

STATE AND LOCAL

Most B-CS managers sure of hotel industry

By D'ANNA HEIDEMAN
Reporter

"Overbuilt" vividly describes the hotel industry in College Station, say five local hotel and motel general managers.

Ralph Deitrich, the general manager of the Aggeland Inn, says it may take four to five years for the city's growth to catch up with the saturated hotel market.

"College Station definitely has a great future," he says, "but somebody better stop building hotels someday."

Some of the busiest times for the hotel industry are during football season, Parents' Weekend and graduation.

But Earline Ashby, general manager of Holiday Inn, says the last two weeks have been very busy because of A&M's Fireman Training School.

Such conferences and seminars at the University are another source of business for hotels and motels.

Betty Young, general manager for Ramada Inn says about 90 percent of Ramada Inn's business

"College Station . . . has a bright future." — Ralph Deitrich, general manager of the Aggeland Inn.

is directly related to A&M. And since there has been a drop in conference attendance, Young says the inn's business has been slow.

Art McKellar, general manager for the Inn at Chimney Hill, says he thinks the College Station

Hilton and Convention Center complements the local hotel industry.

"The Hilton provides the meeting facility while we provide quality rooms at a big savings," he says.

Deitrich, Ashby and Young agreed that two big convention facilities, such as the Hilton and Ramada Inn, will draw larger conventions to College Station. They all predict a bright future for the local hotel industry.

But the La Quinta Inn general manager, Charles Shaddox, disagrees. He says he sees a slow future for the College Station industry.

"I do not see College Station as a convention city because of its location," Shaddox says.

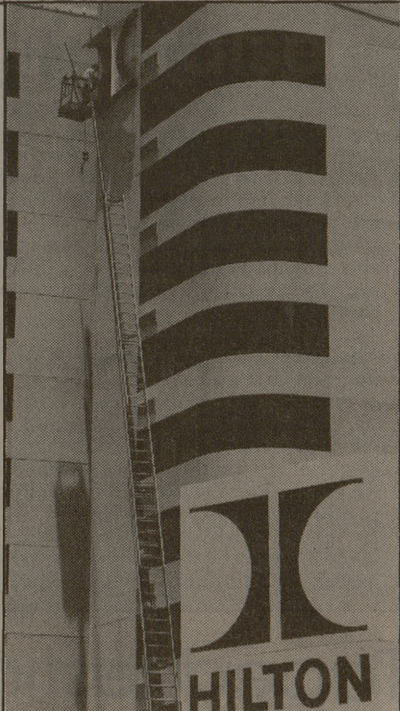


Photo by Leigh Forrest

"Wade Myles puts finishing touches on the College Station Hilton and Convention Center.

A&M Principals' Center gets donation

University News Service

The Abell-Hanger Foundation of Midland has awarded a grant to the new Texas A&M Principals' Center, which is dedicated to the support and professional renewal of elementary and high school principals.

The center was established this year by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. Dr. Dave Erlanson, head of educational administration, said its goal is to provide training and professional enrichment for the person who has been shown to be the pivotal point

for educational reform in our schools—the principal.

"There are more demands placed upon the time and energy of the principal today than ever before, and consequently there is a need for the principal to have better knowledge and greater creativity than ever before," he said.

The Abell-Hanger grant will be used to maintain the services provided by the center which include visits by staff to principals in the state and an 800 number advice hotline, he said. In addition, the center

has already sponsored several programs for the benefit of principals including a six-week institute for prospective principals and a week-long academy for practicing principals.

Dr. Dean Corrigan, dean of the College of Education, said, "This is a critical period for the Principals' Center because it needs special funds beyond those supplied by Texas A&M to meet its goals and responsibilities."

"The grant provided by the Abell-Hanger Foundation will be very ben-

eficial to the center and its staff in providing needed training and support services to elementary and secondary school principals."

Dr. Chris Borman, associate dean for research, said the grant will "help the Principals' Center get off the ground" and that services will be expanded as the center gains additional financial support.

The Abell-Hanger Foundation recently financed a chair in nautical archaeology at Texas A&M

Around town

Science students must take exam

Any junior or senior in the College of Science who has not previously taken the English Proficiency Examination should plan to take the test August 6 unless they have completed English 301 with a minimum grade of C. Students in the College of Science are required to pass either English 301 or the test in order to qualify as a degree candidate. Students entering the College of Science under Catalog 107 or later must complete English 301 as required in their degree program.

The English Proficiency Exam will be administered by the English Department. Students in the Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics Departments should register for the exam in 152 Blocker before August 1.

Hobby, 28 senators help Parker pay fees by giving fund-raiser

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Twenty-eight state senators, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and a former senator issued a written invitation urging lobbyists to attend a fund-raiser that Sen. Carl Parker says raised more than \$40,000 for his legal fees, it was reported Wednesday.

Parker, facing a third grand jury investigation into allegations of promoting pornography, prostitution and drugs, said the money was raised at a Monday night event in Austin.

"I thank my colleagues in the Senate," Parker told the Austin American-Statesman. "It's not easy to put your name on an invitation for a guy under attack."

"The money will help keep me from financial ruin and help me combat this gross injustice," Parker said.

Parker, D-Port Arthur, is chairman of the Senate Education Committee. He twice has been indicted by Jefferson County grand juries, which looked into operations of Happy Times Video Inc., a firm accused of selling pornographic films from a house once co-owned by Parker.

The indictments were dismissed because of questions about how the grand jury investigations were handled. Authorities asked the attorney general's office to direct the third in-

vestigation, which is expected to end next month.

Parker said he borrowed \$200,000 when his legal problems began last year. "That money is gone," he said. He has spent an additional \$80,000 for his defense against charges he insists are politically motivated.

Sens. John Montford, D-Lubbock, and Don Henderson, R-Houston, were hosts for the fund-raising event, which attracted 250 to 300 people.

"I'm worried about how he's being treated down there," Montford said. "There is some concern about the abuse of the district attorney's office. I consider Sen. Parker a close friend, and I'm not a fair-weather friend."

Two senators did not join Hobby, the 28 senators and former Sen. Lindon Williams of Houston in the written invitation. They were Sens. Buster Brown, R-Lake Jackson, and Cyndi Krier, R-San Antonio.

Brown, a candidate for attorney general, has questioned the use of contributions by Democratic Attorney General Jim Mattox for his legal fees when he won acquittal on commercial bribery charges.

"There's at least a question of raising funds for legal fees," Brown said. "I have been unable to see with clarity if it's legal."

Precedent-setting trial may change venue

Associated Press

GALVESTON — The precedent-setting trial of a nursing home corporation charged with murder by neglect in the deaths of two elderly patients may be moved from Galveston to San Antonio, a federal judge said Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge William Sessions said special arrangements could be made to hold the trial, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 9, in San Antonio. He said the trial would be conducted in the federal courthouse since Bexar County courtrooms would not be available.

Although a change of venue order has not been signed, State Dis-

trict Judge Don Morgan, prosecutors and defense attorneys went to San Antonio Wednesday to discuss possible arrangements.

Morgan declined comment on the plan Tuesday during a brief recess in the fifth week of pre-trial motions to quash murder indictments against the Houston-based Autumn Hills Convalescent Centers Inc., its president and four current or former employees.

The defendants each are charged with two counts of murder by neglect.

Defense attorneys allege prosecutors leaked secret grand jury information to reporters and violated the defendants' right to a speedy trial.

Gramm wants judge to prohibit audit

Associated Press

AUSTIN — U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm wants a federal judge to prohibit the Federal Election Commission from auditing his 1984 campaign finance records.

The election commission staff alleges that the records include discrepancies in reports on fundraising and spending, according to an FEC report Gramm filed as part of his lawsuit.

The Washington lawyer who filed the suit for Gramm's campaign committee said an audit would be a waste of money. Attorney James Schoener concedes the campaign might have unintentionally erred on campaign reports, but he said no major violation occurred.

According to his own reports, Gramm spent \$9.8 million in a campaign against Democrat Lloyd Doggett.

Gramm's press secretary, Larry Neal, Wednesday said the Texas senator has done nothing wrong, although some clerical errors did creep into the campaign finance reports.

"There were what amounted to clerical errors in the course of dealing with 50,000 and more individual contributions . . ." Neal said. "We had a lot of volunteers doing a lot of work on an enormous report."

The FEC staff investigated allegations first raised by Donna Mobley of Austin, former director of Texas Common Cause. The probe persuaded the six-member commission there was "reason to believe" Gramm's campaign violated finance laws and a full audit was ordered.

But on June 19, Gramm filed suit in U.S. District Court in Dallas, alleging the deadline had passed for the FEC to audit his 1984 campaign books.

The campaign committee will respond to specific questions, but it doesn't believe a full audit is proper, Schoener said.

"An audit is terribly expensive, probably somewhere between \$60,000-\$70,000," he said. "That's too costly and too wasteful of the taxpayers' money and the campaign's money."

FEC officials, who claim they are bound by confidentiality requirements, have little to say about the case.

The agency's response to Gramm's lawsuit is to be filed in the Dallas court by Aug. 19.

"I cannot divulge what is going on in the investigation until the matter is closed," said Lois Lerner of the FEC's general counsel staff.

The six-member commission is made up of three Republicans and three Democrats.

The allegations against the Gramm campaign include charges that it mishandled donations to a joint fund-raiser breakfast in Dallas last year.

An FEC staff report said at least one contributor did not realize that some money from the Presidential Nomination Breakfast Ball would go to Gramm's campaign.

"The Gramm committee appears to have deposited these checks into the committee's account instead of depositing them in a separate joint fund-raising account as required," the report said. "A review of reports does not appear to indicate how or when the committee distributed these proceeds."

The FEC report said the Friends of Phil Gramm committee reported illegally large contributions from several sources. Federal law limits individual contributions to \$1,000 and political action committee donations to \$5,000 for each primary and election.

Some individuals gave Gramm \$2,000 for the general election, according to the FEC report.

The report also said there were errors in dates, names and amounts of contributions; and how donations from married couples were recorded.

Schoener said there was no chicanery intended. Of the GOP convention breakfast, he said one "sweet lady" misunderstood that some of her money would go to Gramm.

"You can't help that at a joint fund-raiser," he said. "The tickets clearly said there was more than one sponsor."

Schoener also denied allegations that the campaign improperly took post-election contributions after reporting it had no outstanding debts. Some bills came in late, he said.

"We admit we failed to disclose debt," he said, "but a lot of it wasn't known at the time."

No hearing date has been set by U.S. District Judge Robert Porter, in whose court the case was filed.

Edward Zuckerman, publisher of a Washington newsletter dealing with campaign finances, said Gramm's battle against the FEC lacks merit.

"It's one thing for a lawyer to raise off-the-wall theories to protect a client," Zuckerman, editor and publisher of the newsletter PACs and Lobbies, said. "But when that client is a member of the U.S. Senate, who has certain responsibilities and is accountable to the public, it's nothing less than an outrage to let his lawyer go into court and claim a federal agency does not have the authority to conduct an audit."

"It's just a case of stonewalling," he said.

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