

University of Houston confirms choice for president

HOUSTON (AP) — Marguerite Ross Barnett was confirmed Tuesday as president of the University of Houston, making her the first woman and first black to serve in the position.

"It is with enthusiasm and confidence that I accept the challenges and responsibilities as the president of the University of Houston," Barnett said following a unanimous vote by the University of Houston System's board of regents.

Barnett, 47, who has been chancellor of the University of Missouri-St. Louis since 1986, became the lone finalist in the eight-month search for a new school president after two other candidates withdrew last month.

The new president of the 32,500-student university said it did not bother her that she was the only candidate for the board to interview.

Barnett pledged to make the university a partnership with the community and industry to secure the school's development going into the next century. She also hopes to implement a retention program for students, especially minorities.

Barnett said one of her main concerns is to encourage high school students to get a

college education.

Board Chairman Kenneth Lay said Barnett was "a nationally recognized leader in education whose experience at first-rate urban and research-oriented universities make her a perfect match for UH. Barnett's abilities as a teacher, researcher, administrator, and fund raiser can only be described as 'brilliant.'"

Barnett, who is scheduled to take office Sept. 1, succeeds Richard Van Horn, who left in July to become president of the University of Oklahoma. Barnett is the eighth president of the 63-year-old school.

Alex Schilt, chancellor of the University

of Houston, said he and Barnett had agreed upon a multi-year contract which will pay \$152,000 annually.

Eva Frazer, president of the University of Missouri System's nine-member board of curators, said last week the system had hopes of keeping Barnett at the 15,000-student university.

"The curators and I were eager to keep Chancellor Barnett in Missouri, but the Houston offer — and the scope of the career opportunity and the new challenge for her there — far outweighed anything we were able to offer," said University of Missouri President C. Peter Magrath. "Hous-

ton is fortunate to acquire her services; the University of Missouri System was fortunate to have had them."

Barnett received a B.A. in political science from Antioch College and her master's and Ph.D. degrees in political science from the University of Chicago. She has taught at the University of Chicago, Princeton, Howard and Columbia universities.

She also has worked as a community development worker in Turkey, an exchange student in England, and a researcher in India.

Barnett served as vice chancellor for academic affairs at City University of New York before going to St. Louis.

Visiting prof discusses likelihood of democratic victory in China

JULIE MEYERS
The Battalion Staff

A democratic victory and the collapse of the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China are both inevitable, said a visiting professor from China.

Dr. Ming Shen Zhou, a guest lecturer in the sociology and political science departments, said the force for democracy in China has never been stronger than today.

"Democracy has proved to be an irresistible historical trend in the world," Zhou said.

The Chinese Communists are stuck in a vicious cycle.

The experience in the Soviet Union and China has proved that economic efficiency can be achieved only at the expense of political stability and political stability can be achieved at the expense of economic efficiency, Zhou said.

"Communist political and economic assistance cannot provide work incentive," Zhou said. "The resulting economic inefficiency has doomed generations to miserable conditions. Political or economic reform will cause great disorder and the Communist crackdown would push the economy into recession or depression, which provokes still greater disorder."

Last summer's Tianamen Square massacre in Beijing was not the first sign of a democratic movement in China.

"Since 1949, democracy

movements have appeared again and again, and the intervals have become shorter and shorter," Zhou said.

In 1956 and 1957, Western trained Chinese intellectuals and university students led an attack on the party state.

Zhou said the party was attacked for breaking its promises to practice



Photo by Eric H. Roalson

Mingshen Zhou

democracy and for its treachery and hypocrisy.

"When we look at the Tianamen Square event from a historical point of view, we see that it was the necessary continuation of these series of democracy movements," he said.

The Chinese people began to recognize that all Communist or socialist oriented governments were poor.

"The Chinese peasants said socialism means poverty," Zhou said.

Additionally, by 1989 all class titles and castes had been abolished,

not by the Communist government, but by the peasants themselves.

Zhou said that because the peasants had been awakened to the corruption of the party members who encouraged the caste system, they realized that there was no reason to hate each other or monitor everyone's activities.

The Communists encouraged the use of a hierarchical class system to divide people and destroy unity thereby hoping to prevent uprisings.

"The Tianamen Event was evidence that the rigid hierarchical, dictatorial system had totally collapsed," Zhou said. "Party officials were panic stricken."

Profiteering party officials were also used as a rallying cry of the students at Tianamen Square.

These officials made money by selling commodities many times before they were used. With each succeeding sale, the price increased. By the time the goods filtered down to the lower classes, the prices were outrageous, Zhou said.

Further signs of the Communist collapse are readily apparent. The Muslim minority in China is revolting as well as the people of Inner Mongolia.

The Chinese Communist leaders only hasten their demise by their unprecedented isolation from the outside world, he said.

Chinese people are still outraged over the massacre, Zhou said, but he said he hopes he lives to see the day when he can go back.

Practice makes perfect



Photo by Jay Janner

Squadron 4 guidon bearer Enrique Arroyo practices his guidon routine Tuesday near Dorm 6. He will perform the routine at the Final Review, which is scheduled for May 12th.

Public criticism about economy mars Soviet May Day parade

MOSCOW (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters in Red Square unleashed their fury at Mikhail S. Gorbachev Tuesday, turning the traditional May Day parade into an outpouring of complaints about the economy and the blockade of Lithuania.

The Soviet president has allowed free debate in the press and politics and endured public criticism. But never before has he had to personally face such an outburst of discontent over his policies, from both right and left.

The criticism included jeers to the faces of Soviet leaders.

Gorbachev, 59, tapped his fingers on the parapet of the red granite reviewing stand during the protest, showing his impatience, but other-

wise was impassive. He and the other officials left after enduring the unofficial demonstrators for about 20 minutes.

Neither Gorbachev nor any of the other Communist or government leaders on the reviewing stand spoke to the crowd.

Dozens of the demonstrators carried the yellow, red and green national flags of the breakaway Lithuanian republic and shouted "Shame!" and "Freedom For Lithuania!"

Some waved their fists at the leaders, numbering about two dozen, and shouted "Resign!" over the holiday music blaring from loudspeakers.

One caustic sign likened the Soviet leadership to Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian dictator executed in

December after a popular uprising. "Kremlin Ceausescus: From Armchairs to Prison Beds," it read.

The leaders clearly expected some criticism. They authorized the unofficial demonstration, and took control of the traditional parade that preceded it from local Communist Party and government officials.

But they likely did not expect the tone to be quite so angry or the scale quite so large.

Gorbachev's popularity has waned during his five years in office because his reforms have failed to resolve chronic economic problems. Many people believe supplies of food, housing and consumer goods actually are worse under Gorbachev.

He also is under fire for the blockade of oil, raw materials and other

goods he imposed on Lithuania to force the Baltic republic to back off its March 11 declaration of independence.

For decades, the Red Square rally on May Day has been an orchestrated show of support for official policies. Entry onto Red Square was rigidly controlled. This year, there was little of the usual polite praise. Just about anyone could join the march on the gray cobblestone stretching from the Historical Museum to the multi-colored St. Basil's Cathedral.

"We are all so very tired of these formal galas, when long before the holiday the lists of demonstration participants were put out," said the official news agency Tass.

Soviet leaders went on record this

year as preferring a parade like those before the 1917 revolution, when May Day was marked with smaller, spontaneous affairs aimed at voicing workers' grievances about the czarist regime.

What they got instead were posters that declared, "Down with the Empire of Red Fascism," and "Today a Blockade of Lithuania, Tomorrow a Blockade of Moscow." The black flags of an anarchist group stood out in the sea of colors.

The wave of protesters continued to file through Red Square, which holds about 50,000 marchers, for more than an hour after the leaders left. Police gradually, and apparently gently, moved them along.

Man protests high utilities, starts fast

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

A former Texas A&M student began a hunger strike Tuesday in protest of high utility costs, but College Station Mayor Larry Ringer said the city has tried to help him and can do no more.

Charles Schoonover, who was sitting at the corner of Texas Avenue and Francis Drive holding a sign that read, "I'm starting my hunger strike," said his friends are dying because they must choose between paying the electric bill and eating.

"The point is that people have to make a choice between eating and their electricity," Schoonover

Landfill protesters



Photo by Eric H. Roalson

Mike Worsham, Bryan resident, protests the opening of the Bryan-College Station joint landfill. Worsham is a proponent of recycling a wide variety of materials including aluminum, glass, metal,

Geologist: Sea walls will destroy beaches

By BILL HETHCOCK
Of The Battalion Staff

If Americans don't carefully monitor their beaches, future generations of beach-goers will find themselves sunbathing on concrete seawalls instead of sandy shorelines, a coastal geologist said in a seminar Tuesday.

Orrin Pilkey, a naturalist from Duke University, said sea walls are destroying beaches in the United States and advocated "natural" beach management. Natural beach management prohibits further building of sea walls and prohibits people from rebuilding beach-front property after it is destroyed in a storm.

Rising sea levels over time lead beaches with sea walls to be squeezed between the waterline and the wall, causing beaches to become narrower and eventually disappear, Pilkey said.

If sea walls are not built, beaches and barrier islands migrate naturally, he said. Pilkey, speaking at a seminar sponsored by the Texas A&M geology department, advocated not building along the shoreline and letting nature take its course with existing beaches.

"There is no shoreline erosion problem until we are there," he said. "Let's not blame mother nature. It's

not nature's problem, it's our problem."

Four states - New Jersey, Maine, North Carolina and South Carolina - now have laws prohibiting further construction of sea walls, Pilkey said. Texas does not have such a law, but does have the Open Beaches Act which provides for access to beaches and restricts sea wall building.

Galveston and South Padre Island are the two main problem areas in Texas, Pilkey said. Overall, however, the Texas beachline is in good condition with a low percentage of shoreline behind sea walls compared to other states, he said.

Pilkey said people should not be allowed to rebuild after their house is destroyed in a storm, because this is a sign that the house was too close to the beach. This has led to controversy between beach-front property owners and proponents of natural beach management, he said.

"The problem is that people will fight tooth and nail to rebuild in the exact same place where their house was just destroyed by a hurricane," he said. "Nature could hardly deliver a clearer message than total destruction of your house, but people insist on rebuilding."

Pilkey also delivered a warning to prospective owners of beach-front property.

"If you have a house and can see the sea, the sea can see you too."

"He has this fixed idea that he can be excused from paying the bills everybody else has to pay,"

—Larry Ringer, College Station Mayor

said. "That's ridiculous. The system is only getting worse. But no one will admit there is a problem."

But Ringer said he has met with Schoonover and said the former student refuses help of agencies designed to assist those who cannot pay utility bills on time.

"I don't know what else I can do," Ringer said. "We've tried to help him."

Schoonover said he has gone four weeks without electricity, but Ringer said his electricity was shut off because he made late payments and wrote a bad check to the electric company.

Ringer said he referred Schoonover to the Red Cross and other community action groups for help with the utility bill, but he refuses the help.

"He has this fixed idea that he

See Protest/Page 4