

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 120 USPS 045360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, March 24, 1987

Murray will not return for final year at A&M

By Homer Jacobs
Sports Editor

Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray announced Monday that he will not return for his final year of eligibility but will make himself available for the 1987 National Football League draft this spring.

The record-setting quarterback said in a statement released by the A&M Athletic Department, "After talking with my family again, I've decided it is in my best interest to go ahead and pursue my professional career at this time."

"My Aggie heart tells me to stay at A&M and play another year, but logic tells me that I should move on and test myself in the pro ranks."

In January, Murray had said he would return to A&M to guide the Aggies this fall. But A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill said that decision was not made by Murray on his own.

"I think that was more of a deci-

sion of Coach Sherrill and his mother," Sherrill said.

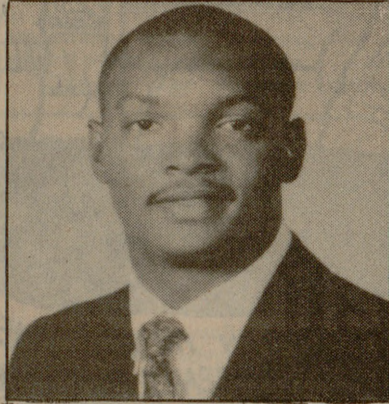
Sherrill also pointed to the fact that Murray would have been at A&M five years, and many of the players that he has played with (Rod Bernstine, Roger Vick, Rod Saddler) now will be moving on to the professional ranks.

"Deep down, I can feel really how he looked at it," he said. "He looks out there and there's not too many people on the field anymore that he really came in with."

Sherrill said the NCAA cloud that is hovering over the A&M football program did not figure into Murray's decision to leave.

"That's speculation," he said. "It really has no bearing and never would have any bearing."

Murray will leave behind him some of the most impressive statistics ever compiled in the Southwest Conference, including the most touch-



Kevin Murray

down passes (48) in a career. He also completed 546 passes for 6,549 yards during his Aggie quarterbacking days.

Sherrill said he has never coached

a quarterback that did not make the pros, and he said Murray will be no exception.

"Kevin Murray has all the ingredients," Sherrill said. "He has an opportunity to make it."

Sherrill said the 1987 A&M football squad will have a difficult time replacing Murray, the two-time Player of the Year in the SWC.

"Concerning our football team, there's no question that the shoes that have to be filled are giant ones," he said. "But what Kevin has really given to the team are intangibles that are hard to find and hard to define — they include leadership and the determination to find a way to win. Kevin made this team awfully strong in that regard."

The Aggies now must hand the reins over to either senior Craig Stump or redshirt freshman Lance Pavlas. But Sherrill said the new quarterbacking situation would not

change the team's overall philosophy.

"I don't think we ever lower our goals," he said. "We're going to have to do some different things. But we're not going to change our offense."

A&M offensive coordinator Lynn Amedee, who was instrumental in developing Murray's skills, said the time was right for Murray to head for the pros.

"I think he did the right thing," Amedee said. "What can he do that he hasn't done? He's taken us to two Cotton Bowls, and he's been Player of the Year the last two years."

Amedee said the Aggie football team, and Stump and Pavlas in particular, will have to work extra hard during the five-week spring drills to make up for Murray's absence, but the team would not rest on Murray's laurels.

Stump, who led the Aggies to two

straight upset victories over Texas Christian and Texas at the end of the 1984 season while Murray was injured, said Murray's exit is a new motivational factor for the quarterback from Port Arthur Jefferson.

"It'll help you wake up in the morning," Stump said.

Stump's rude awakening came after two years of backing up Murray. "People say good things happen to those who wait," he said. "I have to have a good spring for me and my teammates so maybe they can build some confidence in me."

Pavlas, who was one of the most highly regarded quarterbacks to ever come out of the Texas high school ranks, just finished his first day of spring drills and was concentrating on trying to adjust to the new activities.

"I'm just trying to do my best and let nature take its course," Pavlas said.

Moslem kidnappers say illness may kill hostage

Captors want U.S. to urge release of Arabs

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Moslem kidnappers said today American hostage Alann Steen is sick and "may die within 10 days." The captors offered to free him if the United States pressures Israel to free 100 Arab prisoners.

A handwritten Arabic statement delivered to the independent Beirut newspaper An-Nahar was signed by Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, which holds three American teachers and one Indian professor.

The group said Steen, a 47-year-old Boston native and a communications instructor at Beirut University College, fell ill in captivity.

An-Nahar said the statement was accompanied by a photograph of another hostage, Robert Polhill, a New York City resident and professor of accounting at BUC, as evidence the document was genuine.

In Stockton, Calif., Bruce Steen said of his brother: "As far as I know, he was in good health." He added it appeared from recent photographs that his brother had lost weight in captivity.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization released a videotape of French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin, 35. It said plans to kill him

Tuesday had been canceled because of appeals from Sheik Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah and Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarion Capudji.

Fadlallah is the most influential Shiite Moslem cleric with Lebanon's Iranian-backed militant factions. Capudji was born in Syria and has close ties to the Palestine Liberation Organization of Yasser Arafat.

In its statement, the group holding the four college teachers said: "We announce that American spy Alann Steen has fallen sick. His physical condition may deteriorate and he may die within 10 days as doctors who advised care for his condition have said."

His brother Bruce said: "I had no idea he was sick."

"Last time I saw him he was fine. The original picture I saw of him in captivity looked like he was OK, but then I saw one just a week ago, and it did look like he had lost some weight."

The statement said the group would draw up the list of names of prisoners it wants freed, along with a detailed plan for the swap, "if the American administration asked us to do this."

A previous offer to trade the four teachers for 400 Arab prisoners was

withdrawn since the Israelis refused to negotiate and the United States did not pressure them to do so.

The other two kidnapped teachers are Jesse Turner, 39, of Boise, Idaho, and Mithileshwar Singh, 60, an Indian who has resident alien status in the United States.

Normandin said in the videotape from Revolutionary Justice that his kidnappers put him on trial and "I was judged and accused. . . . The sentence is suspended for the time being, thanks to Fadlallah and Capudji." The four-minute tape was delivered to a Western news agency in West Beirut.

A statement from the group last week claimed Normandin confessed to spying for the French and Israeli secret services. He was kidnapped March 8, 1986.

Two Saudi Arabian hostages were freed in West Beirut last week, a month after Syria sent 7,500 troops there to stop a war between rival militias.

There has been speculation that Syria obtained the releases of the Saudis in return for King Fahd urging Britain to resume relations with President Hafez Assad's government.

Guarantees of sex, grades allegedly lured SMU recruits

DALLAS (AP) — Football players at Southern Methodist University had sex with sorority women and were guaranteed good grades through an elaborate network of boosters and students that was organized as early as 1979, according to sources quoted by KLIF-AM today.

KLIF sports commentator Norm Hitzges quoted unidentified sources as saying two sorority members initially were paid \$400 a weekend to sleep with prospective football recruits.

The women allegedly lured the young men with the promise of more sex if they signed at SMU, and they sought information about what other schools were offering to have them to sign, Hitzges said on his morning sports show.

Reports of grade-cheating and payments to female students to have sex with athletes surfaced last week when SMU officials acknowledged they were investigating "unfounded rumors" from an anonymous tipster.

Those reports are the latest to surface in the pay-for-players scandal that resulted in the NCAA banning football at SMU for 1987.

KLIF also quoted sources as saying that former Athletic Director Bob Hitch was paid \$500,000 and former coach Bobby Collins was paid \$375,000 when they resigned last December. The pair stepped down in the wake of the NCAA investigation.

The radio station said Collins has been guaranteed another \$200,000 payment in five years as long as he doesn't talk about the scandal or sue the university.

The number of women offering sexual favors grew to "another six,

eight, 10 girls involved" over a period of years, Hitzges said.

He said sex-for-players and the grade-fixing became known to Gov. Bill Clements and some other members of the SMU Board of Governors, which Clements chaired before stepping down in January for his inauguration.

Clements on Friday denied knowing anything about such information.

"I categorically deny any knowledge whatsoever of such practices," Clements said. "I abhor the idea of these kinds of activities if they exist, which I know nothing about."

After leaving a speaking engagement in San Antonio this morning, Clements could not be located

immediately for further comment.

The organizer of the sex-for-athletes scheme has "long since left school," Hitzges said, and the person now works for a Dallas law firm. But Hitzges said the sexual favors plan, which started in 1979-80, picked up again in 1982 with more women involved.

Hitzges said his information on the growing scandal at SMU came from one key source and that the story was verified by other sources.

Besides the money, the women received extra gifts, including a Mercedes-Benz, the use of a fur coat for one year and a booster's credit card, Hitzges said. He said the woman who received the credit card in 1983 still has it today.

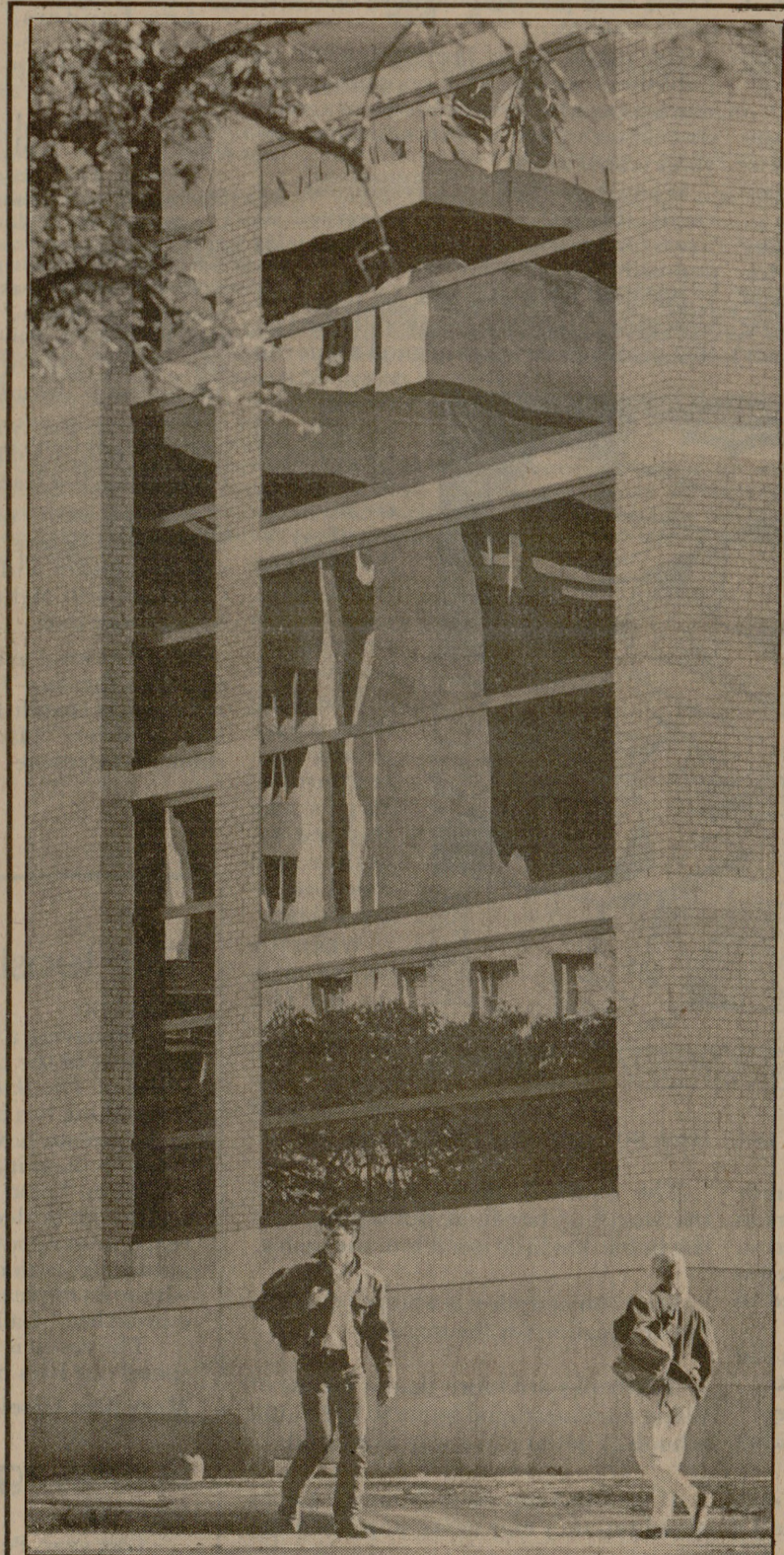


Photo by Dean Saito

Mirror, Mirror

Windows in the New Chemistry Building show off a reflection of the O&M Building in Monday's bright sunlight. The day started out with rain, but had cleared up by early afternoon.

Economist: Sales tax on services could cut jobs

By Melanie Perkins
Staff Writer

An estimated 42,700 Texans could lose their jobs if a proposal to extend the state sales tax to the service sector is passed, a Bryan-College Station economist says.

Economic consultant Donald House says this is a conservative estimate of what the job reduction could be in the service sector, assuming the cost of products remained the same and the added expenses from the taxes were not passed on to the consumer. However, House says he believes this ultimately will happen.

"It's going to touch the entire economy and it is very difficult to predict the entire structural burden of the tax simply because of the multiple levels of taxation and the interactions across markets," House says.

The proposal, submitted by State Comptroller Bob Bullock, calls for the extension of

the state sales tax to include services — both professional services such as those offered by lawyers and accountants, and personal services such as hairdressing and dog grooming — in the tax base.

Persons providing professional services may choose whether they will itemize tax on their bills or bill on a "tax included" basis as goods merchants currently do.

According to reports released by Bullock's office, the 4.5 percent sales tax rate on these services would place Texas fourth among the most populous states in terms of state and local taxes. Raising the state sales tax rate to bring in the same amount of money would cause Texas to have the highest combined state and local sales tax rate in the country.

Tony Proffitt, director of tax information, says the Legislature is going to have to raise some money to help pull the state out of an estimated \$5.8 billion budget deficit.

"This is an alternative the comptroller had proposed so the Legislature will not have to

impose an income tax on Texas residents," Proffitt says.

House's study was prepared for groups representing certified public accountants, lawyers, architects, doctors, real estate agents, chiropractors, engineers and insurance agents.

Speaking for the study sponsors, Austin lawyer Mark Hanna told the Associated Press the pending proposal is not the way to go. While the service industry was willing to pay its "fair share" of state taxes, Hanna said, the wider sales tax was not a good idea.

House said that, although most states have a sales tax, only three states in the United States — Hawaii, New Mexico and South Dakota — extend taxes to the service sector in the way Bullock's proposal would.

In early U.S. history, he says, states had tried this kind of tax in various forms and in general rejected it. He also found four European countries — France, Germany, Italy and

the Netherlands — who tried and rejected this type of tax.

There are other states besides Texas actively considering extending taxes to services, Proffitt says. For example, the Indiana legislature recently passed a bill to extend taxes to services, he says.

"The exact same bill Mr. Bullock has written was taken by the governor of the state of Washington and introduced in its legislature with very good results," he says.

House says even exempt services such as health, agriculture and food are subject to taxation at their lower levels.

"You look at hospitals and you find their accounting services will go up in price, their legal services will go up in price, their custodial services will go up in price and you can go on and on and on," says House. "Whereas you may be trying to exempt them on the services they charge, you aren't exempting

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Controversy over bomber doesn't faze flight crew

ABILENE (AP) — Reporters from across the country watched demonstrations of the controversial new B-1B bomber Monday and talked with its flight crew during Media Day at Dyess Air Force Base.

Following months of increasingly critical reports from Capitol Hill regarding the B-1B and its effectiveness, about 50 reporters from major newspapers and television networks got a look at the bomber and talked to some of the airmen who man it.

Because of problems with some of the plane's critical equipment, the Air Force on Feb. 23 placed special restrictions on flight maneuvers of the bird-like, low-altitude, high-speed aircraft that is designed to penetrate enemy defenses and fill the gap between the old B-52s and the super high-tech Stealth bomber.

Capt. Fred Strain, one of five crew members on the initial flight of the B-1B that ended in a 300 mph landing on a desert runway at Edwards Air Force Base in California on March 10, 1986, told newsmen that on that one mission he had "all the problems I want to have for the rest of my career."

The landing was the fastest powered aircraft landing ever made.

Strain's plane — the "Star of Abilene" — had a malfunction and the sweep wings only would move to a 55-degree angle, far short of the 15 to 25 degrees desired for landing. The crew noticed the problem over the Brownwood area only a half hour into their first training mission.

"We weren't really sure what was going to happen," Strain recalls. "Nobody had really landed that fast. I think we had anticipated landing on the runway and rolling off onto the dry lake bed because we didn't think we were going to stop."

Once the brakes were applied, the plane stopped within about 12,000 feet, he said, with 3,000 or 4,000 feet of runway remaining.

"It stopped just super," he said. "But, I had never seen the sagebrush go by that fast on the landing before."

Col. Robert Dempsey, the commander of the 96th Bomb Wing at Dyess, defended the special restrictions imposed on crews training on the B1B. The limitations are necessary, he said, until all systems on the plane can be thoroughly tested.