



Behind the scenes

An up-close look at the Aggie Players

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Gorbachev gains power Soviet legislators approve further moves toward market economy

MOSCOW (AP) — The Supreme Soviet legislature voted Monday to move toward a Western-style market economy and gave President Mikhail S. Gorbachev sweeping new powers to make the switch.

Despite warnings by some lawmakers that the special powers would make Gorbachev a virtual monarch, the legislature passed a resolution allowing him to issue decrees on property, wages, prices, the national budget, the financial system and law and order.

Gorbachev promised to exercise the powers with care. "It's a responsibility," he told the legislature. "It's not a tea party."

After rancorous debate, the lawmakers were unable to agree on a specific, step-by-step program to move away from the central planning system that they blame for technological backwardness and shortages of housing, food and consumer goods.

Instead of choosing one of the three plans pre-

sented in the past two weeks, the Supreme Soviet set up a committee to combine them and report back by Oct. 15.

Despite disagreement on how to make the switch, the Supreme Soviet's vote marked the first time it has committed the country to a market-based system and was a departure from seven decades of Communist economics.

Since the 1920s, ministries in Moscow have kept a tight grip on the economy, issuing detailed five-year plans that told thousands of factories, farms and businesses what to produce, where to sell it and how much to charge.

The most radical reform proposal, written by economist Stanislav Shatalin, calls for junking the central planning system and moving to a market economy within 500 days by selling factories to private owners and breaking up collective farms.

The most conservative proposal, backed by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, would leave the

government in control of most of the economy while moving gradually to allow free enterprise.

Gorbachev has backed a compromise that contains many elements of the 500-day plan but would not move as fast. He also wants a national referendum to decide whether to return land to private farmers.

Before and during the Supreme Soviet's meeting, protesters gathered outside the Kremlin and at Pushkin Square in downtown Moscow to condemn the decision to give the president additional powers. They said Gorbachev did not deserve such authority because he was not elected by direct vote of the people.

"The people don't trust Gorbachev!" shouted a group of demonstrators outside the Kremlin's Spassky Gate. They held signs saying, "A President — Not an Emperor".

Gorbachev was elected to a five-year term as president by the Supreme Soviet in March.

United Way seeks A&M donations

By BRIDGET HARROW
Of The Battalion Staff

University employees can contribute funds to local organizations until Nov. 14 during Texas A&M's 1990 Campus Charity Drive.

This is the second year for the Campus Charity Drive, which includes United Way and five other charities.

Bob Wiatt, director of A&M security and the University Police Department, coordinates the University's participation in United Way. He says A&M's goal for the United Way drive is \$95,180.

All pledges must be in by Nov. 14.

Besides United Way, which encompasses 25 local organizations, the Campus Charity drive seeks contributions for the following charities:

- the American Cancer Society
- the American Diabetes Association
- the American Heart Association
- the Brazos Valley Children's Foundation
- the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

"If some people do not feel comfortable with a general donation to United Way, they can make a specific request that their

contribution be given to one of the other charities or even one of the specific organizations under United Way," Wiatt says.

He says it is recommended A&M employees donate a day's pay to the drive. University employees can choose to make one single payment or regular monthly or quarterly payments.

Twenty-four area coordinators are on campus for the charity drive.

Last year's United Way goal of \$82,008 was exceeded by 16 percent, for a total of \$92,510.

Wiatt says he arrived at this year's goal figure by looking at contributions given in the past, and by recognizing the United Way overall fund increases by about 3 percent every year.

This year's overall goal for the Brazos County United Way is \$654,321, and A&M is the second largest potential contributor of funds, Wiatt says.

The kick-off breakfast for the Campus Charity Drive was Sept. 5, but the United Way signs were put up around campus last week.

"Any money that is contributed is well used," Wiatt says. "The organizations under United Way do so much good for the community. If we cannot see in our hearts to take \$1 or \$2 and give, then we might have to suffer the consequences of the community not having all the services that it needs."

Me and my shadow



A cadet is reflected in the window as he walks by the Sterling C. Evans Library Monday afternoon.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Minority Liberal Arts Society reaches out, promotes unity among liberal arts students

By JULIE HEDDERMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

Uniting everyone within Texas A&M's College of Liberal Arts is a main goal of the Minority Liberal Arts Society, says Christopher Henderson, founder of the organization. The Minority Liberal Arts Society formed because only two minority-oriented clubs exist within the college of liberal arts, both in the department of journalism, Henderson says.

"Instead of isolating groups, this can be used as an avenue for all minorities in liberal arts," he says. "I want to bring everyone together as one voice."

Henderson, a senior speech communications major from DeSoto, says he sent letters to 700 liberal arts students with information about the organization and the first meeting.

Seventy people already have indicated interest, he says.

Henderson emphasizes the organization is not limited to minorities.

"We want anybody at all who has the same goals and who wants to help," he says.

Henderson says one of the organization's main goals is agreeing on issues concerning minorities in liberal arts.

The group also plans to contact high school sophomores and juniors to encourage them to go to college. He says students need to know there is something out there for Hispanic and African-American students.

Henderson says the semester will be devoted to discovering common interests among members and keeping their cultures intact.

"None of us represent a dominant group," he says. "We all have something to struggle for."

The minority association is more than a regular student organization, Henderson says.

"I am doing this because it's external for others and internal for us," he says.

Democrats responsive to capital gains tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell said Sunday that Democrats are willing to consider a Republican idea for unsnarling stalled budget talks by placing a capital gains tax cut into a separate package.

Mitchell's comment was the first indication that Democrats might be willing to explore the suggestion, which Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., made Thursday. The fight over whether to slash the capital gains tax rate is perhaps the major hurdle remaining for the two sides to complete a five-year, \$500 billion deficit-reduction package.

"We'd be prepared to consider it, to work, to see precisely what he has in mind, and to come up with some way to get this thing done," said Mitchell, D-Maine, on CBS' "Face the Nation."

His remarks came before eight budget bargainers from the Bush administration and Congress held a four-hour, closed-door evening session in the Capitol. There was no indication what, if

any, progress was made by the group, which has met four other times since Sept. 18 in an effort to end a year-long budget stalemate. Another meeting was scheduled for Monday.

Meanwhile, President Bush was reported to have expressed optimism about a budget agreement during a conversation with Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer.

Schaefer, who talked with the president at a Maryland golf course where he stopped for an 18-hole round en route back to the White House from Camp David, had told reporters beforehand how worried he was about the prospects of massive furloughs starting Oct. 1 if the White House and Congress fail to reach a budget agreement.

Thousands of federal workers live in the Maryland suburbs of Washington and Baltimore, where Social Security's headquarters is located.

After speaking with Bush, Schaefer said he told the president, "I'm very worried."

Activists, artists protest art gallery director's trial

CINCINNATI (AP) — About 150 people demonstrated for freedom of expression Monday outside a courthouse where an art gallery and its director went on trial for showing Robert Mapplethorpe's sexually graphic photographs.

About 50 police officers patrolled on foot, on horseback and on motorcycles outside the Hamilton County Municipal Court, where jury selection began for the misdemeanor obscenity trial of the Contemporary Arts Center and its director, Dennis Barrie.

In addition to rallying at the courthouse, the protesters, orga-

nized by a gay-rights group, walked 10 blocks through downtown. Some people lay in the street, briefly halting traffic. But no one was arrested.

Some of the officers on patrol wore rubber gloves. Catherine Adams, a lawyer for Gay-Lesbian March Activists, said she told city and county authorities last week that some members of the group had AIDS.

Inside the courthouse, attorneys questioned a pool of 50 people as they worked to seat a six-member jury.

At the beginning of the trial, Municipal Judge David Albanese den-

ied three defense requests.

He denied a motion to limit potential jurors to Cincinnati residents. Because of structure of the Hamilton County Municipal Court, the jury pool is drawn from residents of Cincinnati and its suburbs.

The judge also denied a motion to increase the number of peremptory challenges allowed. The defense argued that because of publicity, it would need to eliminate more jurors than in a case with less notoriety.

The case has become a rallying point for artists, First Amendment activists and people who believe the indictments are part of a wider ef-

fort to intimidate homosexuals.

The exhibit, called "Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment," was canceled at the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, D.C., last year because of a furor over government funding of art deemed obscene.

The National Endowment for the Arts has since adopted a policy requiring grant applicants to certify their awards will not be used for work that might be deemed obscene. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., had pressed for the policy.

The exhibit has appeared in several U.S. cities without incident.



Former commander now serves as regent

Editor's note: The Battalion will focus on members of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents during the upcoming weeks to better acquaint students and faculty members with the System's leaders.

By BILL HETHCOCK
Of The Battalion Staff

As a Texas A&M student, Douglas DeCluitt was senior class president and Corps battalion commander.

Thirty-three years after his graduation, DeCluitt still is serving A&M and the University's system as a regent.

DeCluitt's positions as a member of the Board of Regents include chairman of the Committee for Academic Campuses, the Committee on Art and the Corps Enhancement Committee.

He is a member of the Executive Committee, the Planning and Building Committee and the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Gov. Bill Clements appointed DeCluitt to the Board in 1987.

DeCluitt received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from A&M in 1957.

He was a commissioned officer in an Army-guided missile unit from 1958 to 1960, then earned his M.B.A. from Harvard University in 1962.

In addition to his service on the Board, DeCluitt is chairman of the

Douglas DeCluitt board and president of the Sovereign Corporation, a company that develops and manages apartment complexes in Texas and New Mexico.

He also is chairman of the board and president of the Heritage Energy Corporation, an oil and gas operating company.

DeCluitt, from Waco, was on the State Republican Executive Committee for 10 years and has been active in many political campaigns.

He has served on A&M's Target 2000 Commission Executive Committee and now is vice chairman of the Visual Arts Commission.

DeCluitt also is a member of the College of Engineering Development Council and the MSC Enrichment Board.

Texas legislators lobby for crime bill amendment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas congressmen lobbied again Monday to change the part of the 1990 crime bill that would wipe out 49 drug-fighting task forces in the state.

The House Rules Committee late Monday was considering whether to allow debate on an amendment to the bill that would save the task forces.

Rep. Albert Bustamante, D-San Antonio, offered such an amendment. A similar amendment was offered by Reps. Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, Charles Wilson, D-Lufkin, and Ike Skelton, D-Mo.

When the bill was created in the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Romano Mazzoli, D-Ky.,

wrote a provision that redistributes federal drug-fighting money to large cities rather than states. Louisville, the city Mazzoli represents, will get more money under the provision, officials said.

The provision would wrest \$27 million in proposed 1990 funds from the Texas task forces, which involve law enforcement agencies in more than 200 counties.

The U.S. Conference on Mayors reported last week that this year's money had become bogged down in state and local bureaucracies.

But lawmakers countered in a news conference Monday that the Texas task forces had received \$23 million in 1989.

Smith said that strictly giving money to cities to

fight drugs would do little to counter the drug supply problem. "The front lines so often are rural and border areas," Smith said.

"Drug trafficking has tentacles all over," Skelton said.

In a separate statement, Bustamante said communities like Del Rio and Laredo help fight the drug supply before it reaches metropolitan areas. "Eliminating rural drug task forces will hurt urban as well as rural areas," Bustamante said.

Wilson said the task forces have been successful in East Texas. "The people on the front line, the police and local officials, like it. They tell us it works," he said.