

Texas A&M The Battalion

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NCAA accuses A&M of 31 rule violations

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The National Collegiate Athletic Association has accused Texas A&M's football program with 31 violations of NCAA rules and seven violations of procedure, according to a letter released Monday by University officials.

The allegations range from minor recruiting infractions to attempts by A&M coaches to conceal previous NCAA violations. The final proce-

dural allegation said these violations are products of a mismanaged football program.

"It is alleged that the scope and nature of the violations in this official inquiry demonstrate a lack of appropriate institutional control and monitoring in the administration of the institution's intercollegiate football program," the letter stated.

But A&M Head Coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill discounted the severity of the allegations and seemed pleased to comply with the NCAA investigation, which he expects will be completed before next season.

"I'm glad it's here," Sherrill said. "We're ready to expedite matters and get it over with. Since I've been here, this has been like a cloud hanging over our heads."

In September 1985, A&M began conducting an internal investigation of its football program. The report was released to the NCAA in August 1986 but was not released to the public until April 1987, when several newspapers filed requests for the report under the Texas Open Records Act.

The heavily edited version that was released made little reference to allegations of recruiting violations. It

did not refer directly to a previous allegation that former A&M quarterback Kevin Murray received payment from a former student for work he did not complete.

Of the current 31 allegations, 24 are possible recruiting violations. Accusations include illegal visits and material inducements such as clothing, cash and promises of employment and medical treatments for relatives of prospective athletes.

The procedural allegations accused A&M coaches of deliberate violation of NCAA rules. Among these accusations is a possible attempt to prepare former student

athletes for an NCAA investigation.

Sherrill downplayed the accusation of poor administration and focused his attention on the possible rules violations.

"That's just semantics," he said about the procedural allegations. "They're just playing with semantics. We need to be most concerned with the first 31 allegations."

But transfer quarterback Chris Osgood said he is worried about the possible ramifications of the allegations. Osgood transferred last season from the University of Mississippi, which was penalized by the NCAA for rules infractions in 1987. When

Osgood transferred to A&M, he was aware of the problems concerning Murray, but those problems didn't concern him.

"I didn't think it was any big deal and that it would come down now," Osgood said. "I wasn't worried about that. I was just ready to change schools. I've been through it (allegations of NCAA violations) before. I guess I can deal with it."

"Hopefully, it's not a big thing. In a way (it does scare me). I left a school that was on probation. It is

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Arizona Senate convicts Mecham of 'high crime'

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — The Arizona Senate convicted Gov. Evan Mecham on Monday of two counts of wrongdoing, making him the first U.S. governor to be impeached and removed from office in 59 years.

The vote on the first charge, that he attempted to thwart a death-threat investigation, was 21-9. Two-thirds of the 30-member Senate was needed for conviction. The vote automatically removed him from office.

Mecham, who took notes in the Senate chamber as lawmakers voted, showed no emotion.

The GOP-controlled Senate then convicted the first-term Republican 26-4 on a charge he misused \$80,000 from a protocol fund by loaning it to his auto dealership.

A motion to bar the 63-year-old Mecham from ever holding state office in Arizona received 17 votes in favor and 13 against, falling three votes short of the required two-thirds majority.

The last governor to be impeached and removed from office was Henry Johnston of Oklahoma, who was removed in 1929.

Monday morning's closing arguments came as the impeachment trial entered its sixth week.

"The vote is 21 ayes, nine nos. Evan Mecham is convicted of high crimes, misdemeanors and malfeasance in office," the trial's presiding officer, Arizona Chief Justice Frank X. Gordon Jr., said.

The Senate then began voting on the second count. Senators could then take another vote on whether to bar Mecham from ever holding state office in Arizona again.

"The citizens of this state will not tolerate this evil insensitivity," Democratic Sen. Jesus "Chuy" Higuera said. He voted to convict the first-term Republican.

Republican Sen. Jan Brewer said she felt Mecham made a serious error, but she added, "I do not think it is sufficient to remove him from office."

The voting began after a prosecutor beseeched the GOP-controlled Senate to convict Mecham of impeachment charges, remove him from office and bring down the curtain on this prolonged, embarrassing and bitter tragedy.

Assault victims file civil lawsuit against athlete for attack

By Drew Leder
Staff Writer

Two Texas A&M students and a College Station resident filed a civil suit Friday against A&M football player Guy Broom to obtain exemplary damages for bodily injury and damage to an automobile that occurred during an incident in the Woodstone Shopping Center parking lot January 30.

The suit was filed in the Brazos County District Clerk's office by A&M students Walter Voigtman, a junior political science major, and Mary Barclay, a senior elementary education major, and by Barclay's husband Andy. It alleges that "Guy Christopher Broom, standing approximately 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighing 275 pounds, intentionally, knowingly and recklessly caused bodily injury" to all of the plaintiffs.

The suit charges that in the early morning of January 30, Voigtman and the Barclays were attacked by Broom after words were exchanged by Broom and Andy Barclay. The suit alleges that Broom injured Andy Barclay by "grabbing him and throwing him into the rear-end of the (Barclay's) car, whereby Plaintiff Andy Barclay struck his head and shoulder on the bumper, knocking him unconscious and breaking his collar bone."

Mr. Barclay had two steel pins placed in his collar bone and several torn ligaments in his shoulder area repaired a few days after the incident.

Voigtman and Mr. Barclay also spent time in the hospital because of the injuries they received. The suit

alleges that Broom threw Walter Voigtman into the Barclay's open car door and hit Mrs. Barclay in the face with his fist, knocking her unconscious.

Broom's action, according to the suit, was "extreme and outrageous, causing highly unpleasant mental reactions such as fright, horror, grief, shame, humiliation . . . and nausea."

The amount Voigtman and the Barclays will attempt to gain through the suit hasn't been disclosed yet.

Broom also faces one charge of aggravated assault and two charges of misdemeanor assault stemming from his part in the incident. Assistant District Attorney Margaret Lalk said her office plans to ask a grand jury to file an indictment of aggravated assault against Broom when a jury next convenes April 14th. Lalk said the civil suit will have no bearing on the plans of the District Attorney's office to file the indictment.

If Broom is found guilty of the aggravated assault charge, a third-degree felony, he could face a sentence of between two and 10 years in jail or prison and a maximum fine of \$5,000. The misdemeanor charges carry a maximum fine of \$1,000 and up to one year in jail.

Judge John Delaney of Brazos County's 272nd district court said Broom probably will be officially informed of the suit today and will then have 20 days to submit to the court a written denial of the charges or lose the suit by default. Delaney, who will preside over the case if it goes to trial, said a trial date will be set after a denial by Broom is received.

Scientists unprepared for killer bees' arrival

By Karen Kroesche
Senior Staff Writer

When the Africanized bees, or "killer bees," arrive in Texas late next year, they won't come swarming in like a dust storm wreaking death and destruction — but they will create some sticky problems for Texas A&M researchers.

"The problem we have is that we're sitting here with a two-man inspection service and a huge problem approaching us," says Dr. Fowden Maxwell, who heads A&M's entomology department and a state advisory committee on Africanized bees. "We're not presently geared up to the extent that we need to be to meet the threat of the Africanized bee."

Regulation and research of bees in Texas historically has been in the hands of the A&M entomology department in conjunction with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

That responsibility has raised

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— John Thomas, A&M entomologist

some frightening questions in light of the regulatory, economic and social problems the arrival of the Africanized bees will create in the state.

The threat of the Africanized bees, which are expected to arrive by late next year, has been exaggerated by the media and film industry, Maxwell says.

The Africanized bees will be more numerous and more apt to sting than the European honeybee that Texans are used to, but the bee is not as bad as it's made out to be, he says.

"The term 'killer bee' is really a

misnomer," Maxwell says. "There have been some deaths associated with the Africanized bee, but it's not nearly as bad as it sounds."

A&M entomologist John Thomas, who is in charge of the statewide education program on the Africanized bee, says it evolved from the same parent stock as the domestic bee, but was forced to develop extremely aggressive tendencies in order to survive in Africa.

"We've got really two bees that came from the same ancestry, but they've been selected differently," Thomas says. "So the Africanized

bee is just a honeybee with a personality problem."

Thomas says the public needs to be made aware of the aggressive nature of the Africanized bee, but he agrees with Maxwell that the media tends to go overboard.

"After the story in the *Houston Post* the other day . . . I was bombarded with calls . . . mostly from elderly ladies, who honestly were scared to death," Thomas says. "They knew that they were going to invade Houston. They were convinced that they were going to kill lots of people. They wanted to know how far north they needed to move in order to be sure that they would not be in an area that could be inhabited by this killer bee. Several of them admitted that they had already gone to their doctor and gotten tranquilizers."

However, Thomas says a tendency not to release information on the bees would be just as bad as the sensationalism.

"You can go overboard either way," he says. "There are far more things that are much, much more hazardous than is the killer bee. By the same token, it's important that people realize that if and when the Africanized bee arrives they are going to have to pay more attention to honeybees on a limb, to honeybees in a house, to honeybees in a hollow of a tree, because they're not going to be the same honeybees that we have lived with for all these years that you can just ignore and walk by and bump, and not very likely get stung."

He says, "These bees will come and introduce themselves to you."

Thomas says only two people a year in Texas die on average from insect stings. He says he expects to see a slight increase in that number when the Africanized bees arrive, and that those who are allergic — 0.4

A&M system aids ailing Prairie View

PRAIRIE VIEW (AP) — Five years ago, nearly 20 percent of the student body at Prairie View A&M University was on academic probation, buildings were dilapidated and the library was in bad shape.

Administrators tried to improve conditions, but there was little money and little support from the state.

"The school was regarded as a court of last resort," said Elaine Adams, vice president for academic affairs, who came to the school in 1983. "There was a negative attitude among the students as well as the faculty."

Now, things have changed.

More than 17 multimillion-dollar construction projects have been completed. The Texas A&M University System, through a federally approved desegregation plan and endowment funds that, until 1984, couldn't be used for Prairie View, has sunk \$53 million into facilities.

Another \$30 million in construction is in the works.

Enrollment has climbed from 4,495 in 1982 to 5,307 in the most recent semester.

Between 1986 and 1987, the increase was nearly 18 percent, the highest at any Texas college or university.

Minority enrollment — at Prairie View that means white and Hispanic students — also is up with whites making up nearly 10 percent of the student body.

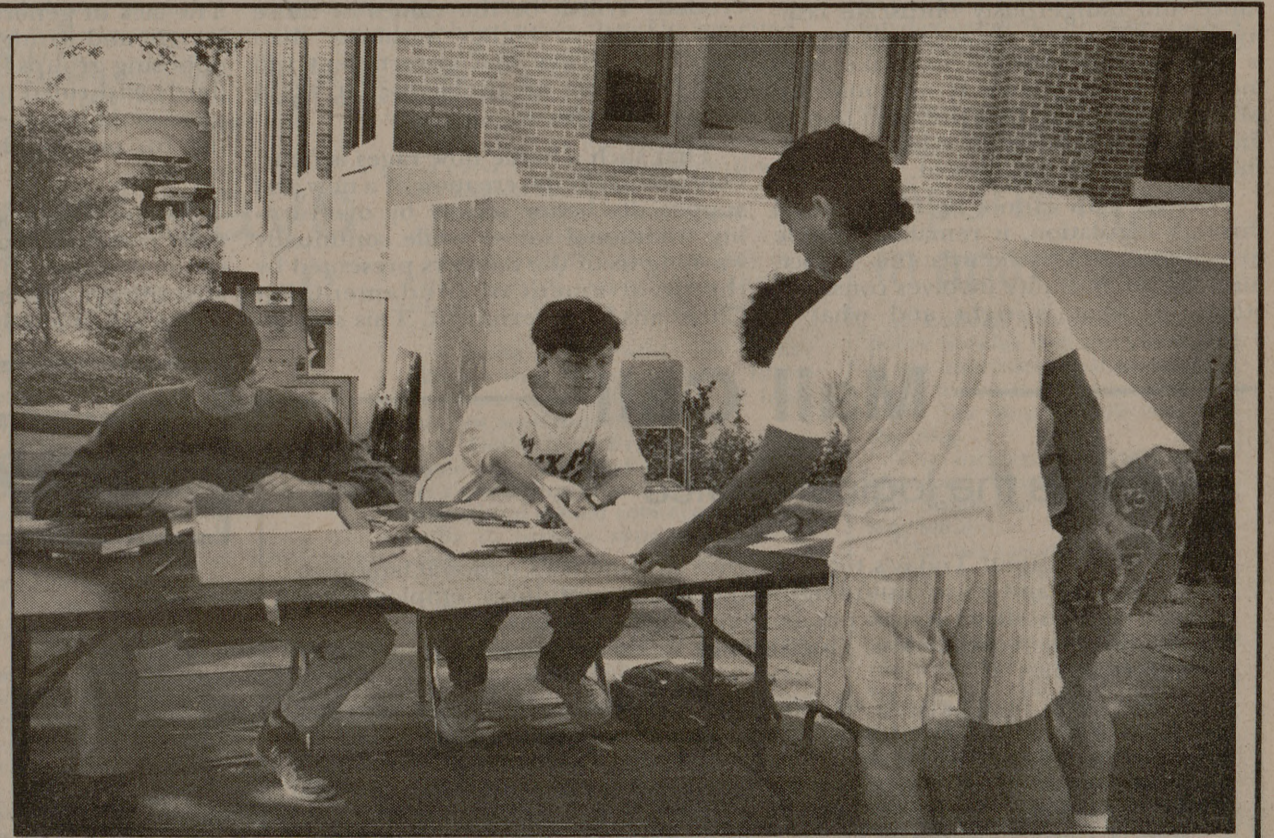
The changes at Prairie View are remarkable, observers say.

"It's a promise realized," said Kenneth Ashworth, state commissioner for higher education.

When Percy Pierre was named university president in 1983, the school had fallen on hard times.

Pierre and his staff launched an attack on several fronts, aided by the Texas plan, special legislative appropriations and a constitutional amendment giving Prairie View a share of money from the Permanent University Fund.

The Texas plan is an agreement between the state and the federal government to integrate state universities.



The last cast

Students cast their final votes in the runoff elections at Sbis Dining Hall. Runoff elections were held Monday to fill Student Government positions in which no candidate received a majority vote in

the March 30th general election. Results of the runoff election are scheduled to be posted near the front door of the Pavilion at 5 p.m. today.

Photo by Edie Ingebritson

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