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World Briefs

Sources say U.S. paid for supply flights
WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department paid for flights that dropped supplies in Nicaragua to U.S.-backed Contra rebels, government sources say. The sources, insisting on anonymity, say flights were made by Vortex Air International, a Miami-based firm set up a year ago. Robert Duemling, who ran the State Department office disbursing \$27 million in aid to the rebels said the government paid for delivery of non-lethal supplies.

Swiss plant to pay for spill damage
BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — The Swiss company whose plant leaked toxic chemicals into the Rhine pledged Thursday to pay "proven claims," and a West German state said its losses in dead fish alone might reach \$5 million. After two days of declining comment, managers for Sandoz company said they knew of a Swiss insurance company's confidential report that had warned of a possible disaster five years ago. About 30 tons of mercury and chemicals were washed into the Rhine Nov. 1.

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Tax
(Continued from page 1)

to deduct the full amount of their donations.

Michael Rosenstein, chief financial officer of Hallberg Insurance Agency in Chicago, says he believes that this facet of the new law will put a slight dent in the number of donations.

"For individuals, the new law will hinder only a small percentage, because they give through their desire to help," he says. "Plus, most of the charitable contributions come from itemizers anyway."

Lastly, gifts of appreciated property will be subject to a 21 percent alternative minimum tax (AMT). For example, if one buys stock for \$1,000 and its value appreciates to \$10,000, that person could donate the stock and take a deduction of \$10,000. However, under the new law the \$9,000 unrealized gain is being taxed at 21 percent.

Salomon says most donations to A&M are solicited by the University. Faculty and alumni find persons interested in a specific area and then try to develop that interest into a gift, he says, but most people who donate usually have either made gifts before or have expressed interest in giving.

"The most important part is that the faculty brings the information back — who has the ability to make a gift and is willing to do so," Salomon says.

He says alumni also contribute a great deal to the process, because they know all the contacts.

Salomon cited a recent example of the painstaking process of "gift cultivating."

Recently, a \$50,000 gift was made to the Development Foundation by Maurine Mullins of Weatherford for the purchase of a Yttrium Aluminum Garnet (YAG) laser.

According to Dr. John August, head of the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, the laser, which is often used in human ophthalmic surgery, will be used to enhance cataract surgery in dogs and cats.

"This person was not an Aggie," Salomon says. "But she was interested in veterinary medicine. We told her that this laser was needed, and we were able to develop her interest into a gift."

The entire solicitation spanned seven years and required the services of two faculty members, the associate dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Salomon.

Salomon says private gifts mainly are used for scholarships, faculty assistance, research and University business such as the University press, the library, and different departments.

Most of the gifts are monetary, Salomon says, but donations also have come in other forms, such as land, art collections, boats, silverware and exotic game.

The largest donation in A&M's history was a tract of land worth \$13.2 million.

The land was given by Chester Reed and the proceeds will go toward the construction of a special events center.

A&M also has received two boats. One is a yacht used for biology and geology research off the coast of Corpus Christi, says Capt. T.K. Treadwell, director of marine operations at A&M. The Deborah Suzanne, a 50-footer, was donated by a person interested in marine science, Treadwell says, and is used to take honor students enrolled in Oceanography 401, Introduction to Oceanography, on a field trip out of Galveston.

But scholarships, Salomon says, are still the favorite donation. And the donors can put any restriction on the scholarship, so long as it isn't discriminatory, he says.

Endowed scholarships require larger sums of money since the interest from the investment funds the scholarship. Salomon says it takes \$65,000 to fund a \$5,000 endowed scholarship.

Taylor says donations for faculty assistance are for the most part restricted and large gifts usually fund endowed chairs, which attract or retain top-notch faculty.

Interest earned from such gifts helps fund salaries, research, travel expenses and educational programs at the University, he says.

Smaller donations sent to a department are used at the discretion of the department head, he says.

According to an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, since 40 percent of gifts to higher education are in the form of appreciated property, there will probably be a surge in this form of giving throughout the end of 1986.

For now, the new tax law can only bring speculation and modification. But with the new law closing many tax shelters, charitable giving in the future will have to be even more charitable.

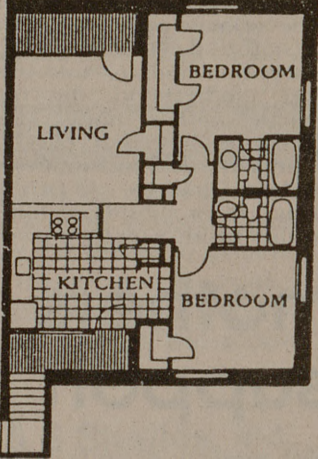
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