

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Committee confirms funding of Contras

### Investigators trace over \$1 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional investigators, relying on Swiss bank records and other material provided by businessman Albert Hakim, have confirmed the diversion of more than \$1 million in Iranian arms sale profits to Contra rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government, sources said Thursday.

"We now have a way to trace the money from Tehran" to the rebels,

said one source, who asked not to be identified by name.

No precise estimate of the size of the diversion was available, although sources said investigators have told members of House and Senate committees that the amount was over \$1 million.

It was not clear whether investigators have been able to confirm a diversion in the range of \$10 million to

\$30 million that Attorney General Edwin Meese III referred to on Nov. 25, 1986, when he first disclosed the movement of funds.

The confirmation of the diversion by congressional investigators came as Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Senate investigating committee, told reporters that Senate investigators probably will never be able to trace the affair's complex, international money trail completely.

Inouye said that "on a scale of 10, we've got nine."

Inouye spoke after a closed-door committee session at which lawmakers voted limited immunity from prosecution in order to compel the testimony of two witnesses.

He described the two as "very minor figures" but refused to identify them.

Inouye also said that a key figure in the case, former Air Force Major Gen. Richard Secord, may agree to testify voluntarily at committee hearings.

Other principal figures, including former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and his former NSC aide, Oliver North, have cited their constitutional rights against self-incrimination in refusing to testify.

Poindexter has been granted limited immunity, and investigators are expected to begin questioning him in private on May 2 or shortly after.

The public hearings are scheduled to begin on May 5 and last through July.

Hakim was questioned under a limited grant of immunity in Paris on Monday, and the material he provided gave investigators a major break in their effort to track money from the Middle East to Central America.

It was not clear whether Hakim, in addition to providing Swiss bank records, also handed over records from Caribbean bank accounts where money reportedly was placed for use by the Contras.

## House approves new bill banning open containers

AUSTIN (AP) — The "open container" bill that bars drinking while driving won final House approval Thursday, sending it back to the Senate with minor amendments.

The measure would go to Gov. Bill Clements if the Senate concurs in the amendments, which make no substantial changes in the bill as approved by the Senate.

Clements supports the ban on drinking alcoholic beverages while driving, and, pending a review of the bill, plans to sign it into law, according to Jay Rosser, a spokesman for the governor.

House members gave voice-vote final approval to the bill Thursday.

It already had won preliminary House approval Wednesday.

Under the proposed law, police could issue a summons to a driver caught drinking an alcoholic beverage.

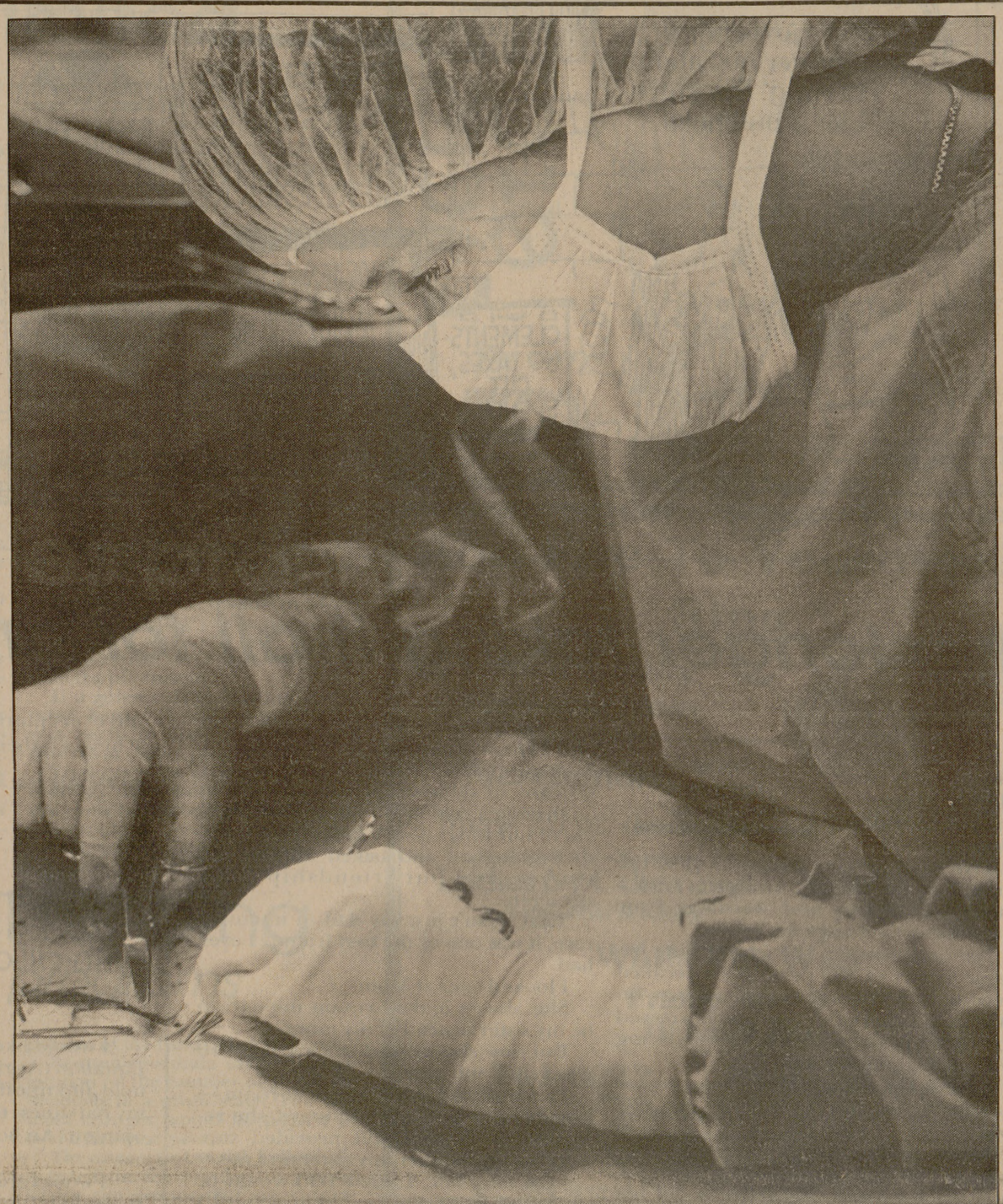
The bill is somewhat weaker

than similar measures proposed in past years in the Texas Legislature. Some of those proposals would have allowed fines for mere possession of alcoholic beverages by a driver.

The bill, authored by Sen. Bill Sarpalius, D-Amarillo, won final House approval with no debate. Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, reiterated his opposition to the bill. During Wednesday debate, Moreno called the measure "just another of those bills that confuse the public."

"You know very well that under present law if an officer sees a driver with a can of beer in one hand he is going to stop that driver and see if he is drunk," he said.

But bill supporter Rep. Bill Blackwood, R-Mesquite, said, "People who operate a motor vehicle have a responsibility to operate it in a responsible manner. And when a driver drinks in public it becomes a public matter."



## Here To Spay

Fourth-year veterinary student Cindy Allen finishes spaying a pet ferret. Female ferret pets often

are spayed because they may die from blood loss if they don't mate when they are in heat.

Photo by Bill Hughes

## Speculator pleads guilty to violating SEC laws

NEW YORK (AP) — Ivan F. Boesky, the millionaire stock speculator whose meteoric Wall Street career crashed in an insider trading scandal, pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of violating federal securities laws.

He faces penalties of up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when sentenced Aug. 21 by U.S. District Judge Morris E. Lasker.

Lasker, who has a reputation among defense attorneys as a fair judge but a lenient sentence, cautioned Boesky that in view of the publicity surrounding the case and the

sentencing practices of some judges at Manhattan federal court, "I want to talk turkey."

He then asked Boesky if he understood that it was in the judge's power to sentence him to the maximum. Boesky said he did.

The 50-year-old financier, looking subdued and exhausted, entered his plea in a courtroom packed with nearly 200 reporters, sketch artists, lawyers and other defendants.

He was released without bail and, flanked by his two lawyers, left the courthouse

and to plead guilty to a criminal charge which was left unspecified until Thursday.

The count to which he pleaded guilty charged him with conspiring to make false statements to the SEC.

He admitted to conspiring with others, who were not identified, to file a false registration statement with respect to purchases of stock in the Fischbach Corp. in 1984. The registration statement must be filed with the SEC when an individual or an entity acquires at least 5 percent of a company's stock.

## Dissident gets Soviet permit to emigrate

MOSCOW (AP) — Anatoly Koryagin, who spent six years in a labor camp for accusing authorities of sending sane dissidents to mental hospitals, has been granted permission to emigrate, Soviet news media said Thursday.

The two-sentence statement by both the English- and Russian-language service of the official Tass news agency was believed to be the first time the Soviet media has announced a dissident's departure.

"Anatoly Koryagin, who was recently released from detention, has been allowed to leave the U.S.S.R., it was confirmed to a Tass correspondent today at the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Internal Affairs," Tass said.

"Koryagin is leaving for Switzerland for permanent residence," the statement said. It provided no other information.

Dissident sources in Moscow said Koryagin arrived in the Soviet capital from the Ukrainian city of Kharkov on Wednesday. But they said he did not want to speak to reporters.

The sources said Koryagin would leave Moscow this afternoon.

Koryagin, a 48-year-old psychiatrist, was pardoned by the Supreme Soviet in February in a review of dissident cases and released from a labor camp where he had been imprisoned since June 1981.

He had been sentenced to seven years in prison camp and five years in internal exile on charges of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda, a charge often used against dissidents.

Koryagin accused Soviet authorities in an article published in a British medical journal of sending mentally healthy dissidents to hospitals, where they were treated with drugs.

Koryagin was an adviser to the Working Commission to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes, a dissident group formed as an affiliate of a Moscow organization that monitored compliance with the Helsinki accords.

The Frankfurt-based International Association for Human Rights reported Tuesday that Koryagin and his family had received permission to emigrate.

## A&M professors plan research in hot field

# Superconductivity studies proposed

By Olivier Uytendaele  
Senior Staff Writer

At least four Texas A&M professors are planning research projects involving the new breed of high-temperature superconductors developed during the last year and considered to be at the cutting edge of physics.

But researchers are reluctant to divulge many details concerning these projects, citing the "highly competitive atmosphere" that currently reigns in the field of superconducting physics.

A&M physics professor Wiley P. Kirk said that he and professor Donald G. Naugle, together with a handful of graduate students, are planning to make samples of the copper oxide material "sometime in the next few weeks," in a basement laboratory of the new physics building.

"They're going to be easy to make," Kirk said of the ceramic-like materials, noting that the biggest obstacle they've encountered so far is ordering the needed materials.

"It might be on the order of a month-and-a-half, two months before we have this all pinned down," Kirk said of the measurements and conclusions they intend to make with the samples. "Not too long by most standards."

In a separate project, Karl T. Hartwig Jr., associate professor of mechanical engineering said he and physics professor Peter M. McIntyre

are trying to put together funding for an experiment that could lead to the creation of a high-current, superconducting wire.

"My feeling is that there's so much potential in this field that funding, initially anyway, is going to be unrestricted," Hartwig said of his chances of getting the money he needs. "To

approached him for information concerning their research plans.

"I'd be glad to give you some general background on superconductivity," he said. "But considering the competitive atmosphere in this field I wouldn't want to make any public statements about this project right now."

Hartwig was also reluctant to describe his ideas in detail. When asked how he intended to overcome the problems of fabricating the brittle copper oxide ceramic into wire, Hartwig replied with only a smile and an excuse.

"I wouldn't want to talk about it at this point because I haven't heard anybody mention it as a manufacturing possibility," he said. "I don't have the ability some other people in this field do to try out a new idea and see if it will work."

In reference to discussions he has had with McIntyre, he said, "I think we have a good idea. In one sense I'd

be surprised if somebody hasn't thought of it because so many people are working on this — but you never know."

The event that inspired these A&M researchers — as well as thousands of others around the world — was an announcement Feb. 15 by University of Houston professor Paul Chu that he had fabricated a material that lost all electrical resistance at 94 degrees Kelvin.

Although the phenomenon of superconductivity has been known since 1906, in 80 years scientists had not succeeded in producing a material that exhibited the superconducting property at temperatures higher than 23 K. Under these conditions, the only effective coolant is expensive liquid helium, with a boiling point of 4 K.

The new copper oxide materials, however, can be cooled with liquid nitrogen — an inexpensive and commonly used laboratory coolant with a boiling point of 77 K.

This is one reason Chu's announcement hit the scientific community like a bombshell and prompted a special conference on high temperature superconductivity, drawing thousands of physicists to New York on March 18.

Chu's material is in fact only one variety in a family of superconductors composed of barium, copper, oxygen and one of several kinds of rare earths. The rare earth Chu

used is ytterbium — a brittle, shiny metal which is fairly abundant and easy to extract from ores.

Kirk said ytterbium seems to be the most successful of the rare earths tried so far.

Basically, Kirk and Naugle are trying to find out why Chu's copper oxide material works. Once they do, refinements can be made that may raise the critical temperature of the material still higher.

In addition to critical temperature, there are two other limitations on the superconducting property of materials: critical current and critical magnetic field.

For example, the strongest existing magnets, those using conventional niobium superconductors such as the one here at A&M, can create a magnetic field of about 150,000 gauss, Kirk said. (The earth has a magnetic field of one-quarter of a gauss.) In stronger fields, the magnet loses its superconducting property.

The strongest existing magnet in the world, located at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, combines conventional and superconducting magnets and produces a field of 300,000 gauss, Kirk said.

But recent experiments with the new copper oxide superconductors at the National Magnet Laboratory

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## Superconductivity

prove a concept — you don't need much money to do that."

Hartwig said it will take six to nine months to see if his idea is viable.

Although researchers were glad to describe their projects in terms of broad objectives, they were much more guarded when it came to discussing specifics.

The day after Kirk granted *The Battalion* an interview, he asked that the particulars of the project — which he had described in detail the day before — not be published.

Naugle, Kirk's colleague, was even more hesitant when *The Battalion*