

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 124 USPS 045360 10 pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, March 30, 1987

Note: Donor thought North ran aid fund

WASHINGTON (AP) — At least one wealthy contributor who gave money to a private Contra aid effort believed Lt. Col. Oliver North was controlling how the funds were spent, documents show.

A note from the contributor to an employee of fund-raiser Carl "Spitz" Channell included a \$100,000 check and said, "Please have Ollie contact me to let me know what he's going to do with it."

The note, dated May 27, 1986, was among documents obtained from Channell's offices by Jane McLaughlin, who worked as a fundraiser for Channell.

The documents, which McLaughlin has turned over to the independent counsel investigating the Iran-Contra affair, were reviewed by the Associated Press. They indicate a more active role by North in Channell's operation than previously acknowledged by Channell, whose activities are under counsel scrutiny.

Channell has maintained that North did not raise or control money for his operations, which included a \$1 million pro-Contra TV campaign, a Contra speakers program and humanitarian aid contributions estimated at \$3 million throughout the two-year congressional ban on U.S. military aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

The contributor who asked that North telephone him, Bruce Hooper of Philadelphia, acknowledged sending McLaughlin the note with a \$100,000 check.

Channell's spokesman, Jared Cameron, denied North controlled the money or played a significant role in Channell's efforts.

Hooper said he met North for a briefing on Central America before making the financial commitment to Channell's project. He said North never told him how the money was spent, but that he understood it would be spent for non-lethal assistance, not weapons.

A National Endowment document, called "Top 25 contributors as of Oct. 3, 1986," shows \$100,000 from Hooper in a column marked "Toys" and \$45,000 in a column marked CAFP, for Central American Freedom Project.

McLaughlin and another former Channell employee have said Toys referred to a weapons account, but Channell has denied any of his funds were for weapons. Cameron said the account was initially set up to provide assistance to the Contra families during the 1985 Christmas season and thus was named Toys.



Photo by Bill Hughes

You Did It!

Julie Soukup watches Crystal McGuire give Troy Bonin a hug after Bonin competed in the finals of the 400-meter intermediate hurdles

during Texas Triathlon Six. The track meet was held last Saturday and attracted nearly 800 participants from 11 states.

3 athletes face charges of assault

By Curtis L. Culbertson
Staff Writer

Three Texas A&M football players were charged with assaulting two women students and a University Police officer in connection with an incident that occurred in Cain Hall on March 11.

Justice of the Peace Mike Callihan said Sunday that assault complaints were filed in his office by two women and an A&M police officer against senior defensive back James Carl Flowers, freshman defensive back Lafayette R. Turner and sophomore halfback James R. Howse.

Both women filed complaints against Turner, 20, and he was charged with two counts of misdemeanor assault, Callihan said. Officer Mark Barnett of the University Police Department filed the complaint against Flowers, 22, who was charged with one count of misdemeanor assault, he said. Howse, 21, also was charged with one count of misdemeanor assault after a complaint was filed by one of the women involved, he added.

Director of University Police Bob Watt said all the charges filed were Class C misdemeanors and are punishable by a maximum fine of \$200.

"Because of the pending charges, I cannot comment at this time," Watt said.

But he did confirm that University Police officers responded to an incident that occurred in Cain Hall involving two female students.

Callihan said that to his knowledge, none of the football players involved have responded to the charges so far.

PUF continues growth through stock profits

AUSTIN (AP) — While Texas' economy suffered because of heavy dependence on the oil industry, the Permanent University Fund continued to grow at a vigorous pace because of stock market investments, officials said.

The surge in stock profits was more than enough to offset the drop in mineral revenue, and managers of the fund are aiming at continuing that pattern.

Managers are also trying to further diversify the sources of income for the PUF to replace the large amounts of money that once poured in from 2.1 million acres scattered through the West Texas oil fields.

The fund is the public endowment of the University of Texas and Texas A&M University systems. Its profits from the stock market, in the 1985-86 fiscal year which ended Aug. 31, exceeded its income from mineral royalties for only the second time in the 30 years that the fund has been allowed to invest in stocks.

The fund, at the peak of the oil boom in 1981-82, received \$178 million from mineral royalties. The energy price slump cut that source of income to \$109 million in 1985-86 and it may drop to about \$70 million in this fiscal year if current trends continue, said Michael Patrick, executive vice chancellor for asset management for the University of Texas System.

The fund's book value was \$2.6 billion on Aug. 31.

"When the value of the fund was \$200 million, we were receiving in one year new money (from mineral royalties) equal to about 20 percent of the fund. The liquidity was coming from West Texas," Patrick said.

"Today, with the fund expanded substantially in size, even if you could return to high prices for oil, West Texas will never again represent the same degree of liquidity to the fund that it did in the past."

"Still, \$70 million a year from West Texas is a

lot of money, and it's terribly important to us. But I think the fund has transitioned, and I believe it will be this way forever."

Mineral royalties of \$70 million would be the lowest since the 1975-76 fiscal year.

Before oil was discovered on university land in 1923, the PUF had assets of less than \$1 million. Mineral royalties pumped more than \$1.7 billion into the fund since 1923, and they had accounted for about 65 percent of the fund's book value by the end of the last fiscal year.

Profits from the sale of stock and other equity securities have contributed only \$373 million to the book value, or about 14 percent. But \$321 million of that has come since 1982, and \$185 million of it was earned in the last fiscal year.

Thanks to the temporary surge in oil prices in the early 1980s and to the bull market on Wall Street since 1982, the fund's market value increased about \$1 billion in those years. About \$288 million was gained in the last fiscal year.

Birds cause image problems for A&M

Maintenance crew lacks funds, manpower for cleanup

By Kelley Bullock
Reporter

"I was out at 2 o'clock in the morning taking pictures of Rudder Tower," junior journalism major Lee Schexnaider says. "And I had some problems with my camera, so I had to go back and forth to my truck."

"I was tired and was walking by the trees, and one of the birds shit on my arm."

"I went to go wash it off. First, I went over to the MSC and it was locked. Then I went over to Rudder, and I couldn't find anywhere to wash it off. So I went over to the fountain and washed it off."

"It's ridiculous! You can't walk around the area at night without an umbrella."

Like Schexnaider, many students at A&M have problems with the birds in the trees on Joe Rountt Boulevard, next to Rudder Tower and the Memorial Student Center.

"I don't think the birds present a very big problem, except they leave a mess all over the place," says John Field, a junior biomedical science major.

"It's not as bad as it was over at the Academic Building last year," he says. "But it could get that bad if something's not done about it."

"It's embarrassing for visitors on campus to see the bird feces all over the sidewalks. I think the bird crap on the ground and the stains on Rudder Tower need to be cleaned up so visitors from around the world won't think we don't take care of the grounds here."

"Also, I've had problems getting the mess off my car when I park over at the parking lot over by G. Rollie Coliseum."

The grounds maintenance department agrees that the birds do make a mess, and it should be



Battalion File Photo

This Dodge Colt was parked in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

cleaned, but also says the budget doesn't always allow for the extra work.

"As far as our resources go," says grounds maintenance director Eugene H. Ray, "it's one of those things when our responsibilities and our funding doesn't go far, considering that back in 1980, we had the same personnel based on the same budget."

"We now have 366 more acres and 34 new buildings. That's not

an excuse — that's just a simple statement of fact."

Ray says he doesn't know how much maintenance spends on the cleanup of the birds, but adds that the department just does as much as it can.

"The birds now are making a little bit of a mess," he says. "They're not making near the mess that they've made in times past. We do try to clean it periodically, working it in to the other

things we're obligated to do."

The reason grackles and cow birds stay on campus is because the live oak trees at A&M retain their foliage during the winter, Ray says.

"The only time they don't have leaves is this time of the year," he says. "And generally, you never notice they're defoliated because the new leaves push the old ones off."

"Also, the University is a fairly quiet place," Ray says. "Nobody's going to bother them, so it provides a good haven for the birds."

To get the birds to leave, grounds maintenance uses amplified bird-distress calls and gas cannons, which make a noise as loud as the cannon at the A&M football games.

"We normally do it at Thanksgiving, particularly when the Texas game is played in Austin," Ray says. "We have some bird-scare devices that we run for three or four days, which consist of gas cannons and amplified bird-distress calls. We make up three units that come out on small pickups and move around the heart of campus."

"It (the cannon) goes off about every 30 seconds. You can imagine us moving up and down the streets and sidewalks. You've got to have a vacated area, or it will vacate pretty quickly."

"At Christmas break, we normally run from Dec. 21 through Jan. 3. The activity is not compatible to civilization, particularly because it's so noisy."

By scaring the birds away from the Joe Rountt area, maintenance hopes to move the birds to Eastgate, the main drive or the golf course.

"They can roost out there, and they don't really cause anybody problems," Ray says.

Club owner rejected demands from Dallis

By Carolyn Garcia
Staff Writer

Herbert Graham, owner of the local nightclub Graham Central Station, said his establishment was bombed after he refused to give into the demands of competitor Athanasios "Tommy" Dallis, owner of the ROXZ and Fajita Rita's.

"He (Dallis) contacted me once in person and then by phone," Graham said. "I wouldn't comply with what he wanted. I wasn't expecting the place to be blown up, but there was never a doubt in my mind who did it."

Dallis currently is being held without bond in Harris County Jail, charged with various federal violations in connection with the October 1984 arson-bombing of Graham Central Station. He will remain in jail while awaiting his May 18 trial.

Co-defendant Steve Graham of Houston, a Dallis employee, also was denied bond.

After hearing the testimony, U.S. Magistrate Karen Brown ruled that the pair would pose a threat to the community if they were released on bond.

Herbert Graham said he had no knowledge of the two-and-one-half year investigation authorities had launched into Dallis' activities, but said he hopes he is called to testify.

"As soon as (authorities) told me it blew up I knew who did it," Graham said. "I told the authorities everything from day one."

Graham said it took 30 to 40 days to rebuild his club and that the fire caused approximately \$550,000 in damage and a minimum of \$150,000 in lost business.

"We had to totally rebuild," Graham said. "All that was left was some of the concrete slab."

Phillip Simpson, William Hershall Nash and Timothy Joe Nash, all of Lubbock also were named in the indictment, which alleges conspiracy

to maliciously damage and destroy a building involved in interstate commerce, and malicious destruction of a building involved in interstate commerce, and unlawful manufacture of a firearm.

William Nash also is charged with lying to a federal grand jury.

They all are being held without bond.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Albert Ratliff expects all five men to be tried at the same time. Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said this procedure is not uncommon in federal cases.

At Wednesday's bond hearing, agent George Michael Taylor of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms testified that he had tape recordings of two conversations in which both Dallis and Steve Graham admitted their roles in the nightclub bombing to a confidential informant.

Taylor also testified that \$1,000 was offered to the informant to go to Dallas, find Mike Halobi (a Dallis associate) and have him killed.

Taylor told of a third tape recording in which Dallis asked an informant to set fire to the College Station nightclub MC². Arson was determined to be the cause of the Nov. 1 fire at that club. But Taylor said his bureau doesn't have enough evidence to charge Dallis with that fire.

Investigations are under way in both the murder-for-hire and the MC² arson cases.

Dallis also has been charged, but not indicted, in connection with a 1985 fire that destroyed the Manhattan Club in Lubbock.

Turner said that all the secret informants will have to testify during the trial, but for their safety they will not have to appear until then.