

# Sherrill calls NCAA reports 'disappointing'

By Stephen Masters  
 Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M President William Mobley and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill said they were relieved but disappointed after the release of the NCAA Committee on Infractions report Friday that found A&M guilty of 25 rules infractions.

"We've been through a lot of stress over the last five or six years, especially the last three or four," Sherrill said.

"I'm very, very happy today is here. I'm glad it's over with. We'll take the hand that's been dealt to us and give it our best shot."

Although I don't necessarily agree with the assessment of these findings, we'll deal with them.

"As soon as this session is over, that's it. I will not answer any questions on this matter, nor will our players or coaches."

Among the infractions were nine "significant violations," including:

- Two unnamed assistant football coaches who "provided false and misleading information" to NCAA investigators.

- A student athlete who was paid more \$4,000 for cleaning a printing press at a wage of \$15 per hour.

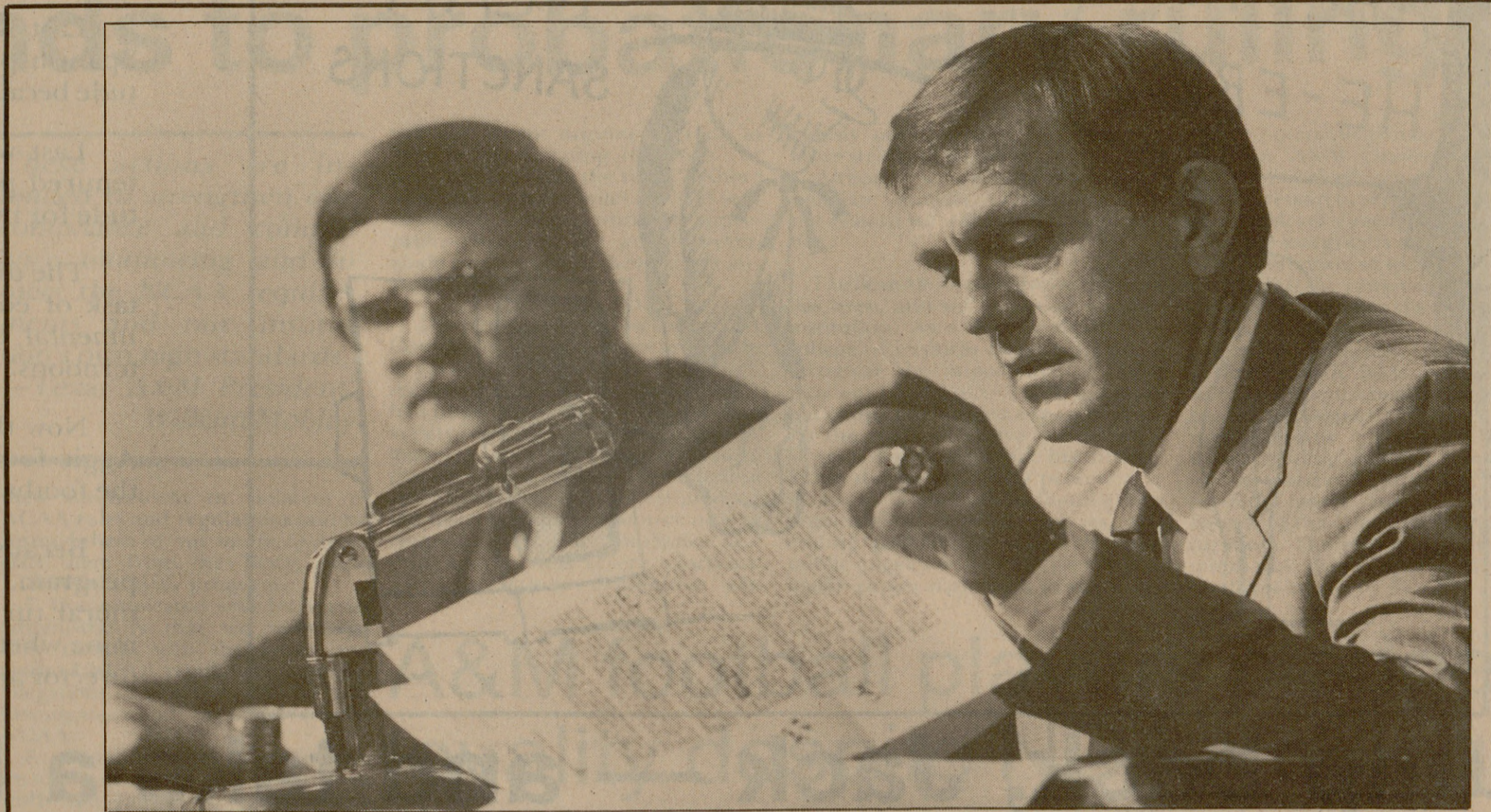
- An incident in which a representative offered a prospective student athlete a car at a discount.

The report said Sherrill became aware of the incident and reported the facts to an A&M official, but did not inform the official of A&M's responsibility to report the incident to the NCAA.

Sherrill also failed to report the incident to the NCAA enforcement staff.

The committee's penalties against the University include a two-year probation, no bowl game after the 1988-89 season, and the loss of five

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The heat is on!

Texas A&M head football coach Jackie Sherrill looks through an infractions report from the NCAA Friday morning. The president of

A&M, William Mobley, looks on as Sherrill answers questions from the media.

Photo by Dean Saito

# Burma's Parliament concedes, approves multi-party elections

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Parliament on Sunday yielded to weeks of massive nationwide protests and approved holding the first multi-party elections since 1960.

The legislature appointed a group of elders to supervise the polling and set a target date for about three months from Saturday, when President Maung Maung announced the ruling Burma Socialist Program Party would relinquish its 26-year monopoly on power.

Despite government concessions, opposition leaders continued to press for an interim government to cope with Burma's growing chaos, and demonstrations continued in the capital.

Maung Maung issued a stern warning to demonstrators, who have taken to the streets by the millions since spring in their fight for democracy.

"People are now fed up with this lawlessness and are expecting the

government to take effective action," Maung Maung said. "I therefore warn those responsible for the lawlessness to cease such activities."

In some areas of Burma, he said, students and Buddhist monks were setting up rival local governments, creating "a grave and dangerous situation for those responsible."

He called on demonstrators to get back to work and on civil servants to reactivate the stalled machinery of government. In addition, he attacked the recent formation of a rival government by former Prime Minister U Nu.

Maung Maung called Sunday's decision "a milestone in Burmese history."

"It will be evident in 20 years' time whether the decision was correct or not," he told the 489-member Parliament.

While authorizing elections in about three months, Parliament also held out the possibility that they

could be postponed or held as early as November.

Parliament empowered the Council of State, the highest government organ, to change the Constitution to permit a multiparty system, enlarge the elections commission if necessary and formulate election rules.

Named to the Elections Supervision Commission were three retired civil servants, a retired army brigadier general and a former member of Parliament. The men, all over 70, are generally regarded as neutral, although not especially prominent. At least four are not members of the ruling party.

The Parliament session was held under tight security, and delegates slept in the building Saturday night. The area was cordoned off with barbed-wire fences and road blocks manned by troops.

The multiparty elections would be the first in Burma since Feb. 6, 1960, when U Nu's Clean Anti-Facis People's Freedom League won a massive victory over an army-backed party. U Nu was overthrown by the military on March 2, 1962. The coup, led by Gen. Ne Win, ushered in rigid one-party rule.

Maung Maung urged Burma's 22 million voters to "use their potent weapon — the vote — to choose the

right representatives."

The Western-trained lawyer and author, the country's first civilian leader in 26 years, said he would not run in the elections and the powerful military "will not lobby for any party in the general elections."

A Western diplomat in Rangoon said the Burmese people were highly skeptical of the recent government moves.

"They don't trust the government to keep this promise" of elections, said the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "They perceive it as another trick."

Meanwhile, 218 dependents of diplomats and non-essential staffers, including 59 Americans, left Rangoon Sunday on a special Thai Airways International flight to Bangkok, Thailand.

More than 230 people flew out Friday as a precautionary move.

In recent weeks, the government has made one concession after another.

Ne Win resigned as head of the ruling party in July, citing widespread street protests in March and June as a factor in his decision.

When Sein Lwin, a hard-liner widely hated for his brutal suppression of dissidents, was chosen to succeed him, riots erupted.

# Student drowns at fraternity party

By Fiona Soltes  
 Staff Writer

A Texas A&M student drowned in Lake Somerville Saturday afternoon during a fraternity rush party.

David Joel Stauts, 19, a business major from Longview, had been swimming with members of the A&M chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Billy Towsley, Burleson County sheriff's deputy, said Stauts and some others at the party were apparently swimming to a small island just off the shore of Welch Park. Stauts went under water at 2:30 p.m. in an area about seven feet deep, he said.

"Apparently they tried to save him, but couldn't find him," Towsley said.

John Koldus, vice president for student services at A&M, said the fraternity's adviser will meet today with the individuals involved. It is University policy to hold an investigation when a student dies while involved in an activity sponsored by an A&M-recognized student organization, he said.

"Of course, the rangers of the park will hold an investigation also," Koldus said. "Little by little, we'll work through it all and find out what happened."

Steve Bradford, vice president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, said the frat-

ernity would not comment on the incident until the results of the A&M investigation were complete. Stauts was not a member of the fraternity.

John Parker, Sigma Phi Epsilon pledge chairman, told the *Bryan-College Station Eagle* that after Stauts went underwater he resurfaced and cried out for help. Parker also told the *Eagle* that by the time Stauts surfaced the second time several fraternity members were attempting to reach Stauts. Parker said three members of the group attempted to reach Stauts were certified lifeguards.

The body was found at about 6:30 p.m. after an extensive search by members of the Somerville police and sheriff's departments, the Somerville Rescue Unit and Corps of Engineers, Towsley said.

Stauts' body was taken to Strickland Funeral Home in Somerville and transferred Sunday morning to Rader Funeral Home in Longview.

Martin Gustafson, Corps of Engineers' reservoir manager, said the park rangers will check the site of the drowning for any dangers, although the area had not caused any problems in the past.

Services for Stauts will be held at 3 p.m. today at Oakland Heights Baptist Church in Longview with Dr. Jack Fritts. Burial will be at Memory Park in Longview.

# Enrollment explodes at North Texas, students must live in close quarters

DENTON (AP) — Students are being put up in hotels and dilapidated desks are getting second duty to cope with booming enrollment at University of North Texas.

Enrollment thus far stands at 24,580, enough to push North Texas ahead of the University of Texas at Arlington as the fifth-largest university in the state.

The campus is expected to be the fastest growing through the end of this century, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

While the surge is praised by administrators, it hasn't come easy for professors or their students.

Students used to being in classes of no more than 30 are being crammed into auditoriums with 500 others. Classroom space is in short supply and faculty are stretched thin — the College of Arts and Science alone added 200 sections, or class periods, to accommodate extra students.

To deal with a shortage of seats in some classrooms, university workers scrounged around in building basements for stools and desks that, by the looks of the graffiti on their surface — "Nixon's a dude" and "Mike was here 12-12-68" — hadn't been used in years.

"The situation is only serious in that our state funding hasn't caught up with our enrollment, so we have to stretch to find those dollars to

handle more students," said North Texas Chancellor Alfred Hurley.

But English professor Robert Stevens noticed more serious side effects: "Students have become helpless victims of my lectures. There's no room for give-and-take classroom discussions. And at a time when we're concerned about writing skills, there's no way I can give essay tests

to 500 students."

The housing department felt the brunt of the influx when 4,400 students, requested on-campus housing. The university has dormitory rooms and beds for only 4,000.

The university is studying the possibility of building a new dormitory, but officials this fall had to handle the overflow by converting areas

that once served as lounges, storage areas and guest rooms into dorm rooms.

Overcrowding has been good for student Kris Richard.

"I'm enjoying it while it lasts, because I have to move out (today)," said Richard, one of 50 North Texas students placed in the Royal Hotel Suites when 2,000 more students than expected enrolled this fall.

# Sherrill accepts blame for charges

By Hal L. Hammons  
 Sports Editor

Jackie Sherrill was a maze of apparent contradictions at Friday's press conference as he answered questions regarding the NCAA ruling.

He accepted blame for his department's failure to more care-

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fully monitor the actions of his subordinates and supporters.

"I'm responsible for the program," he said. "I'm responsible to see that things run properly."

But he said there was no way he could effectively monitor every action of every individual involved to insure a clean program.

"I've never told anyone we're pure," he said. "In college football today, it's very difficult to sit there and say nothing has happened or ever will happen. Our responsibility is to do everything we can do to avoid it."

He flatly stated, "If Jackie Sherrill does something wrong, Jackie Sherrill will leave. This institution comes first."

But then he modified his stance, backing away from stating he would leave for any violation whatsoever and harping on the slight nature of many of the charges in the report.

He frequently stated he thought the first charge — lack of "institutional control" — was fixed or in the process of being fixed.

"I feel we do have institutional control," he said. "I hope (the program) is clean, and the steps we're going to take will be good."

But he admitted his failure to

dismiss a player — identified as Kevin Murray during the press conference by Sherrill and several others — probably was a critical factor in the NCAA's decision to be so harsh with A&M.

"They felt it was our responsibility to dismiss a player, and that was not our view," he said. "I think they were waiting for us to do something about a player, and we felt that was their responsibility."

Sherrill and University President William Mobley also stated that two assistant coaches implicated for numerous violations would not be dismissed.

"When an assistant coach says he didn't do something, I've got to believe him," Sherrill said.

Sherrill maintained with Mobley that full compliance was the plan of the University.

"Although I don't necessarily agree with the assessment of some of the findings, we will comply with it," he said.

But for most of the press conference he blasted the NCAA for incorrect and unsubstantiated accusations and would not directly answer questions about what his decision concerning an appeal would be.

He emphasized how he had received job offers that would have taken him away from the pending accusations before they resulted in sanctions.

"I had an opportunity to walk away and not be in front of you guys (in the media)," he said. "I could do a lot of less stressful things. But I felt if I had done that, a lot of things would go unanswered. I felt I owed it to the players."