

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Shelly Schluter

Mime Time

Mime Time, a pantomime group with Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship performs in front of the Chemistry Building Thursday to promote a seminar that will be given by Don Pope at 7 p.m. Friday

in 102 Zachary. Chi Alpha is an inter-denominational Christian Fellowship at A&M, but the organization is nationwide and international in scope, with a purpose of glorifying the name of Christ.

Article: Reagan aide may take A&M post

By Karen Kroesche and Richard Williams
Senior staff writers

A national news magazine reported this week that James C. Miller III, director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget who once taught at Texas A&M, is a "leading candidate" for the presidency of A&M.

But neither the head of the A&M presidential search committee nor a high-level OMB official would confirm the report, which ran in the "Washington Whispers" section of the March 28 issue of U.S. News & World Report.

The article speculated that Miller may leave his post to return to academia.

"He has been telling friends that he wants to return to the private sector as soon as politically possible and that he feels a position like the Aggie presidency would be just the right niche for him," the article said.

Dr. Thomas R. Saving, head of A&M's economics department, said the time indeed may be right for Miller to take over a post like the A&M presidency.

As director of the OMB, Miller serves on the president's cabinet, and Saving said cabinet members



James C. Miller III

usually are replaced when a new president takes office because each president likes to choose his own top advisers.

The magazine said Miller's influence has been "waning at the White House since last October's stock-market crash," but a high-level official at the OMB called that part of the article "a gross misrepresentation of what the facts are."

"I can tell you for a fact that Jim's in charge of the president's budget

and that's the single most important policy document of the White House," the spokesman said. "He's down here every single day on the point for the president's policy."

The spokesman would not verify that Miller is a candidate but said that he knows Miller would be honored to be considered for A&M's presidency because Miller has "a great affection" for the University.

Saving said Miller has turned down offers to be considered for the presidency of other universities but might accept an offer from A&M.

"This is the kind of a job that someone who has his kind of experience would be interested in," Saving said. "And they would be interested in him."

Dr. Edward Hiler, head of A&M's presidential search committee, said he does not know whether the committee has received a resume from Miller. But he said that if the U.S. News article is accurate, it probably has. The committee must receive a resume in order for an individual to be considered.

Miller served as an associate professor of economics at A&M from 1972 to 1974. Since then he has served on the staff of the Council of Economic Advisers and as chairman of the Federal Trade Commission.

North, Poindexter plead innocent to Iran charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former national security aides Oliver L. North and John M. Poindexter and two businessmen pleaded innocent Thursday to charges they ran the Iran-Contra affair as a vast criminal conspiracy and defrauded the government of \$17 million.

One by one, the defendants were called before U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell at their arraignment, and asked by courtroom clerk Barbara Montgomery, "How do you wish to plead?"

"Not guilty," replied Poindexter, President Ronald Reagan's former national security adviser; and North, a top assistant to Poindexter.

"Not guilty, your honor," responded retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord and Albert Hakim, who controlled the money and procured the arms for the once-secret Iran-Contra operation.

All four defendants were released on their personal recognizance and told to report weekly by telephone to a pre-trial agency. Although criminal defendants are often asked to surrender their passports, Gesell said he would not impose that condition.

Dressed in conservative business suits, the four men made their first appearance in court since a federal grand jury, convened by Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh 14 months ago, handed down a 23-count indictment March 16.

North, retiring as a Marine lieutenant colonel May 1, and Poindexter, a retired Navy rear admiral, embraced before the judge entered the crowded courtroom.

The defendants are charged with conspiring to defraud the United States "by deceitfully . . . organizing, directing and concealing" a program of support for the Nicaraguan Contra rebels at a time such assistance was banned. The indictment also said the defendants "knowingly did embezzle, steal and convert to their own use" part of the proceeds generated by the sale of weapons to Iran.

Although no exact figure was specified in the theft count, it was reported elsewhere in the indictment that the arms sales generated proceeds of some \$30 million while the government was paid only \$12.2 million for the weapons.

Gesell set no trial date but said he would hold an early hearing to determine whether evidence gathered by Walsh is free of taint and therefore admissible.

All the defendants except Secord testified before Congress under a grant of immunity from prosecution, preventing Walsh from using any of that testimony.

Walsh has said FBI agents assigned to his staff made sure that he wasn't exposed to any news stories involving the hearings or later developments. As he obtained his independent evidence, he filed it under seal with the court. Walsh has the burden of proving that his evidence was not tainted.

Gesell ordered written motions on the taint question to be filed by April 7, and set a preliminary proceeding for April 12. A full hearing would likely be held later in April, he said.

Walsh pointed out he has hired retired federal judge Herbert Stern to argue such motions, and said he was ready to move ahead.

Gesell told the lawyers he would not allow a civil suit arising from the Iran-Contra affair, in which Secord and Hakim are defendants, to interfere with the criminal case. The civil trial had been set to begin June 27.

Outside the courtroom, a crowd of demonstrators gathered to show support for the defendants. Sen. Steven Symms, R-Idaho, called on Reagan to issue "an immediate pardon" of North and Poindexter.

As Poindexter stood by silently, attorney Richard Beckler said, "We are going to vigorously contest this case with all our strength and might."

Border Patrol saves aliens from probable train death

HARLINGEN (AP) — Border Patrol agents said Thursday they probably averted tragedy by pulling more than 40 dehydrated illegal aliens from a sealed boxcar during a sweep of northbound train traffic this week.

The weeklong operation netted the apprehensions of 70 illegal aliens, the seizure of 120 pounds of marijuana and information on three smuggling rings.

But Monday night, the train sweeps may have saved some lives when a group of 46 aliens was pulled from a sealed boxcar about six miles north of Harlingen, said Silvestre Reyes, chief of the Border Patrol's McAllen Sector.

"They had been perspiring so heavily that the cardboard was disintegrating," Reyes said. "We feel that at least some of them would not have made it to Houston."

The aliens had been crouched atop a cushion of cardboard boxes inside the boxcar loaded with Houston-bound automobile parts for six to eight hours, Reyes said.

Although temperatures along the border have been quite cool at night, reaching the 50s, Reyes said the temperature inside the airtight boxcar had already reached 90 degrees by the time agents opened it.

The aliens had probably been in the boxcar for about seven hours, and with the number of bodies crowded into the car, the air supply could have run short.

Students to elect representatives to Student Government next week

By Drew Leder
Staff Writer

Students will head to campus polling sites Wednesday to elect Student Government representatives for the 1988-89 school year. All Student Government positions are up for grabs except those requiring a specific appointment by the student body president.

More than 100 positions in the Student Government will be filled in the March 30 general election. A runoff election will be held April 4 to decide races in which no candidate receives a majority vote.

Positions to be filled include:

- Student body president.
- Senior and junior yell leaders.
- Student Senate chairmen.
- 88 Student Senate seats.
- Class Officers for classes of '89, '90 and '91.
- Residence Hall Association offices.
- Off-Campus Aggies offices.

Although the race for student body president typically attracts several candidates — nine students vied for the job last semester — only two names will be on the ballot this semester. Brian Banner, a junior speech communication major from Hurst, and Jay Hays, a senior agricultural education major from Wolfe City, are the candidates running for election. Banner holds the position of vice president of administration of the Student Government and Hays is speaker of the Student Senate for the 1987-88 term.

Candidates for each of the four Senate committee's chairmanships — academic affairs, finance, external affairs and student services — will be running unopposed.

Campaigning for the election officially began March 20 and, thus far, the only campaign violations to be reported regard flyers placed in restrooms and in classrooms. These

areas are off-limits to campaigning. In total, more than 200 students will be listed on the ballot.

Candidates for selected positions are:

Student body president:

- Jay Hays.
- Brian Banner.

Senate Chairmen:

- Michael Kelley — Academic affairs.
- Christi Choat — Student services.
- Mike Liste — Finance.
- Jody Manier — External affairs.

Senior yell leaders:

- Rick Hamilton.
- Jared Hurta.
- Mike Prothro.
- Guy Schweppe.
- Ronnie Bolton.
- Scott Hart.
- Teddy Peinado.
- Steve Keathley.
- Tim Blythe.

Junior yell leaders:

- Jud Chappell.
- Gary Moore.
- Ed Allred.
- Steve Coan.
- Brent Brown.
- Patrick Schulte.
- Waylan Cain.

Class of '89 President:

- Denise Arledge.

Class of '90 President:

- Jimi Steambarge.
- Mike Saxe.
- Kathrine Smith.
- Dan Gattis.

Class of '91 President:

- Steve Miller.
- Ashley Bracken.
- Tracey Butler.
- Henry Peacock.

Residence Hall Association President:

- Trey Jacobson.

Off-Campus Aggies President:

- Laurie Lustfield.

B-CS economy rises despite unemployment

By Jeff Pollard
Staff Writer

Although the unemployment rate in the Bryan-College Station area went up a tenth of a percent last month, it's clear the local economy has improved over the past year.

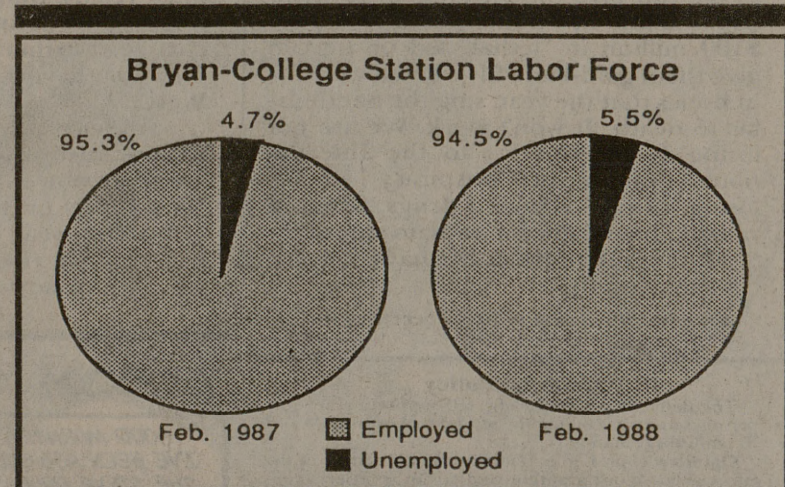
The local unemployment rate, as reported Tuesday by the Texas Employment Commission, went up last month from 5.4 percent in January to 5.5 percent in February. The statewide rate over that same period was 8.7 percent.

But the 1988 numbers rank Bryan-College Station as having the lowest unemployment rate among the 27 standard metropolitan statistical areas in Texas.

Closest competition came from Lubbock (6.4 percent), San Angelo (6.4 percent) and Dallas (6.7 percent).

At the other end of the spectrum, the McAllen-Edinburg area reported a 20.2 percent unemployment rate and Laredo reported a rate of 17.5 percent.

Compared to the numbers from February 1987, it is clear that the economy is showing some signs of life.



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

The work force in Bryan-College Station increased by 200 people and the number of unemployed has gone down by 400. These two factors led to an increase in the number of people employed in the area (from 53,100 to 53,700) and a reduction in the unemployment rate (from 6.2 percent to 5.5 percent).

Walt Baker, area director of the TEC office in Bryan, says

these numbers reflect a healthy turn in the local economy and steady growth that some areas are not yet showing.

"We've seen a very appropriate adjustment to over-building during the oil boom," Baker said. "As the economy builds, we will see a very comfortable dove-tailing reflecting a paced and steady growth."

Baker said the commission expects the unemployment rate to increase sometime in May and to peak in July.

This is a regular occurrence, he said, with students who are free for the summer being added to the labor force.

"The increase is predictable, but not harmful," Baker said. "There are a lot of young people back in the community who, along with high school students, are looking for jobs."

"This is just a temporary effect. The rate will go back down in August and September when school starts. If the economy keeps making the progress that it is, we may see the numbers drop below 5 (percent) by the end of the year."

Although students do have a negative effect over the summer months, Baker cited Texas A&M as one of the biggest factors in local employment. He said 40 percent of the non-agricultural jobs in Bryan-College Station are governmental, including those at Texas A&M, which is the largest employer in the area.

"In addition," Baker said, "the members of the student body are all consumers. They support a tremendous number of jobs in the areas retailing and food service."