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The Battalion

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Democracy will guide Soviets' future, military expert predicts

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

The future of the Soviet Union, if it is put in the hands of its people, lies along a more democratic path, a Texas A&M international affairs expert said.

Dr. Ronald Hatchett, deputy director of A&M's Mosher Institute for Defense Studies, said the election of Boris Yeltsin as president of the Russian Republic showed the majority of the Russian people favors a move toward democracy and a free enterprise economy.

Hatchett said this election was the first time more than half the Soviet

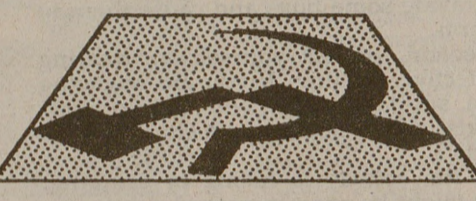
people were allowed to vote in free elections, and Yeltsin received an overwhelming 60 percent of votes cast.

"Hardliners in the past have claimed pro-democracy demonstrations were anomalies," Hatchett said. "Dissent was labeled 'pollution from the West' found only in cosmopolitan areas and was summarily dismissed."

The Russian people as a whole, however, displayed their desire for a move toward democracy, he said. The results were even more impressive when compared to the last American presidential election.

"Eighty percent of the eligible voters in the Russian Republic voted, com-

pared to only 35 percent in the U.S. in 1988," he said. "Yeltsin captured 60 percent of the vote and Bush just a little over 50 percent."



Hatchett said such a staggering victory makes Yeltsin a man on par with Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev in terms of dealing with the West.

"Westerners realize that votes are where the power is," Hatchett said. "Now there can be no more doubt that Yeltsin has power."

Yeltsin's new position of prominence will become even more evident when he meets Thursday with President Bush.

"The focus for dealing with the Soviets will no longer be 'Gorbachev, Gorbachev, Gorbachev,'" he said. "Starting this week Yeltsin will be courted by the West. This election made that apparent."

Hatchett attributes Yeltsin's victory

in part to the confidence and organization his followers demonstrated at a roundtable discussion he attended in the Soviet Union in April.

"Yeltsin's people exude confidence in him, and in his program," Hatchett said. "They know the hardliners will eventually be forced to give way. They seem to know the future belongs to them."

Hatchett said fears of military opposition to Yeltsin and his democrats are pushed aside.

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Apartheid law ended

Parliament abolishes race classification; de Klerk now faces fight over constitution

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Parliament abolished South Africa's last major apartheid law Monday, ending more than four decades in which all citizens were classified by race.

"Now (apartheid legislation) belongs to history," President F.W. de Klerk told Parliament after the repeal of the Population Registration Act. "Now everybody is free of it."

But the opposition African National Congress said the repeal was largely a symbolic move that would do nothing to improve the lot of most blacks.

De Klerk still must deal with South Africa's most difficult racial issue — winning agreement on a new constitution that will give the vote to the 30 million blacks who make up 68 percent of the population.

He promised to produce a constitution that "will guarantee participation and representation to all South Africans within a true democracy" and predicted

an agreement can be reached within a few years.

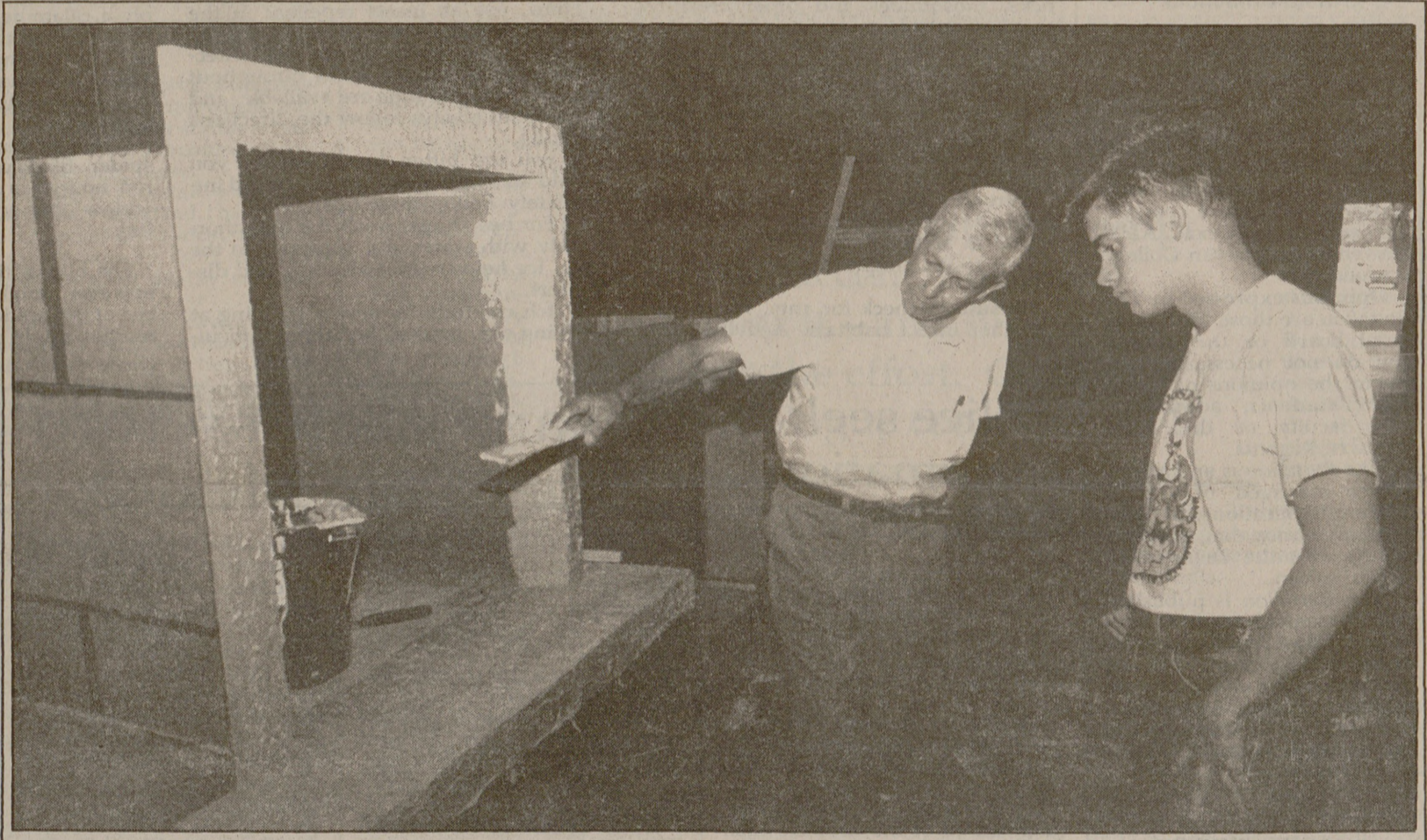
All but 38 of the 308 members of the three-chamber Parliament in Cape Town voted to scrap the racial registration law, under which all South Africans were labeled as white, black, Asian or mixed-race.

Until de Klerk began undoing apartheid restrictions, the racial classifications determined where a person could live, go to school, get medical treatment, play ball or be buried.

"It was an act of racial bigotry and caused untold suffering and humiliation," said Barney Desai, spokesman for the Pan Africanist Congress, a militant anti-apartheid group. "I'm not going to say, 'Hooray.' But in essence, one is saying goodbye to a bad dream."

Since assuming power in 1989, de Klerk has moved swiftly to end statutory discrimination.

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To build a fireplace

Coach Bob Wenck instructs Matt Haswell, a junior from Houston, in painting a fireplace that will be used in the upcoming Aggie Players production of "Deathtrap." Haswell is in a theater workshop that builds sets for Aggie Players productions.

SONDRA ROBBINS/The Battalion

Professor defends minorities

Hickman takes active role in policy reform at A&M

By Chris Vaughn
The Battalion

Surrounded by Thomas Dewey books in a fifth-floor corner of the Blocker Building, Dr. Larry Hickman sits comfortably, chewing on a cigar and speaking about making a difference.

"I think it's important to help when people, or a group of people, don't have a voice," he said. "You need to stick up for them and provide ways for them to voice their concerns. Even though you may not be a member of that minority, you stick up for them. My great mentor John Dewey always did that."

"I don't mind standing in for people and deflecting a few of the punches when they're taking it on the chin," he said.

It is fitting the 48-year-old Hickman, a professor of philosophy at Texas A&M, be surrounded in his office by Dewey's works.

Dewey, an American philosopher of the late 1800s to mid-1900s, also stood up for causes. He was a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union and National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People.

"Dewey was a careful thinker, but he didn't avoid major social problems either," Hickman explained. "He believed philosophers ought to be engaged in the practical arena. He thought it important that people who think should be involved in changing as well as contemplating."

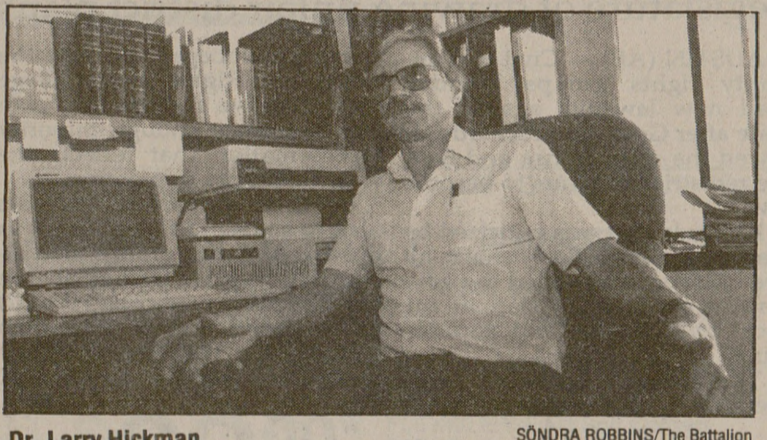
Hickman has been doing just that since his arrival at the University in 1974. His biggest such role, however, began in 1981 when he assumed the job as faculty adviser for A&M's gay and lesbian student organization.

After 10 years, one lawsuit, many headaches, and not to mention hundreds of counsels with frightened homosexuals, he has passed the baton to another faculty member.

"Now there's a gay professor to do it," Hickman said. "I always said I would do it (be faculty adviser) as long as they needed me to until a gay or lesbian faculty member would."

When Hickman took the job as adviser to Gay and Lesbian Student Services, times were grim for homosexuals at A&M.

The group was not recognized by the University and met off campus under constant



Dr. Larry Hickman

SONDRA ROBBINS/The Battalion

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intimidation. The organization did not always have strong student leadership because of the fear of coming out of the closet.

But A&M's gays won a victory in 1984 when a court ruled the University no longer could discriminate against GLSS and must officially recognize the student organization.

Hickman bitterly remembers the lawsuit.

"I don't think the vice president for student affairs, the regents and the old Ags who paid for the lawsuit ever realized what that obscene battle cost those young men and women in terms of personal esteem and personal problems,"

he said. "Because at some point, I thought they would say 'I'm sorry' because they screwed up some kids. But I don't think they ever did."

Hickman said what drew him to A&M 17 years ago was the hope he could make a difference.

"I thought A&M would be good because it has a lot more future than past, which sounds odd because of the traditions here," he said. "It was a place I knew would undergo enormous change and I wanted to be a part of that change. That's still true here. You can make a

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Some STDs spread despite condom use

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on sexually transmitted diseases. Names of STD victims in this article have been changed to maintain confidentiality.

By Shannon Britt
The Battalion

Eric, a Texas A&M student, went to a nightclub, partied one Friday night and picked up not only a one-night stand, but also a case of the crabs (pubic lice), a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

From the time he contracted crabs until he discovered he had the STD, Eric had multiple sex partners. Consequently, he did not know whom he contracted the disease from.

Eric said he practices "safe sex" by wearing a condom during sexual contact. But some STDs, such as crabs, can be contracted even with the use of a condom.

Crabs is one of 30 or more STDs. STDs, formerly called venereal disease or VD, are spreading more rapidly than all other communicable diseases combined.

The most common STDs in the United States are chlamydia, genital warts, genital herpes, syphilis, gonorrhea and AIDS.

Erika Gonzalez-Lima, health educator coordinator of A.P.

STDs a two-part series

- Today: The dangers of STD's
- Tomorrow: AIDS

Beutler Health Center, said at least 25 STDs afflict millions of people each year, primarily teenagers and young adults.

"Chlamydia has the highest frequency at Texas A&M," she said.

Signs of chlamydia are pain while urinating, discharge from the vagina or penis and abdominal pain. If chlamydia is left untreated, it might lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and eventually to infertility.

About 100,000 women become infertile each year as a result of PID.

"If it goes untreated, it can have very serious long-term effects on the woman," Gonzalez-Lima said. "She will be affected her entire lifespan by this disease."

A mother with genital warts might even pass them on to her baby during childbirth.

Some genital warts recently have been associated with certain types of cancer. The warts are caused by a group of sexually transmitted viruses and can grow into large masses that are difficult to treat successfully.

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