

The Battalion

NCAA meets with A&M officials, Smith

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M officials met for four hours with NCAA representatives and George Smith, the player who recanted his allegations that Coach Jackie Sherrill paid him "hush money," A&M President William H. Mobley said Tuesday.

But Mobley, in a statement issued through the school, declined to say what Smith told the officials.

Mobley said an account of the Monday night meeting in Houston was included in an oral progress report from Robert Smith, the vice president in charge of the University's investigation.

A&M officials told the National Collegiate Athletic Association representatives that the investigation was being carried out with "all the

resources that we can apply," Robert Smith said.

"We are now in discussion with the NCAA to determine if it will conduct a separate inquiry or rely on the findings of our investigation," he said.

Mobley said the University has a signed sworn statement by George Smith, which has been turned over to the NCAA.

Robert Smith described the meeting as extensive and quite detailed and said it included discussions of all the major points covered in an article last week in the *Dallas Morning News*, in which Smith first made his allegations.

In the newspaper's original story published Friday and written by Doug Bedell, George Smith claimed

that Sherrill paid him money to keep him quiet about NCAA violations.

On Saturday, Smith, a former fullback, publicly recanted and said he made up the story and that \$1,100 to \$1,400 he received was not hush money but was loaned to him by Sherrill.

But three days before a \$500 cash payment was received by Smith on Sept. 23, the former player told the paper that Sherrill had argued about how much money Smith should receive.

"I said something to him about what (violations) happened when I was there, and he said, 'Son, if you say that again — if you were close to me — I would punch you in the mouth,'" Smith said during a tape-recorded interview.

"Jackie threatened saying they didn't commit any violations," Smith continued. "I have about 20 violations right here that I could prove any time."

In more than eight hours of a taped conversation, Smith claimed that while at A&M from 1982 through 1984, Sherrill and other athletic department personnel gave him more than \$10,000 in cash, extra benefits and plane tickets.

Smith now says the allegations were concocted to help sell a book he and a reporter planned to write together.

Sherrill, in his first public appearance since the allegations surfaced, said Monday he would not comment on the matter until after the football season and the completion of an in-

ternal investigation by the school.

The Aggie coach missed Saturday's 18-0 victory over Texas Christian, but said he would return to the sidelines for the school's traditional Thanksgiving Day game against The University of Texas in Austin.

The paper reported that other conversations with Smith also show he believed Sherrill owed him for completion of a college degree or \$3,000 for tuition at a vocational school.

"More than anything, I don't see why Jackie doesn't want to deal with me in a way where he would go ahead and let me go back and get my masters," Smith said in an Oct. 3 conversation, also recorded. "That's cheaper than the University losing

its football program for the next two or three years."

As the newspaper prepared to present its evidence to Robert Smith, the vice president in charge of NCAA compliance and Mobley, George Smith told the paper he was contacted Wednesday night by the wife of Pugh — a good friend who recruited Smith when the athlete was in high school.

The following day, George Smith informed Robert Smith that the information he gave the newspaper was all false.

Also, according to a literary agent advising Smith, Pugh himself had a phone conversation with George Smith Friday morning after publication of the *Morning News* account.

Faculty works to create chapter of Texas Faculty Association

By Sherri Roberts
Staff Writer

One individual's voice may be ignored, but a group is noticed. A group of Texas A&M faculty is coming together in an effort to make University administrators more responsive to their needs.

About 12 faculty members met Monday to discuss the establishment of a Texas Faculty Association chapter at A&M.

Louis Bolieu, a Houston representative of TFA, told the group that the strength of their numbers combined with TFA's resources will be a powerful force motivating administrators to address their concerns.

Although similar to the Faculty Senate in that it voices faculty concerns about government, curricu-

lum, program priorities, and budget decisions, TFA's legal resources differentiate the two.

The legal representation TFA provides to its members has helped them effectively fight administrative decisions which negatively affect their working conditions, Bolieu said.

TFA has helped reverse decisions to dismiss faculty and to deny them tenure, Bolieu said. In the state legislature, it worked to redesignate faculty salaries in the state budget as non-transferrable, meaning that funds set aside for faculty salaries cannot be used for other purposes.

Members at the meeting voiced concerns about negative trends in organization at A&M.

Jim Biehn, organizer of the A&M TFA chapter and building and construction lecturer said that efforts to

make A&M a world-class university are being made at the expense of faculty and students.

The College of Architecture is cutting undergraduate enrollment in the program from 1,600 students to 1,000 students, he said. Administrators say there is a lack of resources to accommodate the current number of students, he said.

Graduate enrollment, however, has been increased from 250 students to 500, he said. The shift toward graduate programs gives a research institution such as A&M more prestige, he said.

The reorganization of departments within the college has shifted many tenured faculty from their previous roles, he said.

Bolieu said a widespread attack of tenured professors is moving across the state. The cost of maintaining

the professors' salaries is the major cause for the attack, he said.

"There is a new breed of administrators," he said. "They view the tenured professors as obstinate old devils who are standing in their way."

Equality between the treatment of male and female faculty also was discussed at the meeting.

Claudine Hunting, associate professor of modern languages said, "There is a reservoir of women at the University who feel they have not been given equity in salary or recognition."

Issues which female faculty raise at meetings are often ignored by administrators, with no rationale offered, unless they are "yes" women, she said.

A "yes" woman, she said, does not make waves or disagree with department officials

South Africa agrees to plan for Cuban forces

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — The government Tuesday announced it had joined Cuba and Angola in approving a U.S.-mediated plan to remove 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola and set the stage for the independence of Southwest Africa.

"The hard nut that had to be cracked has been cracked," said Foreign Minister Pik Botha, whose government for years has linked the independence of Southwest Africa, also known as Namibia, to a Cuban withdrawal.

Botha said negotiations were taking place in New York to establish a mutually acceptable system for verifying all phases of the withdrawal, which is expected to be conducted over a 27-month period.

If this matter is resolved, Botha said, the three countries would sign a formal agreement and the United Nations would proceed to set a timetable for implementing its plan to hold independence elections in Namibia.

He declined to predict when these steps might occur.

In Washington, the State Department said it was pleased by the South African announcement.

"With this step, all three governments have signaled their acceptance of the Geneva understandings," spokesman Charles Redman said.

Implementation of a U.N. Security Council resolution governing the independence process in Namibia is expected to begin six to eight weeks after actual signature of the agreements, he said.

The parties also must work out final details of the U.N. role in the region and of verification of Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola, Redman said.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also expressed pleasure at South Africa's announcement and urged all the parties to redouble their efforts to arrange a final settlement.

The U.N. Security Council's Resolution 435, adopted 10 years ago, outlines a one-year transition period during which elections would be held for an assembly to draft a constitution for an independent Namibian government. The U.N. would send about 7,500 peacekeeping troops to Namibia, backed by about 2,000 civilian personnel.

Botha said he mistrusted the United Nations collectively but had faith in Perez de Cuellar, who ensured South African officials during a recent visit here that the elections would be overseen impartially.

The troop withdrawal plan was drafted by negotiators in Geneva last week. Cuba and Angola announced their acceptance on Friday.

Cuban troops have been supporting Angola's Marxist government since 1975 in a civil war against South African- and U.S.-supported rebels of UNITA — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

South Africa, with backing from the United States, has for years demanded the removal of the Cuban troops as a precondition for ending its rule over Namibia, which lies between Angola and South Africa.

Botha said his government has told the United States that peace in the region will be impossible unless the Angolan war is resolved through negotiations. Thus far, the Angolan government has refused to negotiate with UNITA on its demands for a share of power until free elections are held.

Foreign Minister Botha and President P.W. Botha, who are not related, met Tuesday in Pretoria with UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, pre-

sumably to discuss whether South African aid to the rebels could continue under terms of the peace plan.

Savimbi said last week that President-elect George Bush had told him U.S. aid to UNITA would continue until the Soviet Union halted its military aid to the Angolan government.

Details of the peace plan have not been released. Sources have said the plan calls for the Cubans to withdraw over a 27-month period, gradually moving troops northward away from UNITA's strongholds near the border with Namibia.

Figures show B-CS leads state economy

By Laura White
Staff Writer

Bryan-College Station leads Texas' economic turnaround with the lowest unemployment rate in the state, according to recent Texas unemployment figures.

"We've had the lowest rate in Texas for 22 out of the last 24 months," Hamp Patterson, labor market analyst for the Texas Employment Commission, said.

Bryan-College Station led the state in September with a 4.2 percent unemployment rate, followed by Midland and Lubbock, each with 5.1 percent unemployment.

McAllen, Brownsville and Laredo had the highest unemployment rates in the state, with 15.9 percent, 12.5 percent and 11.1 percent unemployment, respectively.

Patterson said A&M is a major contributor in keeping the unemployment rate down in Brazos County.

"A&M employs 15,000 to 16,000 people," he said. "That's one-third of all the workers in the county."

Patterson said if the NCAA gives A&M the "death penalty" in response to the recent allegations against head football coach Jackie Sherrill, local businesses will be affected.

"A&M affects all other businesses in this area," he said. "Especially between the months of September and December — football season."

Another factor involved in keeping Bryan-College Station's unemployment rate down is its high percentage of government workers — the highest in the state.

"Out of the 55,300 people working in the county, 21,200 people work for the state, local and federal government," Patterson said.

"The government doesn't lay anyone off. That's a big insulating factor — you can count on those people to keep their jobs."

Bryan-College Station also has the lowest number of manufacturers in the state.

Because manufacturers do not hire often but lay off many workers, the lack of manufacturers helps to keep unemployment rates down.

Patterson said that barring economic catastrophe, the unemployment rate should continue its downward trend. It has been decreasing since 1986, when the rate was 6.4 percent.

Mourners remember Kennedy slaying with bouquets, prayers at Dallas site

DALLAS (AP) — Mourners placed bouquets and a crucifix Tuesday on the street where President John F. Kennedy was slain, saying on a note attached to one, "After 25 years, we still love you, John."

About 2,500 people gathered along the street to pass the anniversary hour of Kennedy's death. Most stood quietly near the spot where the president was struck down Nov. 22, 1963.

A few knelt in prayer in the stone memorial to Kennedy a few blocks away, while others snapped pictures of the memorial and the Texas

School Book Depository building, where police found Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle after the assassination.

The crucifix, bouquets and Kennedy half-dollars were placed as the crowd overflowed the sidewalks, and cars carefully drove around the impromptu memorial.

"We still miss you — Nov. 22," said the second spray of flowers.

Alvin Marin, 52, said he placed in the street the crucifix he grasped upon hearing of Kennedy's death 25 years ago.

"It's just something to remember

him by," Marin said. "This is very emotional."

Marin later reclaimed the crucifix at about the same time Dallas police began urging people to clear the street for traffic that had backed up through downtown.

Up on the infamous grassy knoll, where many believe an assassin may have hidden, teacher Jean Hill explained the site to her class of about 50 third-grade students.

"We're here because this is an important place in Dallas, an important place in history, what happened here 25 years ago," Hill said.

Later she recalled, "I thought he was a representative of an era, more than any one person at that time."

Though formal observances of Kennedy's assassination were few in Dallas, the flow of visitors to the assassination site and the memorial swelled on the anniversary.

The crowd included about 10 students from the University of Texas at Arlington who are enrolled in "JFK Assassination Conspiracy Revealed," a seven-week class which explores assassination theories.

The students gathered on the grassy knoll to match landmarks with assassination conspiracy theories.

"When the Warren Commission report came out, it just didn't set well," said Jim Marrs, who has taught the class since 1976. "It became real apparent that all that could be said about it had not been said."

"The interest is there. Everyone would like to know what really happened."

Many mourners recalled where they were 25 years ago.

Hill said she had been waiting at Dealey Plaza to see the president's motorcade. She jumped from the curb and hollered at Kennedy to turn her way for a picture, then the shots rang out.

"I could have touched the car when I jumped out into the street," she said. The anniversary "is bringing all of those anxiety feelings and traumatic feelings back to me. The nightmares are coming back."

Recollections also were being shared at Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Kennedy was treated and later died. The hospital sponsored a roundtable discussion Tuesday among three doctors and two nurses who were involved in Kennedy's treatment.

Also on Tuesday, reporters were allowed to tour the Texas School Book Depository's sixth floor, where the rifle registered to Oswald was found. The floor has been converted to an educational exhibit by the Dallas County Historical Foundation.

The foundation plans to open the Sixth Floor museum Feb. 20, President's Day. The exhibit will explain how Kennedy was assassinated, the effect the event had around the world, investigations of the crime and the cultural atmosphere of the 1960s.

The city planned no official ceremony to mark the anniversary, nor did Dallas County Democratic party officials, who had organized commemorative services in previous years. Party leaders say they are acting on the wishes of the Kennedy family, which asks that Kennedy be remembered on his birthday in May.



Photo by Kathy Haveman

A sign of the times

Working diligently on Squadron 4's spirit sign game are Doug Harris, a freshman business major,

Trent Haynes, a freshman general studies major and Thomas Hensley, a business major.