

Tuesday, February 5, 1991

The Battalion

Conference highlights European Community

By Troy D. Hall
Of The Battalion Staff

Economists and foreign affairs diplomats will bring expertise on the European Community to Texas A&M this week during a three-day Student Conference on National Affairs.

About 100 students from the United States, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland, Mexico and Canada will participate in roundtable discussions with dignitaries from several countries when the conference begins Wednesday.

The European Community: Piecing the Puzzle Together will give students opportunities to ask questions and be provided some clearcut answers concerning changes in Europe, says Michelle Grimaud, staff adviser for MSC SCONA.

A panel discussion on the European economy is scheduled for Thursday and another panel discussion on European security is set for Friday. Both discussions include ambassadors and scholars from the Soviet Union, Germany, Czechoslovakia, France and the United States.

The purpose of SCONA is not to come to one answer but for students to hash out questions and look at the various sides of the issues, Grimaud says.

Students will meet in small groups with a discussion leader. The leader of each group poses questions to delegates, while answering questions themselves.

Although the roundtable discussions are only for delegates and the panelists, Grimaud encourages the public to attend the speeches during the conference.

Dr. J. Bryan Collesler, director of the School of Government at Principia College, will deliver the keynote address at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Rudder Theater.

Dr. Stephen Cooney, director of international investment for the National Association of Manufacturers, will speak at 8 p.m. Thursday in Rudder Theater.

The closing address will be delivered by Dr. Glenda Rosenthal of the Institute on Western Europe at Columbia University.

Delegates will visit A&M through Saturday, attending receptions, a dance and faculty and staff dinners.

Just puddlin' around ...



Seven-year-old Rachel Jensen would rather walk through the water than around it on her way home from school Monday. Occasional rains are expected to continue today.

JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Recruitment surges

DALLAS (AP) — Military recruiters say the Persian Gulf war is proving once again that there's nothing like a good fight to make their jobs easier.

Most recruits still enlist primarily to take advantage of the military's college benefits and job training programs, military officials say. But war fever is sending thousands of fresh-faced young men and women and even graying warriors rushing to serve their country, recruiters say.

Most of them are ineligible, prohibited from enlisting because they're too old or have health problems, a criminal record or cannot pass the aptitude tests. But the plentiful supply means the quality of recruits has improved dramatically, military officials say.

Since the United States dispatched troops to the Middle East

Citizens rush to aid country, military says

after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Army has taken in the most qualified recruits since the Army became all volunteer in 1973.

Of the 27,000 recruits accepted from October through December, 95 percent are high school graduates, compared with 54 percent in 1980. Seventy-two percent scored in the top half of the aptitude test, compared with 25 percent 10 years ago.

A number of would-be soldiers, however, are lining up for physicals for less than gung-ho reasons. Afraid they eventually will be drafted or summoned from reserve status to take up arms at a mine-laden front, they are trying to enlist or go active to secure a relatively safe branch of service or job.

But many simply want to help the U.S. cause, recruiters say.

Failure to enforce law allows offenders on road

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Habitual drunken drivers continue to endanger Texas roadways because many counties do not follow a state law that requires them to report driving-while-intoxicated convictions to Austin, according to a newspaper's investigation.

As a result, police often don't know when they have arrested repeat DWI offenders who may have killed other motorists or be using suspended licenses.

Police and prosecutors operate with a lack of information because counties aren't doing a good job of reporting DWI convictions to the Texas Department of Public Safety, as required by law, according to the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

DPS computers that police check after stopping intoxicated motorists are supposed to contain information about prior driving convictions.

But officials of several counties

told the Caller-Times that they did not know they should report DWI convictions to the DPS.

That leaves prosecutors without the information needed to send habitual DWI felons to prison. Repeat DWI offenses carry stiffer sentences.

"There are guys and ladies who can move around from county to county, get DWIs and get away with it," said Dick Berry, the first assistant Nueces County attorney.

"So counties that do not report convictions to the DPS are endangering everyone else on the highways."

A 1985 study by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin stated that, "The collection of data on individuals arrested for DWI is an important factor in reducing the amount of property damage, and the number of lives lost in DWI-related accidents."

Flag supply falls short

By the Associated Press

Patriotic Texans are showing their colors across the state. But a flag-maker in San Antonio said the surge in sales of Old Glory have prompted a shortage, and a rallying service station owner in Pasadena says he can't even get all the flags he wants to wave.

"It's an incredible phenomena," said Pete Van De Putte, owner of Dixie Flag Manufacturing Co. in San Antonio. "I've never seen anything like it."

Van De Putte, 41, whose parents started the company 32 years ago, said Dixie, like other flag companies across the nation are sold out of the most popular sizes of American flags — 3-by-5-foot and 4-by-6-foot models.

"We sold 20,000 flags the first two days" after Operation Desert Storm began Jan. 16, Van De Putte told the San Antonio Express-News. "First the retailers ran out, then companies like ours ran out, and now it is hard to get material in the right colors from the mills because they are sold out."

Don Engelhardt, president of Nationwide Pennant and Flag Manufacturing, said his 63 employees — including 11 hired since last fall — are working overtime to keep up with the demand. And Engelhardt is trying to hire six or seven more employees.

"I'm glad to see it," Engelhardt said of the demand.

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