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Ambulance company files for bankruptcy

DALLAS (AP) — An ambulance company owner who says he accepted \$220,000 from the city for five ambulances that were never delivered has filed for protection from creditors under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Select Ambulance Inc. filed the petition in U.S. Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday.

Otto Witbeck, 73, said he plans to make restitution for the money he received from the city and denies any wrongdoing.

The Dallas County district attorney's office is investigating the matter.

Witbeck said a court-ordered reorganization would be needed to stave off creditors from foreclosing on his business assets. Witbeck said he owes creditors hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Witbeck said he hopes to reopen his ambulance shop in Dallas, padlocked shut by the property's leasing agent, Saco Management & Leasing Co. of Irving, on Feb. 11.

Witbeck, who has been the city's sole ambulance supplier for three years, said he has had financial problems for months. He said investigations by the district attorney and the city of Dallas forced him to lay off about 20 employees Feb. 5.

Select listed 12 creditors, including the cities of Dallas and Denton, the Internal Revenue Service, 1st Coppel Bank and utility companies. The petition does not say how much Select owes its creditors.

Under federal law, Select has six months to file a business reorganization plan detailing how the company plans to pay off its creditors.

City officials said that it was unclear how the bankruptcy filing would affect the city's ability to collect its money. City Auditor Daniel Paul said Select owes the city at least \$220,000.

In addition to the five ambulances in question, Witbeck has said he sold nine ambulances to the city without titles, saying he had taken out business loans from 1st Coppel Bank using the ambulances as collateral.

Witbeck's attorney, Richard Harrison, said Witbeck and his wife, Jerry Witbeck, a co-owner of the business, owe creditors about \$350,000. The couple also owes about \$400,000 on a federal Small Business Administration loan administered by 1st Coppel Bank.

What's Up

Thursday

TAMU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES: will sponsor free tax seminars from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in 701 Rudder Tower; 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder; and 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in 105 Harrington. The seminars are geared toward international and graduate students, and undergraduates with taxable income (including scholarships).

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Mobil Oil will present information on careers in data processing at 7 p.m. in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN: Handicapped Aggies will discuss various experiences at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

MSC OPAS: presents Paul Hersh for a lecture and recital of "The Inner World of Robert Schumann" at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater. OPAS also will present music by A&M ensembles from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the MSC main lounge. Admission for both is free.

ASIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

CARE: will examine stereotypes, safe sex and spring break planning at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

WRITING OUTREACH: Tanya Long will discuss "Techniques for Definition" at 6:30 p.m. in 131 Blocker.

ACM/IEEE-CS: a representative from the Placement Center will speak at 7:30 p.m. in 103 Zachry.

AMA MARKETING SOCIETY: will leave for the New Orleans trip at 10 p.m. from the freshmen parking lot (fish lot).

ROAD RUNNERS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder Tower. Check the monitor screen for the room number.

TAMU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES: presents I.R.S. seminars for international and graduate students at 11 a.m. in 701 Rudder, 3:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder and 7:30 p.m. in 105 Harrington.

AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION: William Johnson will speak at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

AGGIE SPACE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY: will plan a Saturday trip to the Houston Space Rally at 7 p.m. in 507 AB Rudder.

Friday

TAMU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES: will sponsor free tax seminars from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in 701 Rudder. The seminars are geared towards international and graduate students, and undergraduates with taxable income (including scholarships).

MANAGEMENT 481 VISITING EXECUTIVE SERIES: Paula S. Armstrong, senior vice president of Information and Human Resources for Hunt Oil Co. will speak at 10 a.m. in 114 Blocker.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Richard Gordan, institute director, will speak during a sandwich seminar at noon at the Institute Building. There will be a LDS Council meeting at 3 p.m. and a seminar on "The Book of Mormon — A Witness of Jesus Christ" at 7:30 p.m., also in the Institute Building.

COLUMBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY/PI SIGMA ALPHA: will have a mixer at 6 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.

AGGIEENGINEER MAGAZINE: will meet at 4 p.m. at the Flying Tomato for anyone interested in writing and producing the magazine. For more information contact Mike Kastensmidt at 764-9688.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 108 Harrington.

MSC OPAS: will present the University Chamber Series with Paul and Stefan Hersh performing a piano and violin recital at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. OPAS also will present the Miss TAMU Pageant talent preview from noon to 3 p.m. in the MSC main lounge.

THE BIG EVENT: Applications from organizations and individuals are due by 5 p.m. in 221 Pavilion.

TAMU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES: will present I.R.S. seminars for international and graduate students at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are not on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.



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NCAA investigates possibility of more SMU rule violations

DALLAS (AP) — The NCAA is investigating possible rules violations among sports programs at Southern Methodist University, a Southwest Conference school that lost its football team after paying players, Athletic Director Doug Single confirmed Wednesday.

Single said the NCAA is following up on allegations revealed in a seven-month study of SMU athletics by a private investigative firm hired by the university, the *Dallas Times Herald* reported Wednesday.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has not indicated which sports are under investigation, but a source said the internal report focused on the men's basketball and track programs.

Single said on Wednesday he could not comment on which sports were being investigated.

"Well, obviously the school's position is to fully disclose the information and we'll cooperate fully with the investigation," he said. "This (investigation) was initiated last summer by us and is just ongoing."

Single said the NCAA would look at the school's internal report and

then decide if it should investigate further.

"Doug Slingle speaks for SMU," SMU basketball Coach Dave Bliss said. "I can't comment on that."

SMU track Coach Ted McLaughlin could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

NCAA director of enforcement David Berst confirmed Tuesday that the NCAA is looking into SMU's report and is working to corroborate the university's findings while developing information from sources outside the private investigation.

An unidentified source told the newspaper, "The most serious problems focused around the track team and particularly the coaching staff and the handling of some funds. It isn't clear what type of funds they were, but they were not school funds."

Speaking of the basketball program, a source told the paper, "There were minor things involving kids that are there now. But they were much more serious regarding some players who are gone."

Former SMU basketball player Alan Cozart said Monday he was not

interviewed by the university's private investigators but that he spoke with an NCAA investigator at the end of January in Russellville, Ark.

The investigator informed him that SMU's track program was being eyed by the NCAA, Cozart said.

"He gave me the impression that they had stuff on track," Cozart said. "What I can remember, he jokes around and said, 'Track is history. Something like that. He didn't go into detail.'"

Cozart told the *Arkansas Democrat* in a copyright story Wednesday that some players bragged about receiving money from a Dallas businessman but he never saw any money change hands.

"I never was with them or saw any of the guys like Cal Wright, Butch Moore and Larry Davis claimed they went to his office in envelopes with money in them," Cozart told the *Democrat*. "It might have been just bragging to try to impress people. I really don't know."

Cozart said the interview with the investigator included questions about payments from SMU boosters to players.

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