

Texas A&M The Battalion

Thursday, June 16, 1988

College Station, Texas

Vol. 87 No.160 USPS 045360 8 Pages

FBI put taps in Pentagon, officials say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two top Pentagon officials whose offices were searched and sealed off in a procurement fraud probe have been using office telephones that were tapped by the FBI, government sources said Wednesday.

The FBI placed a court-authorized wire tap in the office of Victor Cohen, the civilian official responsible for buying tactical battle command, control, communications and computer systems for the Air Force, sources said.

A court-authorized tap also was installed in the office of James Gaines, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for acquisition management, international programs and congressional support, sources said.

The offices of both officials were searched and sealed off Tuesday as the FBI issued search warrants at 36 locations in 12 states.

Search warrants were served on at least six current or former Pentagon personnel.

Among the offices searched was that of George Stone, an official in the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command. Stone is director of the information management services and information transfer purchases division.

A warrant also was served on Jack Sherman, a civilian employee in the Marine Corps. Sherman works in the equipment and service acquisition section of the contracts division, installation and logistics department at Marine Corps headquarters.

Another Pentagon employee whose files were searched, Stuart Berlin, works for the Naval Air Systems Command, the prime contracting office for aircraft-related procurement. Berlin is the head of the ship systems engineering branch.

The wiretaps and search warrants were part of a probe involving allegations of fraud and bribery on the part of defense contractors, consultants and U.S. government employees.

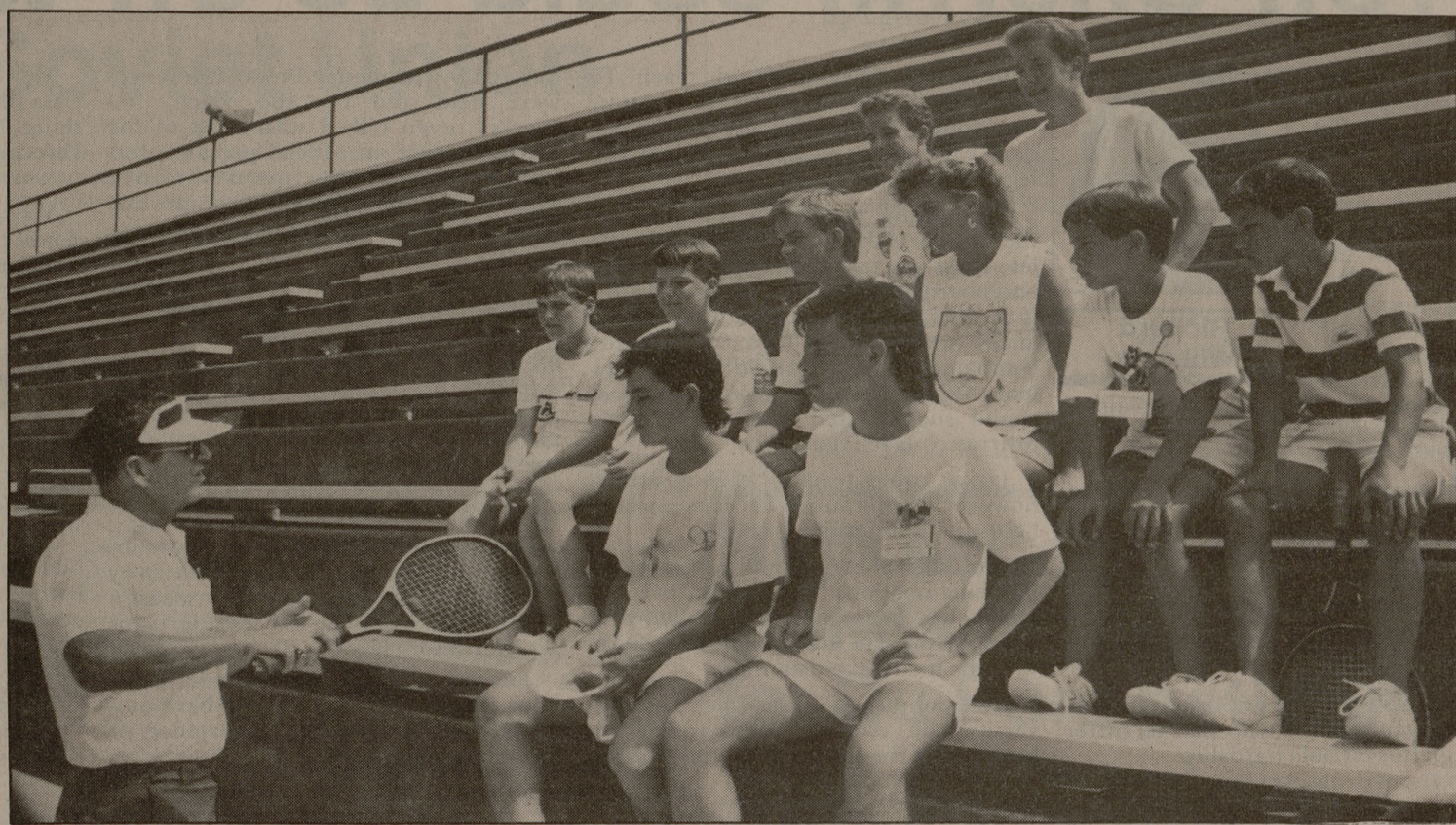


Photo by Jay Janner

Double vision?

Texas A&M men's tennis coach, David Kent, explains Wednesday the backhand volley at Omar Smith tennis complex to five sets of twins

who are attending the week-long camp being held on campus. The camp has an enrollment of 117 students.

Summer enrollment of 15,331 largest ever, A&M officials say

By Loyd Brumfield
Staff Writer

Summer school enrollment at Texas A&M is the highest ever for the first session and 10-week semester, University officials say.

A record 15,331 students are enrolled for the first summer session for an increase of 4.8 percent from last summer's enrollment of 14,621.

Don Carter, A&M registrar, said he attributes the growth to the carry-over from the fall and spring semesters.

"We had a record fall enrollment of 39,079 and a spring enrollment of more than 36,000," Carter said. "Summer enrollment just seems to naturally carry over."

Of those enrolled this summer,

283 are provisional freshmen admitted on a probationary basis.

They have to pass a minimum of nine hours with a 2.0 grade point average to return for the fall semester.

Bill Lay, director of admissions, said A&M expects more than 6,000 freshmen to take classes in the fall semester.

"We admitted over 10,000 freshmen for the fall, but we expect to actually enroll about 6,600 in accordance with the new enrollment plan," he said.

In the 1987 fall semester, a record 7,433 freshmen were enrolled, the largest freshman class in the nation.

Carter said exact records for freshmen enrollment in the summer are not yet available.

"We signed up about 400 or so

freshmen for the summer," he said. "We don't know if they all showed up yet or not."

Despite the record summer enrollment, area businessmen expressed mixed feelings about the increase.

Jeff Smestuen, manager of Bennigan's in College Station, said his business has increased.

"It's gone up quite a bit," he said. "It's hard to tell right now if the added business is substantially up from last summer due to a lot of things. You've got incoming freshmen who don't really know where things are, and other problems."

"We should have a better idea about how we're doing in a week or so," Smestuen said the drop in busi-

ness from the spring to summer semester is significant.

"Usually sales drop off about 35-40 percent during summer," he said.

Paul Harvey, owner of the Flying Tomato restaurant, said he's experiencing a decrease in business.

"I've heard a lot of things about the high summer enrollment, but you couldn't tell it by looking at my business," he said. "It's been pretty quiet around here."

"Not even the traffic seems as bad as it usually is."

Harvey said the restaurant's business goes down a great deal in the summer.

"You take 23,000 kids out of town and you've got a huge drop-off in the summer," he said. "It certainly makes a difference."

Senate committee suggests funding for A&M building

By Alan Sembera
Staff Writer

Texas A&M won its first victory last week in its attempt to gain federal funding for its planned Institute of Biosciences and Technology.

The Senate Agricultural Appropriations Committee recommended paying \$6.25 million for construction project, which will be at the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

The biotechnology institute will concentrate on research in animal genetics, molecular and cellular biology, biochemistry and pathology.

Marty Clayton, a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, is working on the funding request. He said the committee recommendation is a step toward gaining agricultural research center status under U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines, which will make the project eligible for the matching funds.

The Senate and House of Representatives must approve the funding.

The chances of the funding being approved increased last week when a report by the USDA Cooperative State Research Service gave the proposed institute high marks.

The study concluded that the research center "would have a particular beneficial effect on both human health and agricultural competitiveness within the United States." It also stated that the institute could

have a "worldwide impact on the biological sciences."

Clayton said that if the institute meets the USDA requirements, it probably will receive another \$6.25 million for construction next year.

Clayton, who holds an agricultural education degree from A&M, said the new institute will tie research being done at A&M to research at the Texas Medical Center.

The diversity of expertise at A&M is what makes it important to the medical center, Clayton said.

"There's no other place in the country where you have a land grant university with A&M's assets in engineering, agriculture, biological science and veterinary medicine teamed up with a medical center like they have in Houston," he said.

"The direction of research right now is going toward more and more of a merger of those areas down at a molecular level," Clayton said. "There's a lot of transferability of knowledge there."

"In terms of practical applications, many of the first applications of these things are going to occur in the area of agriculture, simply because of the stringency of the testing requirements in humans."

The new institute will be administered by A&M's agriculture department. Dr. Charles Arntzen, the deputy chancellor of agriculture, was not available for comment.

Eyedrops may be insulin treatment

By Theresa Emmert
Reporter

Texas A&M researchers are working to take some of the pain out of being diabetic with the development of a new form of insulin treatment — eyedrops.

Texas A&M researchers are experimenting with an eyedrop form of insulin that would offer diabetics a practical, economical, painless and sanitary means of administering the drug.

A&M pharmacologist Dr. George C.Y. Chiou is the head of the research group who developed the drops and serves as director of A&M's Institute of Ocular Pharmacology. He said the drops will help diabetics lead a normal healthy life.

"They will not have to excuse themselves to take an insulin shot; Instead they just drop it into their eyes," he said. "People won't even know who has diabetes."

The drops will cost less in the long run because the patients will not have to buy needles and syringes. All they will need is a bottle of eyedrops, he said.

It also will be more sanitary, Chiou said, because sometimes needles are reused by lower-income people.

The user also doesn't have to go

through the pain of an injection three or four times a day.

Chiou, who works with various forms of peptides that can be administered through eyedrops, said insulin is no different. He said the insulin is absorbed through the capillaries in the eye. This method of administering the drug is as effective as the injection.

Unlike taking the drug orally, the structure of the insulin isn't altered by the body when it is placed in the eye. The body, he said, doesn't go through the rejection phenomena which causes the alteration.

Chiou has been researching the eyedrop form of insulin for the past year. The next step, he said, is to test the drops in humans.

Before the drug can be marketed, it must be approved by the Food and

Drug Administration. He said it is a long process but hopes to see the product on the market within the next five years.

Chiou said insulin eyedrops will have to be perfected so the solution doesn't cause irritations to the eyes. The drug produces the same side-effects whether it is injected or absorbed through the eye.

An overdose of insulin is very rare, he said. Overdose occurrences are intentional in most cases, he said. The eyedrop form will not alter the chances of an overdose and isn't something people should be concerned about.

The product, like the injection, will have to be prescribed through a pharmacy. Its sales will be controlled like the injectable form except that there are no needles, he said.

Donations still needed for Burnett

Another \$1,000 of the more than \$6,000 needed to bring Laura Burnett home to College Station from Germany was received Monday, bringing the total to \$4,000 after five days.

Laura, the daughter of Texas A&M marketing professor Dr. John Burnett, has been in a coma since being struck by an automobile in Munich, Germany May 30. Both Dr. Burnett and Laura were visiting businesses as part of a Study Abroad program touring in Germany prior to the accident.

The exact cost of a military airlift is \$6,540, Frank Shannon, a family friend and assistant director of the Development Foundation, said Wednesday. The expense is not covered by the Burnett's insurance.

Any donations should be sent to the Laura Burnett Fund in care of First Republic Bank, P.O. Box 2860, College Station, Texas 77841. Donations should be marked to the attention of Lee Cargill.

Information on donations is also available in the lobby of the Blocker Building.

Twice-fired president claims regent's excuses were false

AUSTIN (AP) — Twice-fired Southwest Texas State University President Robert Hardesty said Wednesday that reasons given for his termination by regents either were untrue or were "dug up after the fact."

Hardesty, a former speechwriter for President Lyndon B. Johnson, also said he was not informed of most complaints before being fired. Complaints included criticism of the time Hardesty spent off campus and expenditures, including travel and entertainment.

The Texas State University System regents voted 5-4 Monday to dismiss Hardesty, with those voting against him saying he had been warned months before to make changes.

It was the second time Hardesty was fired. His May 19 dismissal was voided by State District Judge Jon Wisser, who said regents violated the Open Meetings Act because the action was not on the agenda.

Hardesty's pay was stopped Monday, and he was given five days to vacate the president's house at San Marcos.

The dismissal has generated controversy, with Hardesty and others charging it was motivated by his

friendship with former Gov. Mark White, a Democrat. Gov. Bill Clements has denied he played a part in the firing and noted that six of the nine regents are White appointees.

Among the complaints listed against Hardesty, 57, by regent Norman Elder of Del Rio on Monday were that he had arranged contracts without board approval and used donations to the university for such things as flying first-class, staying in expensive hotels and paying dues to private clubs.

Elder also said the majority disagreed with the amount of time Hardesty spent away from the university.

"It's obvious that all of this was an afterthought, following my firing on May 19, and following the call for my expense vouchers and my calendar on May 24, five days after my (initial) firing," Hardesty said at an informal news conference.

Hardesty said the only previous complaint about his performance came from Elder and former regent Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio, who said he should not spend so much time away from the university.

Investigation of lab prematurely stopped

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department prematurely shut down an undercover investigation of widespread drug trafficking at a top-secret California nuclear weapons laboratory and tried to prevent Congress from finding out, House investigators were told Wednesday.

At the time the drug investigation, code-named "Operation Snowstorm," was killed, agents were still pursuing leads on 127 employees at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, near San Francisco, who were suspected drug users or dealers, witnesses said.

Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the nine-month investigation was abruptly halted in September 1986 because officials were fearful of publicity about rampant drug trafficking at Livermore, where highly classified research into President Reagan's Star Wars missile defense system is conducted.

"It seems to me that this Operation Snowstorm should be called 'Operation Snow Job,'" Wyden said. He said DOE officials "seem to think just saying no is enough. DOE is too afraid of the stigma of drugs to do anything about it."

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations, declared: "We have serious questions about the integrity of security at our nation's most sensitive nuclear weapons and research facilities."

Dingell said that after DOE and Livermore officials shut down the drug investigation, they "attempted to conceal this fact from the subcommittee by providing conflicting statements to the subcommittee staff and by withholding key documents."

Energy Undersecretary Joseph F. Salgado said officials decided to terminate the investigation "because it had run for eight months and was apparently not uncovering new productive leads."

He said Operation Snowstorm had served its purpose in putting Livermore employees on notice that drug use would not be tolerated.

In a report circulated in advance of the hearing, Dingell said the operation began in January 1986 because of "an alarming number of laboratory employees who were becoming involved in drug-related incidents and arrests."