

**BOOTS and BRASS**  
 WOMEN ON THE MOVE  
 IN THE AGGIE CORPS

*At Ease*

# Activist admits guilt in Iran-Contra probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative activist Carl R. "Spitz" Channell pointed to former White House aide Oliver North as a fellow conspirator on Wednesday as he pleaded guilty to the first criminal charge of the Iran-Contra affair.

Channell was formally accused of defrauding the government by telling contributors to his National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty that their gifts would be tax-deductible even though the money actually was used to provide military

aid to the U.S.-backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Channell pleaded guilty to a single count and agreed to cooperate in independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh's investigation.

Walsh's formal charge, known as a criminal information, said Channell was involved with a government official, but the charge did not identify that official.

However, when Channell was asked in court by U.S. District Judge Stanley S. Harris to name the persons with whom he conspired, he replied simply, "Col. North, an

official of the National Security Council."

When Walsh aide Michael Bromwich was asked later if a similar charge could be expected soon against North, he said, "We're not prepared to do that at this time."

At the White House, presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater declined comment. "We're not investigating ourselves and I don't expect to elaborate on this kind of issue," Fitzwater said.

Under the agreement Channell entered into with Walsh, the fund-raiser and several of his employees said they would cooperate

with Walsh's investigation into possible criminal activity in the secret sale of weapons to Iran and in the funding of the Contras.

The developments come less than a week before congressional panels are to open public hearings on the Iran-Contra affair and just one day after Walsh suggested prosecutions would be endangered if Congress granted immunity from prosecution to any more principal figures in the investigation.

On Capitol Hill leaders of the congressional panels said retired Air Force Major Gen. Richard V. Secord, a pivotal figure with key financial information on the affair, will be the first public witness in the hearings that begin on Tuesday. Secord, who declined to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee earlier, will appear without an immunity grant.

Former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane will follow Secord, the panel's leaders said.



**Don't Lose Your Head**  
 Phil Warwick, a junior political science major, seems to have lost his head while making a tough shot during a volleyball game Wednesday afternoon between Aston and Spence Halls.  
 Photo by Doug La Rue

## Conflicting stories emerge over death of U.S. volunteer Sandinistas fault Reagan administration

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — An American engineer killed in northern Nicaragua was caught in a firefight between rebel fighters and Sandinista militia, the largest U.S.-supported Contra force said Wednesday.

The account contradicted Nicaraguan statements that Benjamin Ernest Linder, 27, of Portland, Ore., was singled out by the Contras.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Force, or FDN, said that it held the leftist government of Nicaragua responsible for the death of the first American in Nicaragua's civil war. Nicaragua blamed the U.S. government for supporting the Contras.

Linder's body was in Matagalpa Wednesday, a Nicaraguan provincial capital, where a ceremony was held in his honor.

American colleagues of the Oregon engineer joined Sandinista officials in blaming the Reagan administration for his death.

The Contras' statement said Linder was killed Tuesday near La Camaleona, located about 45 miles from the Honduran border.

"This region is a permanent scene of combat between rebel forces and the army of the Nicaraguan government," the statement said.

"The FDN holds the Marxist-Leninist regime of Nicaragua (responsible) for the death of the U.S. citizen by allowing him to enter an area

of civil war of our country, which is between Nicaraguans and not foreigners," it said.

"The American, one of the few international volunteers helping the Managua regime, lived in Nicaragua for several years and knew perfectly the risks he ran by being in a war zone accompanied by Sandinista soldiers," the statement said.

Bosco Matamoros, a Contra spokesman in Washington, denied an allegation by one Nicaraguan official that rebels killed Linder in his office. The statement was "absolutely false," he said. Matamoros said Linder died during an "engagement... in which two Sandinista regulars also died."

In Matagalpa, Nicaragua, dozens of wreaths surrounded the casket of the engineer, who went to Nicaragua in 1983.

He was the first American volunteer working for the Sandinistas to be killed in the Contras' 5-year-old war against the leftist government. Seven European volunteers have been killed since 1983.

A government spokesman said Linder's relatives were not expected to arrive until Thursday.

Nicaraguan officials said guerrillas killed Linder and two Sandinista militiamen Tuesday at La Camaleona, a village about 20 miles away in Jinotega province.

There were conflicting reports

about the precise circumstances of Linder's death. He was helping build a small hydroelectric plant in La Camaleona.

Manuel Espinoza Henriquez, spokesman for Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, said Linder left a letter asking to be buried in Nicaragua if he was killed.

American colleagues working in northern Nicaragua blamed the Reagan administration for Linder's death and reaffirmed their commitment "to stand alongside the Nicaraguan people."

An estimated 200 American volunteers are in Nicaragua as volunteers. Most say they work here either because they oppose U.S. policy toward Nicaragua or simply want to help.

## 'Official English' pros, cons debated

**By Stuart Vorwerk**  
 Reporter

Supporters and opponents of English as the official state language squared off in a debate sponsored by the Mexican Democrats of America Wednesday night.

Lou Zaeske, chairman of the American Ethnic Coalition, and Ruben Bonilla, chairman of the Mexican-American Democrats of Texas, argued the merits of legislation that would make English the official language of Texas and of the United States.

Zaeske said America would degenerate into a "tangle of squabbling nationalities" without Americans' love of the country and English as the common language.

"Establishing English as the official language of the United States is vital to the continued unity, security and prosperity of our nation," he said. "Indeed, it is vital to preventing the division and ultimate fragmentation of America along ethnic or language lines."

"American tax money ought not be used to grant any foreign language or any foreign culture, co-equal status or... preferential status to America's culture and America's English language."

But Bonilla, an opponent of the movement, said that if the United States rejects other languages and cultures it would lead to social and economic calamity.

"English is the language of commerce — English is the language of trade in this country," he said. However, he added that bilingualism is important.

"English only' in Texas is dead," Bonilla said.

John Adams, one of the founding fathers of America, tried to establish English as the official language of the United States, Bonilla said, but it was defeated because the founding fathers said diversity is the key to freedom.

And he added that the purpose of bilingualism is not to perpetuate the Spanish language or have Hispanics impose apartheid on themselves.

During a question and answer period after the debate, a member of the Mexican-American Democrats raised questions about an article from Tuesday's *Battalion*.

Zaeske said, "Before you get into that, let me say all of those words in there are lies, and we are right now working, talking to Dr. Vandiver about that — OK?"

"That's written but it wasn't submitted."

## S. African riot police arrest 11 in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Riot police surrounded a black union headquarters Wednesday while officers went through the 11-story building with masked weapons, apparently to make arrests for the killing of four railway workers.

The state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. reported on its television news that at least 11 people were detained after police searched the downtown building while it was cordoned off late into the evening. It gave no details.

More than 75 policemen, wearing plastic-covered helmets and tear gas canisters slung over their shoulders, stood guard with shotguns, pistols, dogs and whips in front of barricades of police cars and iron gates.

Officers used dogs to repeatedly push back hundreds of pedestrians and journalists trying to observe the entrance to the building, headquarters of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and its affiliates.

The police swoop occurred as hundreds of members of the South African Railways and Harbor Workers Union were discussing

their seven-week strike, which led to mass firing of 16,000 workers last week by the South African Transport Services.

Tuesday night, the bodies of three black men and one of mixed race were found under a pile of burned tires at a train station, according to a police statement. It said the victims "had been brutally assaulted with knives and pangas (sharpened sticks) and their bodies set alight."

The statement said the four victims "were forcibly removed from their places of employment to (the union building) where they

were violently assaulted... and thereafter butchered, for no other reason than that they chose not to participate in COSATU's actions."

Dirk Hartford, editor of the COSATU newspaper, said in a telephone interview that the union had no knowledge of the four deaths. He denied that the men were assaulted in a union building.

Peter Harris, a railway workers union attorney, said police had a search warrant when they entered the building accompanied by several masked black men who were "pointing people out."

Occupants of the building told journalists they had to walk a "gantlet" of police as the masked men watched and occasionally nodded. Several people who got the nod were seen being taken to a police van, the witnesses said.

Despite two Supreme Court cases in the past week overturning restrictions on press coverage of unrest and security force actions, police interfered with journalists trying to film at the union building.

Television crews were chased out of adjacent buildings, and a news photographer said he was told he would be arrested if he did not put his cameras in his car in five minutes.

Police headquarters in Pretoria acknowledged that a promise had been made in a court hearing Tuesday that it would "not molest" members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions at their headquarters following the deaths of six railworkers in April 22 battles with police outside two union buildings.

Earlier Wednesday, the trade union congress and anti-apartheid groups called for a two-day protest on Tuesday and Wednesday, coinciding with Wednesday's voting for the white chamber of the tricameral Parliament.

The congress and the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid coalition did not specify protest actions. But police headquarters said it was aware of preparations for a two-day boycott of work and schools.

## GSS debates value of political activity

**By Doug Driskell**  
 Reporter

The homosexual at Texas A&M may be comfortable with himself and his beliefs but political activity and expression of these beliefs is another story.

The Gay Student Services Organization is in the midst of a heated debate over whether the GSS should become politically active, Dave Martin, GSS vice president says. People are afraid to be associated with the Gay Student Services or they don't see a reason to be involved, Martin says. Two years ago the GSS was fighting to be recognized. This got people involved. Now there is nothing to really fight for.

"This thought scares a lot of people off," Martin says. "If we are politically active, some members may feel that they are going to be more visible. With this University having such a strong military background many members feel threatened."

Philosophy professor Dr. Larry Hickman counsels the GSS and

agrees that being politically active could have its drawbacks.

Hickman says he believes that people are afraid to become politically active in GSS. He says that a person would have to be a political activist of a certain type and in a "safe" major.

"I have had men and women in my office who were education majors that said they wanted to run for office in the GSS," Hickman says. "I said, 'Don't do it! If you want to be a teacher you can forget it if you are gay.'"

"In America we are supposed to be able to have freedom of association in any club we wish. That is not true at A&M if you are an education major. Basically, it is the kiss of death in primary and secondary education."

Although some homosexuals may fear the Corps of Cadets, Hickman has an interesting theory towards the Corps and its past members.

"There's got to be a rather serious level of sensitivity (when homosexuality is discussed) on the

part of people who were a part of the Corps during those years when there were no women around," Hickman says. "Look at the language they used. What did the old guys call their roommate? They called them the 'old lady.' Look at the saying 'humping it.' What are those cheerleaders doing when they get down and 'hump it'? It's a gesture of sexual submissiveness."

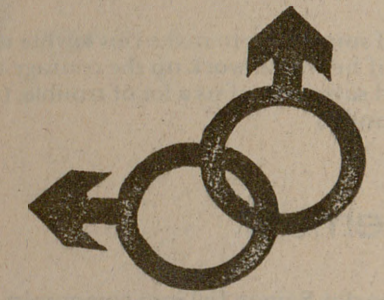
"The images and the icons of male homosexuality are at the very heart of A&M traditions. People conveniently say that that's not what they are but what else can 'humping it' be?"

However, A&M Assistant Archivist David Chapman says finding the true meaning of 'humping it' would be impossible. Chapman says it has been lost over time.

For homosexuals that do want to talk the GSS offers counseling on the "gay line," says Scott, the group's president.

Each gay line operator goes through a training workshop that emphasizes listening, Scott says. The purpose of listening is to get the caller to solve his own problem or to come to terms with himself without the operator giving advice that may be taken wrong.

"Lately we have been getting a lot of harrasing calls, but there are many serious calls," he says. "We get people calling in that are contemplating suicide and we



**Homosexuality at A&M**  
 Part two of a two-part series

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