

Non-profit organization works to promote Evans library assets

By Sheryl Taylor
Reporter

In 1970, former Texas A&M students and the library administration organized the Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

The A&M Friends of the Library is a non-profit, charitable organization that has not only helped promote the library but has developed a way to obtain special services, collections and endowments for the library.

"The Friends' philosophy is to help the Sterling C. Evans Library grow to greatness and work to assure the success of the library's challenging mission by providing resources for students, faculty and staff in their quest for knowledge and excellence," said Charlene Clark, the organization's executive secretary.

The first Friends' president was Sterling C. Evans, Class of '21, who made the library his special area of interest for fund raising and support.

A&M honored Evans by naming the library after him in 1975. "He is considered the No. 1 benefactor and champion of the library," Clark said. "He is still very active in library activities."

As executive secretary, Clark

coordinates all the Friends' activities. There are 249 members in the organization. Ten of the 249 are students.

The organization is led by a 15-member executive board. The annual membership dues range from \$5 for students to \$1,000 or more for benefactors. The group's name was changed from Friends of the Texas A&M Li-

brary to The Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library because of Evans' support of the Friends and the library.

The Friends have sponsored musical programs, special exhibits and guest lecturers.

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— Charlene Clark, executive secretary for the Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library

support of the library," said Charlene Nance, library assistant.

Some books in the sale were donated from the Friends' members. Money from the book sale will be used for numerous purposes in the library. In the past, the money helped buy equipment to aid the visually handicapped in using library materials, Nance said.

"It is very seldom that we have anything left from the sale," she said.

As the organization's treasurer, Nance handles more than 1,000 gifts and donated books per month from the Friends members.

In addition to the book sale, the organization will sponsor a Taste Tasting Party on May 22 in the Allen Board of Directors Annex.

Recipes made from the "Huddle in the Kitchen Cookbook" will be used for the tasting party. Proceeds from the book's sales will be donated to the organization.

Sarcastic senators honor contribution of prairie chickens

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate on Tuesday — in a humorous resolution directed at Gov. Bill Clements — expressed "heartfelt and sincere gratitude for the contributions of the prairie chickens of Texas."

The resolution, on the eve of Senate debate of a proposed state budget bill, had, perhaps, an underlying bite in designating the prairie chicken as the "official state grouse."

Clements in an interview with The Associated Press last week likened liberal Democratic senators to prairie chickens thumping the ground in opposition to his own more conservative spending proposals.

"My antenna tells me the thumping period is about over . . . Now, hopefully, we can get down to serious business," Clements said.

Disgruntled senators on Monday criticized Clements' use of the phrase "prairie chickens."

On Tuesday, the Senate adopted a resolution by Sen. Ray Farabee, D-Wichita Falls, that keeps prairie chickens on a slow boil.

The resolution noted that one senator had described prairie chickens as "intelligent, vocal, and frugal," and said they were known for

"standing up and fighting, and for protecting their domain."

"Many species would be proud to be included in the prairie chicken family, if only they were intelligent enough to appreciate such a distinction," the resolution said.

Also, the resolution said in reference to the Senate's proposed appropriations bill, "there is as much fat in the state budget as the skin on the proverbial lips of a chicken."

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said, "All in favor (of the resolution), signify by thumping. Those opposed thump twice."

"The single thumpers have it, the resolution is adopted."

Clements at a Tuesday news conference was reminded that senators had taken offense at being called "prairie chickens," and the governor laughed and said, "You know, they've been called worse things."

"They kind of referred to you . . . as both an ostrich and a rattlesnake," Clements was told.

He laughed again and said, "I'm glad that they haven't lost their sense of humor. I have a great admiration for both (ostrich and snake)."

Mother: Cult is depleting daughter's fortune

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An heir to the Brown & Root Construction Co. fortune is seeking to control her wealthy daughter's estate, charging a religious group is taking advantage of the woman and threatens to deplete her fortune.

Nancy Brown Negley Wellin, daughter of George S. Brown Sr., one of the founders of the construction giant, charged in a guardianship estate suit that her daughter, Leslie Negley, 37, has given more than \$50,000 to members of a group called the "Remnants."

Negley's estate reportedly is worth \$3 million, including hundreds of shares of stock in Exxon, Pennzoil and Coca-Cola.

Bill Berchermann, one of Negley's attorneys, said he believes she is mentally competent and knows what she is doing with her wealth.

Negley has been ordered to receive a psychiatric evaluation, and a hearing to determine her competency is scheduled for Wednesday.

In her suit, Wellin charges that the religious group broke off from a larger organization to form its own church.

Lisa Ramos, a member of the religious group, acknowledges accepting expensive gifts including cars and shopping trips to Dallas.

Leslie is trying to get out of her family because of how she is controlled and manipulated by her mother," Ramos said.

"Her mother always told her to keep her money for her," Ramos said. "But Leslie kept saying, 'Why can't I share my money? It's too much.'"

Among the gifts Negley gave to her fellow

members include \$20,000 to Ramos, \$20,000 traveler's checks to her husband and a \$50,000 Camaro to Ramos' sister, court records indicate.

"Leslie is not being taken advantage of," Ramos said. "To be chosen, you have to live by Scripture; and to live by the Scripture, you have to give what you have. God tells you what to give and to whom."

Ramos said she, her husband, her sister and Negley are among the "Remnants." The name taken from the New Testament Book of Revelations and refers to the chosen few who will survive a holocaust predicted in Revelations.

Berchermann turned over to a probate court more than \$1 million worth of jewelry, stock certificates and other valuables belonging to Negley.

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