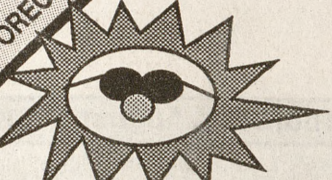


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LIFESTYLES
'Pump Boys and Dinettes'
— review by Julia E.S. Spencer

Planetary Grub replaces La Taq
page 5

INSIDE
The Eighth Annual National Night Out Celebration page 2

The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 179 USPS 045360 6 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Thursday, August 1, 1991

Gorbachev's plan retains communist ideals, expert says

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

Mikhail Gorbachev's new Communist platform, recently approved by the party's central committee, is a move to renovate a sagging party image, not a rejection of communism, a Texas A&M international affairs expert said Wednesday.

Cory Ortigoza, a research associate at the A&M Mosher Institute for Defense Studies, said Gorbachev is not dropping Communism but challenging its stagnant leadership.

"The Central Committee has become a refuge of old thinking," Ortigoza said. "This new platform may provoke a split in the party."

Ortigoza said the Communist party is no longer a real political entity but a collection of three or four different factions.

"It's like a husband and wife that share a bed, but aren't really married anymore," he said. "There is so much diversity in the party, that it can't really be called a party."

Ortigoza said 4 or 5 million Soviets have left the party in the last year, prompting Gorbachev to ask for change within the party.

"Gorbachev is using the argument that the nation's people no longer trust the party to demand change," he said.

The new platform is more along the lines of a Western European social democracy, Ortigoza said.

He said the new platform would cre-

ate a more liberal stance for the party, including more freedom of religion and the press. The need for a mixed economy and private property was also recognized.

The platform received the approval of the Central Committee last week and will go to the Soviet Congress in November.

Ortigoza said the hardliners in the committee were reluctant to approve the platform but were given little choice by Gorbachev.

"The leadership does not back the reforms," he said. "Gorbachev saw this and told them to look at the alternative, radical reform under Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He told them they had to follow him or face the consequences."

Ortigoza said, however, the platform's approval would only buy the Soviet president short-term security.

"There are many unanswered long-term questions," he said. "It remains to be seen for how long Gorbachev has silenced his critics."

Ortigoza said dissatisfaction with Gorbachev could reach the same level as in April, when Central Committee members called for his ouster.

"Trouble could erupt in November," he said. "If there is a bad harvest, and it appears there will be, the mood in Moscow could change."

Change could come in the form of a new political party, Ortigoza said.

"Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze hopes his Movement for Democratic reform becomes a party

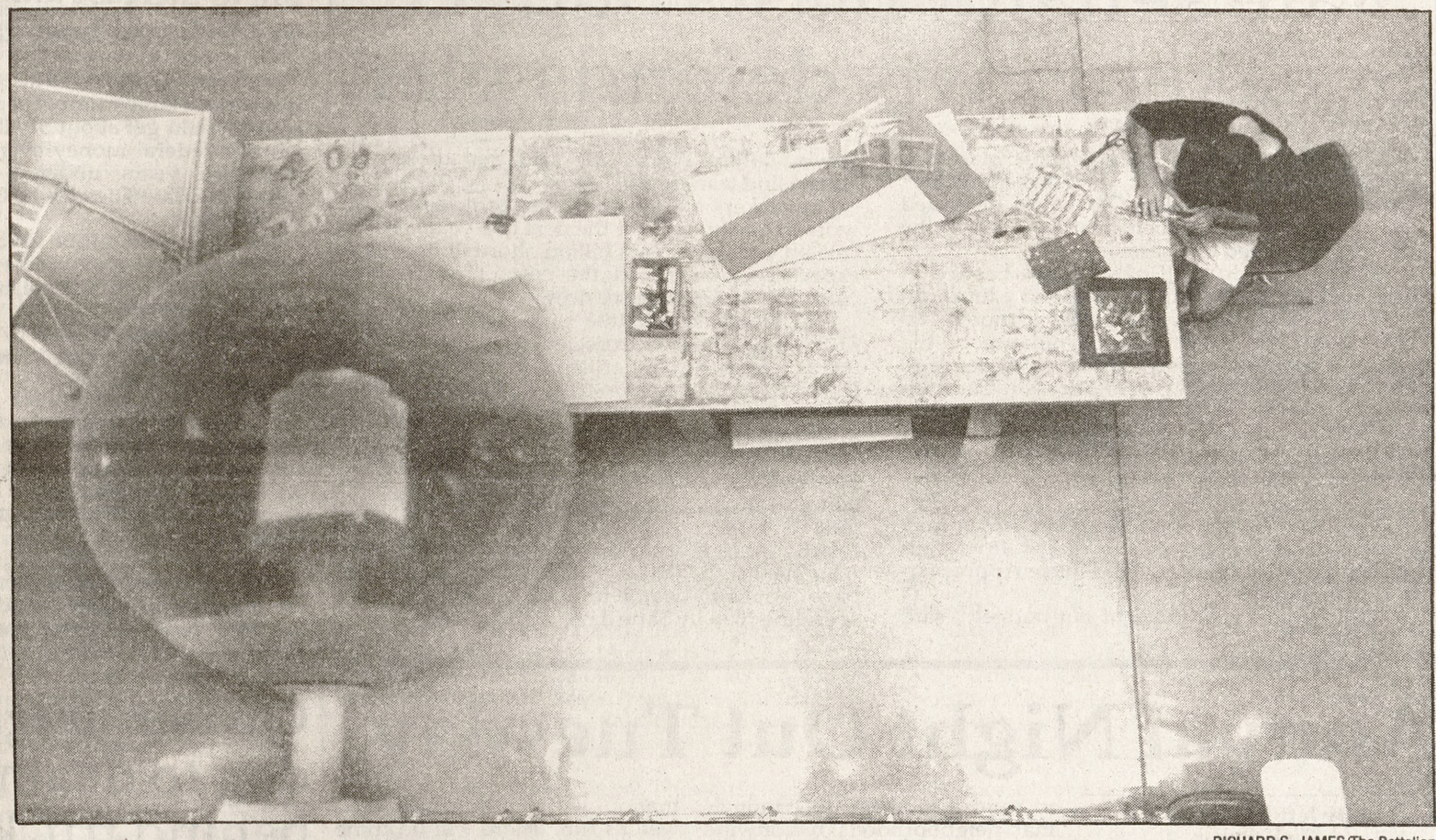
when Congress opens in September," he said. "This will be the thing to watch in the Soviet Union."

Ortigoza said although dozens of political parties have sprung up recently, none has a viable chance to oppose the Communist party.

"The communists are everywhere," he said. "They control everything, and no other group has had a prayer against them. Shevardnadze's alternative party, however, could be the straw that breaks the camel's back."

Ortigoza said a new party could draw as many as 7 million Soviets away from the Communist party.

"This is only the opening challenge," he said. "We may soon see the total reshaping of politics in the Soviet Union."



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Vertigo
Bentley Tibbs, a senior environmental design major from Mississippi, works on a project in the Langford Architecture Center Wednesday.

Committee OKs lottery

Fight erupts over which stores sell tickets; opponents hope to kill bill before House

AUSTIN (AP) — A House committee Wednesday voted to set up a state lottery, but a fight developed over what stores would be allowed to sell the gambling tickets.

Meanwhile, lottery opponents said they believed they still had enough votes to kill the measure before the full House and accused the House Ways and Means Committee of adopting the legislation without proper public hearings.

Setting up a lottery would require changing the state constitution. That requires two-thirds approval in the House and Senate and approval by Texas voters. Under the current proposal, voters would decide the issue Nov. 5.

"I certainly feel the tire tracks on my back at the moment as the train just came running over us," said Sue Cox, executive director of Texans Who Care, after Ways and Means approved lottery measures 8-2.

"We are still confident that we can stop it on the floor" of the House, she said. Lottery bills were rejected in 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and earlier this year.

But State Rep. Ron Wilson, lottery sponsor, said legislators are searching for ways to increase revenue, and "lottery has basically taken on a life of its own. We need the revenue, and it's going to drive itself."

Budget experts have said a lottery would raise about \$450 million over the next two years.

House members probably will have another chance to vote on the lottery early next week, Wilson said.

San Antonio conference

Staff members plan to attend DWI talk

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Several Texas A&M staff members will participate in a national safety conference focusing on the problems of drinking and driving and depriving high school dropouts of their driver's licenses.

Dr. Maurice Dennis, coordinator of A&M's Safety Education Program and director of the Texas host committee, said the 35th American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association Conference (ADTSEA) is expected to attract more than 500 safety professionals from across the nation.

The conference will be in San Antonio from Aug. 11 to 14.

The topic of how to handle drinking and driving is a con-

troversial one, Dennis said. Texas has several ways to deal with DWI and education is one of them.

"In Texas, DWI offenders have to take a safety course after they're caught," he said. "It's been found that 50 percent of those who take the course are less likely to be rearrested for DWI."

The discussion on denying dropouts their driver's licenses will help legislators determine the best way to address the dropout rate, Dennis said.

"Few people know that denying licenses to dropouts under 18 has been in effect in Texas for about two years," he said.

"It is an incentive to keep people in school, but they

See Dusty/Page 4

Official predicts University Center will open this spring

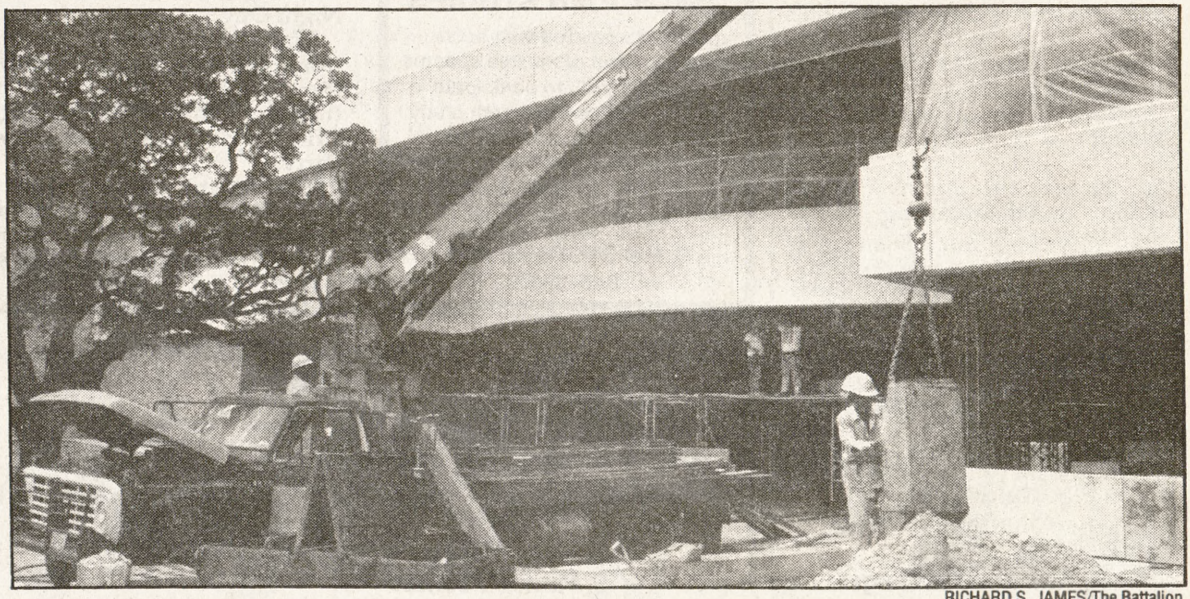
By Robin Goodpaster
The Battalion

Texas A&M students can look forward to using the new University Center as early as Spring 1992, said Dennis Busch, assistant manager of the University Center.

Construction on the new center began during February 1990. The final result includes renovations to the MSC, an extension to Rudder Tower, a building used to consolidate student operations and a parking garage.

The new L-shaped building across the street from Rudder Tower, unofficially called the Student Activities and Services Building, will house the Athletic Department, the 12th Man Foundation, Student Activities and Student Services, the Off-campus Housing Center, Multicultural Services Department, the Office of School Relations, meeting rooms and a small catering kitchen.

A bridge will connect the MSC and Rudder Tower second floors. It will contain a browsing library, a student art gallery and



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Construction continues on the University Center. This bridge will connect the MSC and Rudder Tower.

a print and copy center.

Some of the renovations have been completed. For example, the Hullabaloo Food Court in the basement of the MSC already has been opened. The book store on the first floor also is being expanded.

Busch said the new University Parking Garage will be convenient for students as well as visitors. It will be finished by Sept. 1.

Entrance to the MSC is easier than it used to be, said Steve Hodge, University Center manager. People wishing to enter the MSC can use the bookstore entrance on Joe Routt Boulevard.

"Student activities operations has been very cramped for some time," Hodge said. "Hopefully, this will help somewhat."

A&M department advisers help students work through degree plans

By Melinda Cox
The Battalion

Working through a degree plan can be an overwhelming process, but many people at

Texas A&M can help students understand and decide the best route to choose.

Advisers are part of every department and can be useful sources of information and advice.

Les Fiechtner, director for undergraduate programs for the College of Business, said counselors can be found throughout the University.

"There are advisers in Student Activities and the MSC,"

Fiechtner said. "The University is structured to provide advice in all areas and curriculum."

The College of Business also employs people to advise students, Fiechtner said. These people, hired because of their educa-

tional and previous experience, have at least a master's degree in an area involved with advising or counseling.

This experience enables advisers to evaluate students' needs and help them work their way

through the requirements of a degree plan.

"The advisers act as a sounding board for questions primarily dealing with the curriculum and also any non-academic ques-

See Advisers/Page 4