

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 83 No. 157 USPS 075360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, June 11, 1986



Winners Take All

Statewide 4-H scholarship winners get some last minute instructions before a photo session in the MSC. This year,

109 scholarships were awarded to high school seniors in 4-H amounting to \$691,400.

Photo by Anthony S. Casper

'White House oversaw private aid to Contras'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House, working through outside intermediaries, managed a private network that provided military assistance to Nicaraguan rebels during last year's congressional aid ban, according to government officials, rebel leaders and American supporters.

The American intermediaries helped the rebels with arms purchases, fund raising and enlistment of military trainers after Congress, in October 1984, barred U.S. officials from "directly or indirectly" aiding the Contra war against Nicaragua's leftist government.

The administration's behind-the-scenes role was described by more than two dozen sources in interviews over the past 18 months. Administration officials told Congress last summer that White House contact with the rebels had been limited to political advice.

Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, deputy director for political-military affairs at the National Security Council, oversaw the intermediaries, including conservative activist Robert W. Owen and retired Army Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, sources said.

Most sources — five current and former U.S. officials, 12 rebel leaders and eight American Contra backers — insisted on anonymity. The aid ban lasted through September 1985, when Congress provided \$27 million in non-lethal aid but restricted a U.S. military role.

Owen, a former Republican congressional aide, operated as a private individual during the ban although sources said he worked out of North's office in late 1984 and early 1985. Last fall, he won a \$50,675 State Department grant to work with the rebels.

One administration official close to North and Owen said Owen acted as North's go-between to the rebel movement and would participate in military-related meetings that North "considered (legally) risky."

A prominent rebel said Owen helped organize Nicaraguan Indian military operations in Honduras and establish a 200-man force in Costa Rica in early 1985.

Two paramilitary trainers, Tom Posey and Jack Terrell, said Owen, claiming to represent the U.S. government, sought their help in training that new Contra force.

Owen, asked to comment both directly and through associates, refused. North also refused comment, as did White House spokesman Pete Rousset.

Singlaub, chairman of the World Anti-Communist League, is credited by rebel leaders with raising funds internationally for arms purchases and advising them on military strategy.

Singlaub has said the congressional ban stopped North from giving him direct "advice or encouragement." But in an interview last October, Singlaub said he had an arrangement with North that was "like in the military" when a junior officer tells his superior what he plans to do and silence is regarded as approval. Singlaub said he talked with North about once a week but denied his work was directed by North.

2 more days to register

Thursday is the last day to register for classes for the first summer session and the 10-week semester.

Students can obtain registration and drop/add forms from their departmental advisers. Forms must then be taken to the first floor of the Pavilion, which will be open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. today and Thursday.

A \$10 late registration fee will be charged students registering at this time.

All fees must be paid by 5 p.m. Thursday.

Transfer students, readmitted undergraduates and graduate students who did not receive their registration forms in the mail must obtain them from the Office of Admissions in Heaton Hall.

Challenger report

Congress promises tougher stance in NASA supervision

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Congress launched their investigations of the Challenger accident Tuesday with criticism of their own past supervision of the space agency and promises of a tougher stance in the future.

At a Senate space subcommittee hearing, chairman Slade Gorton, R-Wash., said his panel would review whether any of the recommendations by the Rogers Commission need to be written into law, but would in any case be "monitoring how promptly

and completely NASA is following the commission's recommendations and deciding the propriety of any NASA decisions not to do so."

Rep. Robert A. Roe, D-N.J., of the House Committee on Science and Technology, said, "Congress has been too shy in finding fault with NASA. As the result of the Challenger accident, Congress and NASA must begin a new era, one in which Congress must apply the same strong oversight to NASA that it does to any other government agency."

Those remarks set the tone as lawmakers in the House and Senate began a lengthy series of hearings into the nation's worst space disaster.

Key witnesses were William P. Rogers and Neil Armstrong, chairman and vice chairman of the presidential commission whose report on the accident was released Monday.

Rogers said the commission had done its job in pinpointing the cause of the accident and underlining NASA's deficiencies.

Summing up the commission's

four-month probe, Rogers told the House committee: "There's no doubt about it, serious mistakes were made. We set them all out."

Congress deferred to the Rogers commission in the investigation, but member after member began the hearings with a pledge to look more critically at NASA, which has enjoyed overwhelming approval from legislators for a quarter century.

Some critics have expressed con-

See Shuttle, page

Astronauts could gain more power in NASA

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Astronauts will gain more power in NASA if the recommendations of the Rogers commission are followed, but an astronaut said Tuesday that senior military pilots still might avoid space agency management jobs because it would mean a loss of up to \$10,000 a year in pay.

The astronaut, who spoke only on

condition that he not be identified, said recommendations from the commission investigating the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger are a triumph for the astronaut corps and will restore the powers once enjoyed by the Apollo mission crews.

The Rogers commission recommended that the Flight Crew Operations Directorate, which includes the

astronauts, should be elevated in the NASA management structure.

"If that office gets elevated, then the astronauts will have more say," he said. "Their word will be heard at a higher level and the astronauts should be able to accomplish more in the design and the design changes of the shuttle.

"This would effectively put the

astronaut office operating at the level it did during the Apollo days," he added.

Members of the astronaut corps also are happy about the commission's suggestion that more astronauts be placed in agency management positions.

10 arrested in alien smuggling operation

EL PASO (AP) — More than 10,000 aliens from Central America and the Caribbean were smuggled into the United States by a ring broken up with the arrests of 10 people, federal officials said Tuesday.

Operating since 1974 with the help of trucks contracted to carry U.S. mail, the smugglers charged an average of \$1,500 per alien and used drop houses in Mexico, Texas and Arizona, said Jim Selbe, agent in charge of

the U.S. Border Patrol anti-smuggling unit in El Paso.

According to a Border Patrol news release, those indicted were charged with "multiple felony violations of federal statutes relating to the transportation and conspiracy to transport aliens illegally into the United States."

Figures from the Border Patrol show the ring reaped at least \$15 million since 1974.

Groups of aliens from the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize would be accompanied by members of the smuggling ring to Mexico City and Monterrey, officials said.

From there, they were taken to several "safe houses" in Juarez, on the south bank of the Rio Grande from El Paso, and sneaked across the river by guides to another safe house in this border city.

Drivers of two tractor trailers from a private company, under contract to the U.S. Postal Service, would load the aliens aboard and take them on regular mail routes to Phoenix, Ariz., or the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The aliens then would board planes destined primarily to the New England area, Selbe said.

Agents infiltrated the ring and provided information that resulted

in an indictment returned May 27 by a federal grand jury in Fort Worth, Selbe said. The arrests, which took about a week to complete, started May 30 in Fort Worth and El Paso, he said.

As of Tuesday, three people out of the 13 indicted were still at large. Four were being held in El Paso, one was held in Fort Worth and five had been released on bond, authorities said.

Those being held in El Paso without bond included Carlos Vicente Urizar-Granados, a 37-year-old Guatemalan citizen who resides legally in Providence, Rigoberto Avalos-Medina, 31, an illegal alien from Mexico who lives in El Paso, and Santos Rodriguez-Esquivel, 65, who allegedly ran a safe house in Juarez with her daughter, Maria Inez Garcia-Rodriguez, 23. Garcia also was being held without bond.

South African battle death toll reaches 14

CROSSROADS, South Africa (AP) — Hundreds more shanties were burned Tuesday, the second day of a battle between rival blacks that is laying waste to this squalid squatter camp. The death toll rose to 14 and about 50,000 people are homeless.

Men fought in a cold winter rain with guns, axes, iron bars, rocks — any weapon that came to hand. Police said seven people were killed each day.

It is the second explosion of violence in less than a month between conservative vigilantes and militant "comrades" in Crossroads, a sprawling shantytown 12 miles east of Cape Town that the government has been trying to bulldoze for years.

Among 20 people wounded in

the two-day battle were four journalists, one of whom suffered serious ax wounds.

Cameraman George De'Ath and soundman Andile Fosi, South African freelancers working for the British network Independent Television News, were slashed with axes, apparently by the vigilantes, colleagues said.

De'Ath was seriously wounded on the head and hands. He underwent surgery at Groote Schuur Hospital and a hospital spokesman said his condition was extremely critical, adding: "The prognosis is not good."

Fosi was not seriously hurt. A French photographer and a local reporter suffered arm wounds from gunfire and were in stable condition.

Studies warn greenhouse effect is real

WASHINGTON (AP) — A dramatic loss of ozone over Antarctica proves the greenhouse effect is real and presages a gradual warming of the Earth that threatens floods, drought, human misery in a few years and — if not checked — eventual extinction of the human species, scientists warned Tuesday.

"I believe global warming is inevitable; it's only a question of magnitude and time," Robert Watson told the Senate Environment subcommittee on environmental pollution.

"We can expect significant changes in climate in the next few decades," said Watson, predicting that if nothing is done to slow ozone-depleting air pollution, temperatures around the world could rise as much as 10 degrees.

Watson is director of the upper atmospheric program for the Nation-

al Aeronautics and Space Administration.

James Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, said global temperatures should be nearly 2 degrees higher in 20 years, "which is about the warmest the earth has been in the last 100,000 years."

Sherwood Rowland, a University of California chemistry professor, said that "if you have the greenhouse effect going on indefinitely, then you have a temperature rise that will extinct human life" in 500 to 1,000 years.

The warnings came as the subcommittee opened two days of hearings on the greenhouse effect — a long-forecast consequence of man's pumping into the atmosphere such chemicals as chlorofluorocarbons, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

Scientists say that by accumulating in the atmosphere and destroying the vital ozone layer, these and other substances trap heat in the atmosphere, producing drought conditions in some places and causing coastal areas to be inundated by oceans swollen by melting polar and glacial ice.

For humans, they predict increases in skin cancer as the earth's surface is bombarded by larger and larger amounts of ultraviolet rays that are normally screened to relatively safe levels by the ozone belt.

The pace of atmospheric destruction is increasing steadily and rapidly, said Rowland, who in 1974 published pioneering research on chlorofluorocarbons — gases used as refrigerants and aerosol-can propellants.

This led the United States to ban their use in spray cans, but it continues elsewhere.

"There is now compelling observational evidence that the chemical composition of the atmosphere is changing at a rapid rate on a global scale," Watson said.

The scientists, calling for curbs on air pollution, said a recently completed five-year study in Antarctica provides an ominous signal to the world. They said that during that period, there was an ozone loss over the South Pole of from 30 percent to 50 percent.

Rowland said the finding proved "the remarkable correlation between this depletion in the Antarctic ozone and the rapid growth in the atmospheric concentrations of chlorofluoromethanes, and the connection is inescapable."

Hansen said the average U.S. temperature has risen from 1 to 2 degrees since 1958 and is predicted to increase an additional 3 or 4 degrees sometime between 2010 and 2020.