

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Iran-Contra officials say aides interfered

WASHINGTON (AP) — National security aides John Poindexter and Oliver North interfered with seven criminal investigations when the probes threatened to expose the Reagan administration's private Contra resupply operation, the congressional Iran-Contra committees say.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Edwin Meese III, the target of strong criticism in the panel's 690-page report, described the study on Thursday as "a great job of Monday morning quarterbacking."

"There wasn't anything particularly new," Meese said of the report, which said he failed to keep records and neglected to seal North's

office during a weekend inquiry last November that uncovered diversion of funds from the secret sale of arms to Iran to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

North continued to shred documents throughout the weekend inquiry.

The report, released Wednesday, also concluded that Meese probably approved the use of private funds for a failed 1985-86 ransom operation for U.S. hostages in Lebanon bankrolled by Texas industrialist H. Ross Perot.

Defending his performance during the inquiry a year ago, Meese said, "It looks a lot different when you are on the scene."

He declined to discuss the ransom operation.

Asked whether he might resign, Meese replied: "That's silly."

The Iran-Contra report provides some new details of efforts in 1985 and 1986 by Poindexter, a former national security adviser to President Reagan, and fired National Security Council staffer North to monitor and in some instances impede criminal investigations.

The investigations had the potential for uncovering the NSC's role in overseeing the private Contra support network at a time when U.S. military aid for the rebels had been cut off by Congress, the report said.

University investigates possible Corps hazing

By Clark Miller
Staff Writer

Texas A&M officials have begun their investigation into the possible hazing of George Russell Pulliam, a senior journalism major and member of the Corps of Cadets who was found handcuffed to a post on the University of Texas campus early Sunday morning.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services at A&M, said a report of the incident has been received from the UT police and an investigation is underway.

Because freshmen abducted Pulliam from A&M and took him to Austin, where he was handcuffed to the post of an anti-apartheid shack on the UT campus, Koldus said he

isn't sure if state hazing laws will apply to the case. The law is designed to prevent underclassmen from being hazed by upperclassmen, he said.

Bill Kibler, associate director of student affairs, agreed, saying that in its pure form the state hazing law may not be applicable in this case.

However, A&M's definition of hazing is different than the state's, and the students involved could be charged with hazing at the University level, Kibler said.

"Unfortunately, underclassmen pulling pranks on upperclassmen has occurred in the past and is continuing," Kibler said. "But it is against the University's policy."

Thomas Darling, commandant of the Corps, said Pulliam's abduction occurred as a freshman prank.

"It was a case of freshmen trying to earn their Corps brass," Darling said.

"Through the years, this kind of thing has been going on," he said, "but it is not something we condone."

Kibler said A&M is taking the incident seriously.

"All of the students involved directly or indirectly will be charged and will have to go through the disciplinary process," Kibler said.

Dr. Brent Paterson, student development specialist with the Department of Student Affairs, will be in charge of the disciplinary process.

Paterson said his office will send letters to everyone involved in the incident.

The students who receive letters will have three school days from the time they get their letter to make an appointment to talk with Paterson individually.

The meeting will give the students the opportunity to discuss their involvement or lack of involvement, he said.

Darling said his office will cooperate with Paterson's investigation and follow any recommendation the student affairs office gives.

Tornado victims may get homes

DALLAS (AP) — Victims left homeless by the string of tornadoes that battered East Texas could live rent-free in vacant homes for one year under a plan going to President Reagan for approval this week, officials said.

Gov. Bill Clements and the Federal Emergency Management Agency is asking Reagan to immediately declare Anderson and Cherokee counties major disaster areas, Edd Hargett of the agency's regional office in Denton said.

The disaster designation and the grants and loans that accompany it, Hargett said, could eventually be extended to 20 other tornado-torn counties.

"We know that we are going to get some long-term assistance," Palestine Mayor Jack Selden Jr. said. "It's virtually assured."

Ten people were killed and nearly 160 were injured when an estimated 30 tornadoes struck sites ranging from northeast Texas to the Gulf Coast. At least 150 homes were destroyed in 24 counties Sunday and Monday, and scores of businesses were destroyed or damaged.

Clements visited the hard-hit communities of Palestine and Jack-

sonville on Tuesday, pledging to rush a disaster declaration to the president. Hargett said the Emergency Management Agency has already received the paperwork from Clements and is processing it.

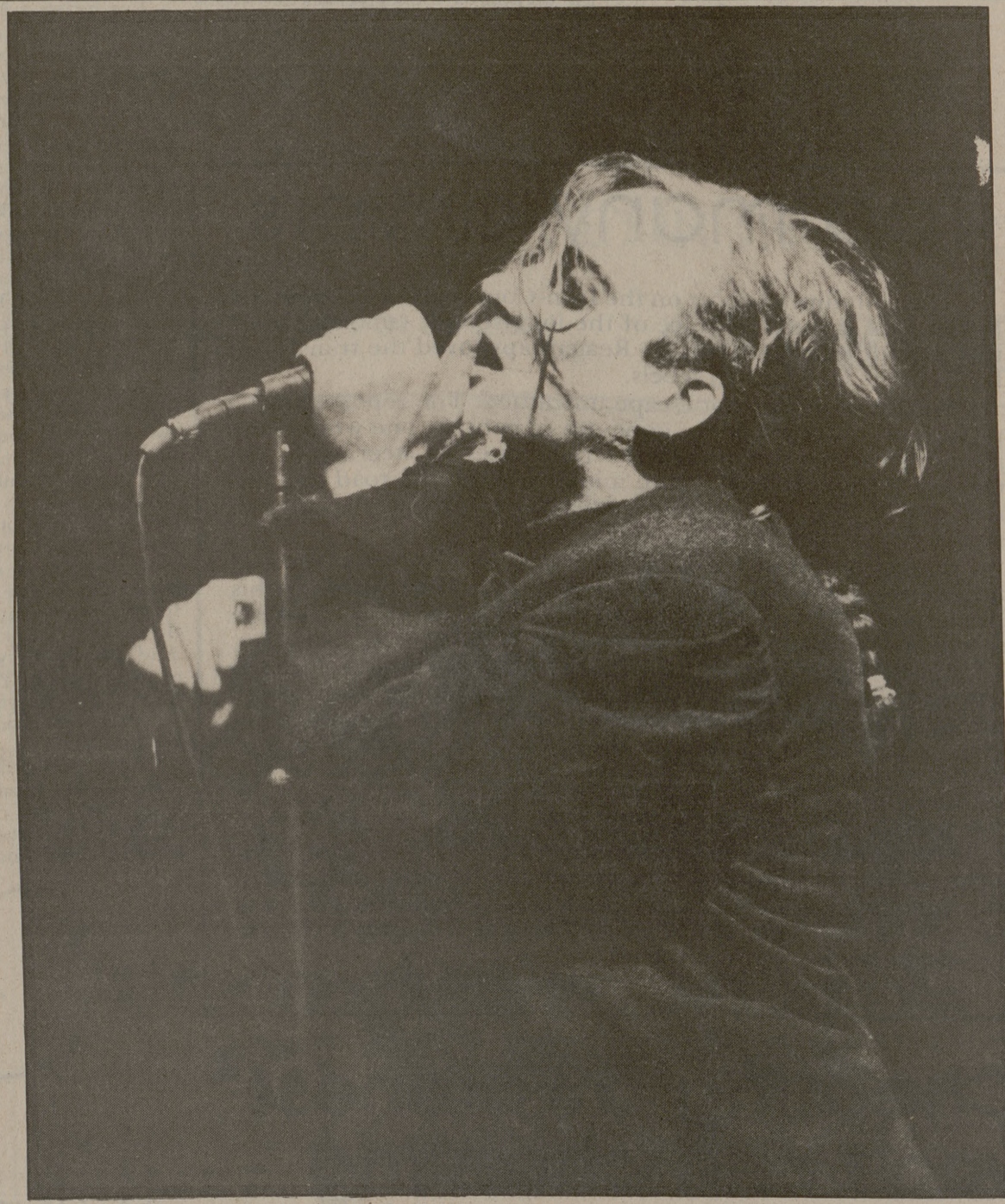
"What the state has decided to do is ask for a declaration for those two counties and just add counties to that later," Hargett said.

He said the application is for individual assistance only, adding that the only significant damage to public property was at a Palestine elementary school.

Residents with verifiable losses could receive up to \$5,000, qualify for temporary housing or receive a Small Business Administration Loan, Hargett said.

"There is probably housing that we would put folks in temporarily," he said. "If it is available locally, we'll just use it. The housing would be rent-free for up to a year."

Lauren Chernow, a spokesman for the emergency management division of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said Anderson and Cherokee counties were the only counties named because officials haven't gathered enough information from other areas.



R.E.M. rocks A&M

Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Lead singer for R.E.M. Michael Stipe performs with his band at G. Rollie White Coliseum on Thursday night. See related story, page 5.

Center for drug prevention will open on A&M campus

By Anita Anderson
Reporter

Texas A&M will open its first drug prevention center in mid-December, Assistant Director of Student Affairs Jan Winniford said.

The Center for Drug Prevention and Education will be partially funded by a two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. A&M will provide the other funds and will sustain the center after the initial two years, Winniford said.

"We are taking the current alcohol education program and expanding it," she said. "We have had the program for about five years, but we

haven't done much with drugs other than alcohol.

"The primary emphasis of the center is to try to identify students who may have a potential for abusing drugs or alcohol and try to intercede in educating them so they don't develop a problem later on."

The center's staff will use several strategies to identify these students.

"We will probably look at higher risk groups, like social fraternities and fraternities," Winniford said. "Alcohol plays a greater role because the emphasis on social aspects. As a result, peer pressure may be greater."

"Also, people in these groups may be more financially stable and have

more flexibility in terms of having money for drugs."

The center will present programs to educate students at events like orientations.

The center wants to let everyone know that the University expects students to behave like adults and take responsibility, she said.

"If they choose to drink, we expect them to do so in a responsible way, and if they don't, there will be consequences for their actions," Winniford said.

Information on drugs will be available at the center.

"We want to have a comprehensive, educational resource library," she said. "If people want to know anything and everything about drugs and alcohol, they'll know where to go."

The center also will deal with early intervention and referral.

"We want to get students who are having problems and feel that alcohol or drug use is interfering with their lives to examine their situation, then decide whether or not they have a problem," she said. "Habits and patterns developed now are going to be with you lifelong."

Although some services are already available to help students, the need exceeds current capabilities.

"The Student Counseling Center does not do, really, any work with alcohol counseling or drug abuse treatment," she said. "They will treat the effects of the problem but not the problem itself. And they don't have the staff."

Currently, no data exists on the extent of substance abuse on A&M's campus. The center and the Department of Measurement and Research will design a survey to ask students about their drug and alcohol use.

"We will do the survey in a way that stresses 100 percent confidentiality," Winniford said. "And we will try to make the students realize how crucial this information is. Anytime you ask students about their drug use, many will automatically not tell the truth. The survey will allow for that margin of response error."

The center hopes to educate and train faculty members, resident directors, advisers and student organizations about how to spot a problem and what to do.

NASA architect plans design for living areas in space station slated for 1990s assembly

By Lee Schexnaider
Staff Writer

Space station. The words bring up images ranging from Skylab to "2001: A Space Odyssey."

No one knows for sure what the U.S. space station will look like, but Rod Jones probably has a pretty good idea.

Jones is an experiment facilities engineer for NASA, but he said that really means the space agency doesn't have a title for an architect. He is concerned with the design of the living areas of the station, which will be complete in the early 1990s. He outlined the latest design for the new space station in Zachry Engineering Center Thursday.

He said that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration follows a program involving four steps in designing the station. Jones said phase A, or the "sky-blue" phase, sets many of the parameters for the space station.

"The decision coming out of phase A was that it should provide about 21,000 cubic feet of habitable volume," Jones said. "That's a good bit — Skylab was about 13,000 cubic feet, the Soviet's space station MIR has about 3,000. That volume would be for an industrial park. Private in-

dustry should come up and do their basic research there. And in doing so, hopefully they would learn something — enough to build their own processing labs in space.

"That's the gymnastic role — they are always trying to get private in-

structures on the ends. They would be connected to various extensions to support solar panels and other experimental packages and docking ports for the space shuttle.

Jones said several designs for the interior of the modules were pro-

"Private industry should come up and do their basic research there. And in doing so, hopefully they would learn something — enough to build their own processing labs in space."

— Rod Jones, facilities engineer for NASA

posed by NASA and various companies. He said the designs included a vertical or "bologna slice" design that utilizes several levels in one cylinder. But he said because of space, maintenance accessibility and cost, a horizontal design is favored.

One of the radical designs involved mounting all the equipment on a shaft running through the center of the module that has utility lines and creates twin corridors down the cylinder. He said the design will work if only a small amount of equipment was in the module. The design that seems the most

likely to be used involves mounting modular units on the wall of the cylinder and leaving a central corridor down the middle, he said. The modular units are about 19 inches wide and tall enough for an average man to stand in. The units can house experiments and equipment or provide individual sleeping quarters and privacy rooms for the station's crew. They have been designed to be easily removed on the ground and in orbit.

Jones said one of the major considerations in the design of the station is the absence of gravity and the lack of vertical and horizontal reference points.

"In any given visual field there must be a consistent local verticle," he said. "What that does is try to not force the entire module or the station to be in one plane of design. You do need to reference the things you have learned since the day you were born."

At the end of his presentation, he said, "I don't really have a conclusion. We're pretty far away from being done. We're just getting ready to start actually. Hopefully in the next couple of weeks we'll have a check and start paying contractors to start doing the final designs of the space station."

Experts: Pilots may lack experience

WASHINGTON (AP) — The major airlines have been easing their hiring requirements because of the need for thousands of new pilots, and some aviation safety officials worry about the decline in cockpit experience.

Pilot inexperience has been raised as a possible factor in last Sunday's crash in Denver of a Continental Airlines DC-9 after it was disclosed that both the captain and co-pilot had only recently begun flying that type of jetliner.

Spokesmen for the airline disputed suggestions that the two pilots' flying background was unusual, calling it "the norm in the industry." They emphasized that both pilots, who were among the 28 people killed in the accident, met Federal Aviation Administration certification requirements.

But aviation experts said the overall experience level of pilots at rapidly expanding airlines, even some of the industry's largest carriers, has fallen off in recent years.

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