under scrutiny

By TODD L. CONNELLEY  
Of The Battalion Staff

It's amazing to think all of this began with a phone call.

Last month, Texas A&M President William Mobley received an anonymous tip from a caller who said hazardous chemicals were buried illegally at A&M's Riverside Campus.

After eight feet of digging, A&M officials discovered three barrels containing paint thinner and possibly PCB, a highly carcinogenic compound.

Mobley wasted no time organizing his troops.

He placed Robert Smith, vice president for finance and operations, in charge of the inquiry, and brought in Jones and Neuse, an Austin-based environmental engineering firm, to begin a detailed analysis of what exactly was in the barrels.

Smith said they have taken tests and done borings at the site, but it is too early to draw any conclusions.

"We have yet to determine whether there are toxic chemicals involved," he said. "It could be that it is just dirt in the barrels. The official report doesn't come out until later this week."

Marvin Garza, a field investigator for the Texas Water Commission, said if there are hazardous chemicals involved, A&M will have to hire a company certified by the state to transfer the toxic waste to a proper dumping ground.

Garza said if the contents of the barrels are harmless they will be sent to a landfill.

Even if the results of the investigation prove bogus, it still needs to be determined who is responsible for burying the three 55-gallon drums.

"Right now we are not at the point where we can start accusing people of wrongdoings," Smith said. "Our number one priority is finding out if there are toxic chemicals involved."

When asked if he thought the people who buried the drums knew that they were dumping harmful waste, Smith said he didn't know.

"We are conducting this investigation in an open manner," he said. "We are not trying to hide anything."

# A&M athletes arrested for assault

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Three Texas A&M athletes and a Prairie View A&M student were arrested early Sunday morning following a series of fights at a dance sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, said director of security and University Police Bob Wiatt.

Anthony Williams, Dennis Lee Ransom and Derrick Ware of Texas A&M and Kevin Lee Dingle of Prairie View A&M were arrested by University Police and charged with assault, Wiatt said.

According to Wiatt, the melee erupted at approximately 12:15 a.m. Sunday.

The dance at the Memorial Student Center followed the 1990 Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant, which also was sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha.

Wiatt said the fights apparently were a result of a skit done during the pageant that might have been viewed as derogatory toward student athletes.

Wiatt said several residents of Cain Hall, the athletic dormitory, heard about the skit and went to the dance.

"Words were exchanged between some people and then words led to pushing," Wiatt said. "Fights broke out all over the place. There was general melee for a while."

Williams, a sophomore linebacker on the foot-

ball team, was charged by University Police with two counts of assault.

Ransom, a junior defensive end for the football team, was charged with two counts of assault. Ransom also was charged for having \$800 in outstanding tickets from the Department of Public Safety.

Ware and Dingle both were charged with one count of assault.

Wiatt said University Police were looking for a former A&M athlete who fled the scene. Wiatt was unable to release the man's name before his arrest on charges of assault.

No serious injuries were reported, but Wiatt said several of the people involved suffered cuts and bruises.

## Soviet sister city Program promotes friendship, understanding

By NADJA SABAWALA  
Of The Battalion Staff

While many people spent Christmas vacation relaxing at home, some local citizens visited the Soviet Union to promote friendship between American and Soviet cities.

The Bryan-College Station Sister City Association sent nine members, including two Texas A&M students, to Kazan, Bryn-College Station's sister city in the Soviet Union. The association's goal is to be able to exchange both students and ideas one day, bringing the cities closer together in understanding.

Jeff Starr, a senior electrical engineering major, said the visit to Kazan was very educational.

"It was a lot like I had expected," Starr said. "One impression that came clear to me was the different types of people and the different ethnic groups within the Soviet Union."

The ethnic population of Kazan is 50 percent Russian and 50 percent Tatar, Starr said. Kazan is the capital of the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic which basically has Islamic traditions.

As guests of the Kazan city council, the group visited a mosque, a Russian-Orthodox church, a museum, the Kremlin in Kazan, two schools and Kazan State University.

The university is the third largest in the Soviet Union and one of the most prominent, Starr said. He said they met with university officials and visited classes as well as talked with students.

"We met with the leader of the Komsomol, which is the student counterpart of the Communist Party," Starr said.

Although the Komsomol is the understood student communist party, Starr said the students have more liberal beliefs than the traditional Communist Party.

"You could still call the students communists but they don't advocate all the traditional beliefs the party has," he said.

Starr said the people of Kazan were very interested in American economics.

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— Jeff Starr,  
A&M student

they know that," Starr said. "That's what they're trying to do."

He said the people are excited about all the changes happening in the Soviet Union, but they are ready for the economy to change as well.

"They still have these economic problems — people are still standing in long lines for food and stuff and this is putting a lot of pressure on Gorbachev," Starr said.

Officials from the Sister City Association say the Soviets are eager to come to the United States. The association has invited a delegation to visit Bryan-College Station as early as this spring.

## Chicago archdiocese announces closing of churches, schools

CHICAGO (AP) — Thousands of Roman Catholics in the nation's second largest archdiocese learned Sunday that their churches and schools will be closed to ease what officials called a critical financial squeeze.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin said in a letter read at weekend services that approximately 30 churches and 10 schools will be closed by mid-1991 because of the "new circumstances in which we find ourselves."

He referred to deficit spending that has forced the archdiocese to borrow money from commercial banks for the first time in its 110-year history.

He said later at a news conference that "the real heart" of the financial rescue plan is a proposal to raise revenue through increased collections in churches and higher fees at archdiocese schools.

"These changes in no way reflect a retreat from or an abandonment of our mission," he said. "Instead they are a reaffirmation ... of our commitment to quality pastoral care for the entire faith community."

"I'm heartbroken," Marion Dedina said of the news her parish church, St. John Nepomucene in the city's south side Bridgeport neighborhood, was among those that

could be shuttered.

"It's rotten," said her friend, Pat Jurgens. "But what are you going to do? If there's a money shortage and you have to go somewhere else, you go."

The two said they have been members of the parish for 40 years.

Five-minute time slots on two local stations were purchased with donations so Bernardin could make a televised speech scheduled for later in the day.

## Manufacturer recalls contact lens solution

The Food and Drug Administration announced that a batch of Wet Cote contact lens solution is contaminated with harmful bacteria that could cause serious eye infections.

The contaminated batch, with the lot number W3028 and the expiration date June 1991 on the label, was distributed in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Caro-

lina, Maryland, Tennessee and Illinois.

Of 20 bottles from this batch that were analyzed, seven were infected with a bacteria called *Pseudomonas cepacia*, which can cause serious eye infections that could result in blindness.

Bottles from this batch should be returned to the place of purchase so that retailers can return them to the manufacturer.