

LIFESTYLES

Terminator II

Arnold is back, and he's better than ever!
Review by Julia Spencer

page 3

INSIDE

NAACP expressing skepticism about Clarence Thomas' nomination

page 2

The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 165 USPS 045360 6 Pages

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Slovenia negotiates secession; violence shifts to neighbor

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The breakaway republic of Slovenia agreed Monday to negotiate the terms of its secession with the federal government, but the threat of large-scale violence seemed to shift to neighboring Croatia.

For the first time in the two-week secession crisis, the army Sunday intervened in Croatia, battling republican militia for 10 hours in the town of Tenja. As many as 33 people were killed or wounded in the fighting, according to some sources.

The army intervened after battles be-

tween the Croats and bands of Serbian gunmen. In villages throughout the Slavonia region of northeast Croatia, ethnic Serbs were reportedly fortifying positions against Croatian attack.

Borisav Jovic, Serbia's man on the eight-member federal presidency, warned that "war could happen" if Croatia insists on splitting from Yugoslavia without giving ethnic Serbs the right to self-determination.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, in turn, warned that "if someone threatens us with the army, I am going to call on all of the Croatian people to

defend itself."

The agreement reached Monday, with mediation from the European Community, commits Croatia and Slovenia to peacefully work out a resolution of the two republics' June 25 secession declarations.

"The declaration is not ideal but represents a compromise which prevents war," Slovenian President Milan Kucan told reporters.

Tudjman, in a television address, said his republic would honor the agreement but added he expected federal army units in Croatia to also pull

back to their bases.

In Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, the decrease in tension achieved by Monday's accord was tangible. Police dismantled steel rail-and-wire barricades, and traffic on the streets was brisk for the first time in nearly two weeks.

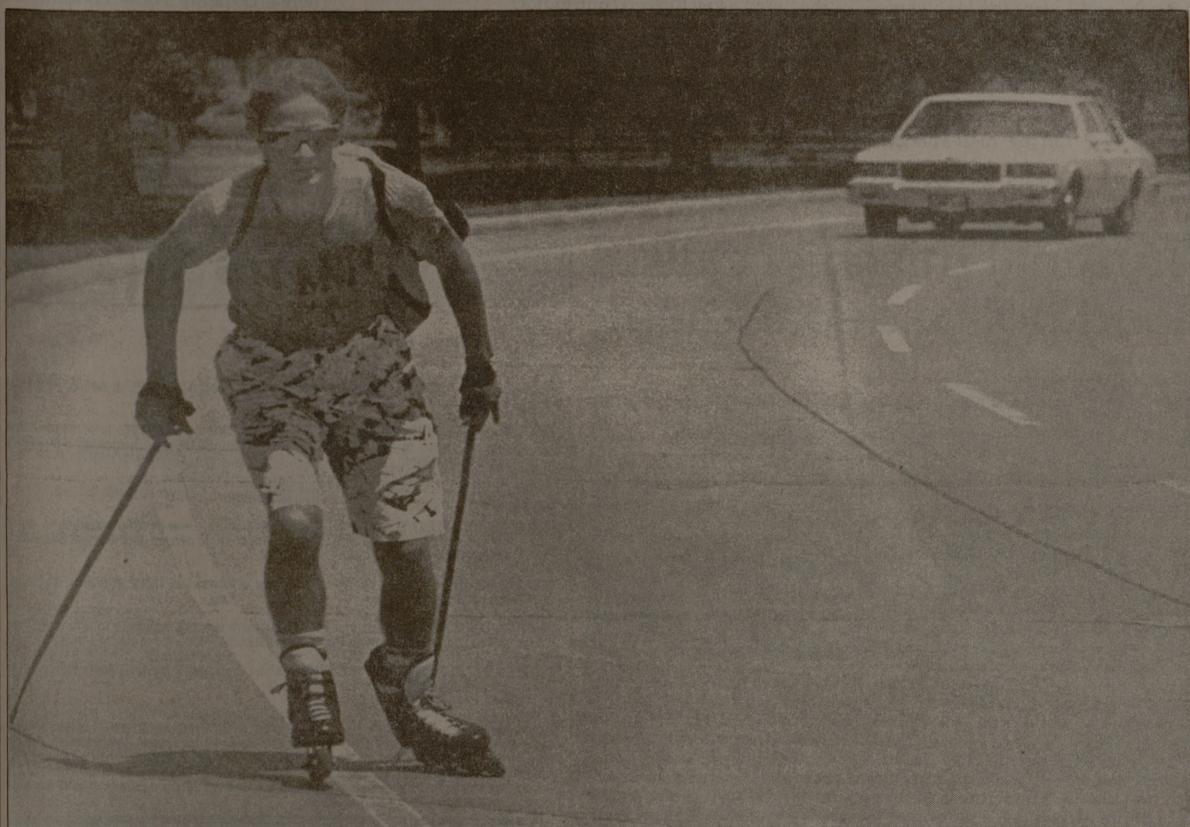
The agreement gave the republic limited control of its international borders and called for federal army units to return to barracks and the Slovene territorial defense to be deactivated.

Premier Ante Markovic and his Cabinet accepted the agreement, and it also had to be ratified by the collective

presidency, which began reviewing it Monday evening. The accord's real test was expected Tuesday, when Slovenia's Parliament was to vote on it.

The agreement suspends the independence declarations for three months, allowing a cooling-off period leading to an Aug. 1 deadline for the start of negotiations on the terms of the two republics' secession.

Slovenia ordered all of its federal legislators in Belgrade to immediately vacate their seats, Tanjug reported.



Rounding the curve

Ron Tyrrell, a math teacher from Houston, Texas, skates around New Main Drive Monday and heads to the Zachry building for a teachers' convention.

SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion

A&M tries to evaluate Sharp's plan

Recommendations call for funding changes

By Chris Vaughn
The Battalion

Texas A&M administrators have been riding a fiscal roller coaster since March, but State Comptroller John Sharp's recent report has thrown them for another unexpected loop.

A&M's administrators have been scrambling the past 10 days to assess and evaluate Sharp's Texas Performance Review, a plan to reduce Texas' deficit by more than \$5 billion.

The TPR recommendations call for massive changes in higher education funding. Under those recommendations, A&M would lose at least \$53.6 million in the 1992-93 biennium, which translates to \$28.9 million in fiscal year 1992 and \$24.7 million in fiscal year 1993.

Dr. E. Dean Gage, provost and vice president for academic affairs, told the Faculty Senate on Monday that Sharp's plan would be "devastating" to A&M if the Legislature acts on his recommendations.

The two areas which concern administrators most are proposed changes in tuition and a possible loss of earned interest on the University's local funds.

The TPR recommendations on tuition include:

Setting tuition at 25 percent of cost of education, which translates to \$32 per credit hour for residents.

Allowing the state to retain 75 percent of the tuition increase to fund other state services, while the University keeps the remain-

See Mobley/Page 6

Principal implements new learning program

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

A multisensory approach to learning is one of several new programs being implemented by a principal of a private boys' school in Singapore who visited Texas A&M Friday to preview the University's educational programs.

Joseph Guan, principal of St. Patrick's, said the three-stage multisensory approach was tested on a group of ninth-graders at his school this spring.

In the first stage, a teacher uses regular classroom techniques to teach.

In the second phase, called the receptive stage, the teacher teaches the same content, but music is playing in the background. The children also close their eyes and visualize the material.

"The music helps to synchronize the workings of the right and left hemispheres of the brain," said Guan, who has a background in music education.

The last stage — or active stage — reinforces students' learning skills by using role-playing.

"For example, if it is a science class, a student might pretend he is the scientist and give a lecture," Guan said. "The element of stacking the information this way saves time in revision."

"Ninety-one percent of the boys in the program said they felt they were learning more productively," he said.

Guan also has introduced leadership programs, life skills programs to teach time management and stress reduction, and career guidance programs.

"These (techniques) teach skills that aren't purely academic," he said. "The boys can use them throughout their lives."

Because of the country's lack of natural resources, Singapore's main asset is the education of its children, Guan said.

"A lot of ministry officials involved in education travel around the world studying similar education systems," he said.

Compared to the United States, Guan said students in Singapore don't have as much freedom of self-expression. Each child's

See Singapore/Page 6

State considers salt dome dump sites

By Robin Goodpaster
The Battalion

Storing toxic waste in underground salt domes — one site potentially within 50 miles of the Houston area — is an alternative that will be considered this fall by the Texas Water Commission and supported by at least one Texas A&M faculty member.

Dr. Neville Carter, an A&M geophysicist, said underground storage is the best alternative to a desperate situation.

"Hazardous wastes sitting around in barrels are very unsafe and not acceptable," Carter said. "Salt domes are tight and very impermeable."

Carter has studied salt struc-

tures for more than 25 years. He has expertise in the deformation of rocks under stress, time and temperature. He also has spent 15 years studying the storage of radioactive wastes in salt domes.

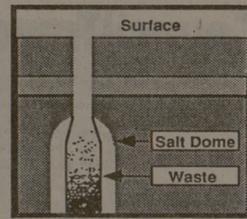
Salt domes are used for the nation's strategic oil reserves, and Germany stores its radioactive wastes in salt domes.

Carter said the usual concerns about toxic wastes leaking into an area's water supply do not apply in the case of salt domes because salt domes are impermeable to any fluids and are stable.

Carter said salt domes have even withstood nuclear explosions.

The Salmon Event in the 1960s

still contains radiation at the site in Mississippi. Carter said there



Graphic by Bingo Barnes

have been no signs of radiation leaks during the past 25 years, demonstrating that salt domes are indeed safe.

The salt dome plan was initially proposed by the Hunter Industrial Facilities. Hunter officials plan to mix the waste with ash and cement and crush it into the gravel inside the salt dome.

If this plan is approved by the Texas Water Commission, it will still be subject to approval by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The proposal must pass a "no migration petition," a condition stating that the waste would not leak for at least 10,000 years.

Carter said scientific reasons for using salt domes to store hazardous wastes have been straightforwardly demonstrated, but political and emotional issues have created problems.

Memorial service held for A&M engineering professor

A public memorial service was held at 3 p.m. Monday at First Presbyterian Church in Bryan for Dr. Douglas Von Gonten, 57, head of Texas A&M's Department of Petroleum Engineering since 1976.

He was buried in a private service at 1 p.m. Monday in Grimes County.

Von Gonten, a Rockdale native, was killed last Tuesday in a farming accident in Robertson County near Wheelock.

Von Gonten graduated from A&M in 1957 with bachelor's degrees in geology and petroleum engineering. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force from 1958 to 1960.

He worked for Mobil Oil Co. until 1963, when he returned to A&M. Von Gonten earned his master's degree in petroleum engineering in 1965 and his doctorate in 1966.

That year Von Gonten became an assistant research engineer with the Texas Engineering Ex-

periment Station. He was employed as an associate professor of petroleum engineering in 1967.

Von Gonten became a full professor in 1976, the year he was named department head. He received the Outstanding Achievement in Departmental Administration Award in 1981.

Von Gonten also received the Society of Petroleum Engineers Distinguished Achievement Award of Former Students Distin-

guished Teaching Award in 1986, the SPE Distinguished Member Award in 1988 and the SPE Distinguished Lecturer in 1990-91.

He was a lecturer for the Society of Petroleum Engineers and also evaluated the petroleum engineering programs for schools in Colombia, Saudi Arabia and China.

Von Gonten was a deacon and elder of First Presbyterian Church in Bryan.