

Slocum, Crow: Clean program 1st, winning 2nd

By Anthony Wilson
City Editor

As the Jackie Sherrill era came to an end Dec. 12, the two men selected to replace him as athletic director and head football coach vowed to create a new age at Texas A&M — one of winning and integrity.

University President Dr. William H. Mobley chose Associate Athletic Director John David Crow to assume Sherrill's responsibilities as athletic director. Assistant Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator R.C. Slocum was selected by Mobley and Crow to replace Sherrill as the football program's head coach.

Slocum reinforced his commitment to running a violation-free program by requesting a clause in his contract calling for his dismissal if anyone on his staff knowingly breaks NCAA rules.

"Dr. Mobley and I have talked about having in my contract that if myself or any of my coaches knowingly violate any NCAA regulations which lead to any problems with Texas A&M, I'll be terminated immediately without any compensation," Slocum said at a Dec. 13 press conference. "My coaches will have the exact same thing."

"We're not kidding about the direction we're going. We're serious about it. I hope we can speak to other people across the country and without blinking an eye, tell them exactly what we're going to be about at Texas A&M."

Since that time, Slocum has followed through on that promise by not rehiring two assistant coaches implicated in an NCAA investigation that resulted in A&M receiving penalties in September.

Offensive coordinator Joe Avezzano and receivers coach George Pugh will not be retained on Slocum's staff next season. Both coaches allegedly lied to NCAA investigators, paid players and offered recruits illegal enticements to attend A&M.

Slocum also did not retain strength and conditioning coach Keith Kephart. Earlier this year, Kephart's name surfaced in a Sports Illustrated article concerning the rampant use of steroids while he was coaching at the University of South Carolina.

Slocum has refused to detail specific reasons why the three coaches were not rehired. But at his Dec. 12 press conference, he had pledged not only to recruit the best players he can, but also to find coaches who will agree with his philosophies concerning football and ethics.

"I will evaluate the best combination of men who represent what I want as far as football, integrity and leadership," Slocum said. "I've coached 20 years at the major college level in three major conferences. I know coaches across the country. I know guys who can coach football, provide leadership and come in here and recruit football players by the rules. I know other good coaches I'm going to bring in — hopefully guys smarter than I am — to assist me."

Crow placed the integrity of the athletic department foremost on his list of priorities and said he wanted a return to the emphasis of an education for student athletes.

"I firmly believe we can go out and recruit fairly under the NCAA and SWC rules and be successful," Crow said at the press conference. "If that's the building integrity first and winning second, then that's the way we are."

"I firmly believe there's a place in intercollegiate athletics for student athletes. And that's what we want here — student athletes who want to get an education. I certainly think they can receive a great one here."

Slocum has been associated with A&M football for 16 of the past 17 years. His first stint at A&M began in 1972 as a defensive assistant coach, a position he held for eight years. In 1981, he moved to the University of Southern California where he was defensive coordinator of the top-ranked defense in the Pac-10 Conference. Slocum returned to A&M in 1982 as

the Aggies' defensive coordinator and engineered A&M's famed Wrecking Crew defenses. He was named assistant head coach in 1985.

Crow holds a spot in A&M lore as the school's and legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant's only Heisman Trophy winner. Crow won the award as the country's best collegiate player in 1957 when he rushed for 562 yards and led the Aggies to an 8-3 record and the Gator Bowl. That year, Crow also was an Academic All-American and earned collegiate Who's Who honors. He graduated from A&M in 1958 with a business administration degree.

Crow played 10 years in the National Football League, retiring in 1968. He returned to A&M in 1983 as associate athletic director.

Since settling his contract for approximately \$500,000 and resigning, Sherrill has yet to comment on the rash of recent allegations of NCAA rules violations.

A&M received a two-year probation from the NCAA Sept. 9 for various violations. Former A&M running back George Smith claimed in a Nov. 18 *Dallas Morning News* article that he received \$4,400 in "hush money" from Sherrill including one payment of \$500 Sept. 13. Smith later recanted his story, saying he lied to *Morning News* reporter Doug Bedell to enhance possible book sales and that Sherrill had simply loaned him the money he received.

Prior to Sherrill's resignation, rumors had been circulating around the A&M campus that if he were to leave, the University would pursue former A&M All-American linebacker and current University of Houston head coach Jack Pardee. But Mobley said that because of Slocum's character and philosophies, searching for a candidate outside the system was unnecessary.

"I have great confidence in Coach Slocum," Mobley said. "I think there's a need for stability and continuity. There's a great deal of uncertainty within the University. The fact that we had a strong internal candidate is all the better. We had a capable and quality individual available and I'm looking forward to working with him."

Because of the attention given to A&M's NCAA probation, its internal investigation into the George Smith incident and the coaching change, A&M has fallen behind in the recruiting race. Slocum has been asking all recruits to refrain from persecuting A&M until he has a chance to talk to them personally.

"We've asked players to withhold judgment and give us a fair shake," he said. "Give us a chance to get in your home, sit down and tell you what we're all about. And I hope we'll get enough of those players, and I think we will. I think this is a strong enough institution."

"As far as the integrity of the program, he (the recruit) will have to make a decision. I think I can go into a young man's home and look his parents and him in the eye and tell him what our direction is going to be at Texas A&M."

"That young man will have the opportunity to believe that R.C. Slocum is telling him the truth."

Although like Crow, ethical behavior is at the top of Slocum's goals, he also wants to be a winner on the field. Slocum said he has turned down head coaching jobs in the past because he wanted a position where he could win consistently. He said he believes A&M can remain a national football powerhouse.

"We can win and have good football teams," Slocum said. "It's my objective to be as good as anyone in the country. At the same time, I don't want to do that by sacrificing our integrity. It defeats the whole purpose if we're one of those teams and not one of those class programs."

"I will take my best shot at Texas A&M doing it that way. If it doesn't work that way, I'll ride off into the sunset. I'm not a big ego guy who's going to go jump off a cliff. The winning thing is not something that concerns me. We will win at Texas A&M, and we'll do it the right way."



Photo by Jay Janner

Jackie Sherrill, pictured here during the Dec. 1 game against Alabama at Kyle Field, resigned less than two weeks later amid allegations that he paid former player George Smith "hush money" to former player George Smith.

Faculty body backs Mobley just before Sherrill resigns

By Juliette Rizzo
Staff Writer

Less than an hour before Jackie Sherrill resigned Dec. 12, the Texas A&M Faculty Senate passed a resolution backing President William H. Mobley and his "complete authority to resolve current difficulties in the University's athletic program."

Meeting as a Committee of the Whole, a committee that hears the Senate's complaints and grievances, the Senate approved the resolution less than an hour before Jackie Sherrill resigned and was replaced by R.C. Slocum as head football coach.

The resolution started by Senator Jerome T. Kapes, professor of educational psychology, originally stated that the Senate gives President Mobley "the complete authority to take whatever action is necessary to seek resolution of the current difficulties in the Athletic Department and fully supports him in this matter."

The resolution was later amended after several senators suggested that they would not necessarily support just any action Mobley was to take in supporting Sherrill.

Also discussed at the meeting were the issues of bicycle safety on campus and a one-term summer session.

The Bicycle Safety Subcommittee of the Senate's Planning Committee discussed safety problems on campus involving the interaction of pedestrians with bicycles and other "motor-powered" vehicles such as motorcycles and scooters.

Some senators claimed the bicycle safety issue has been ignored in the past.

Senator Mark Busby, associate professor of English, proposed that separate pedestrian lanes and bicycle lanes be implemented on campus along with specific dismount areas.

Other senators supported the argument addressing the fact that

there are no defined bicycle lanes on campus and no rules publicly available concerning bicycle safety. The issue will be resubmitted to the Planning Committee who may consider a formal resolution to be submitted and approved at the Senate's next meeting.

The Academic Affairs Committee also moved to adopt a resolution for a one-term summer school session with "a schedule of classes in which there is only one summer session of a 10-week duration, nine weeks of which shall be devoted to classes and a tenth to final exams and graduation."

After a proposal for an 11-week session was verbally defeated, the Senate decided to return the 10-week resolution to committee for further review and discussion with various department heads.

Due to the holidays, the Senate has rescheduled its next meeting for Jan. 16.

'Stars' could bring stardom to long-overlooked Almond

By Chuck Lovejoy
Reviewer

Substantial commercial success is the one thing that has eluded British songwriter and vocalist Marc Almond.

Consistently praised by music critics for his superb songwriting ability, diverse stylistic range and distinctive voice, Almond is no newcomer to the music scene. But his latest album and first for Capitol Records, *The Stars We Are*, may be the catapult that launches him to his deserved stardom.

Almond began his musical career in the early 1980s as half of the British dance music duo Soft Cell. Best known for their offbeat dance hit "Tainted Love," Almond and Dave Ball, the duo's other half, accumulated a small but loyal following.

After the duo dissolved in 1984, Almond recorded the first of the seven albums bearing his name. Still, even though his music was acclaimed critically, the records never sold in the numerous quantities the record companies wanted them to.

Consistent commercial failure sent Almond label-hopping, and he released

four albums on four different record labels.

Following his departure from Virgin Records, Almond was signed by Capitol. In the interim he also released a book, "The Angel of Death in the Adonis Lounge," a collection of songs and verse written over the course of his career.

With songs ranging from melancholy introspection to dark descriptions of love affairs in Turkey, the partly autobiographical *The Stars We Are* once again shows Marc Almond to be a diverse musical talent.

Almond displays a surprisingly clear songwriting style throughout the album. Rather than cryptically describing his feelings, he digs deeply and tells the listener exactly what he is experiencing.

For instance, Almond describes his childhood, which is rumored to have been traumatic, on the somber title track and reveals his deepest hopes and wishes on "These My Dreams Are Yours."

"Bitter Sweet," one of the album's best tracks, likewise contains personal confessions from the artist. Almond writes, "I'm the crime and I'm the siren/ I'm a fighter in the ring of life."

On another song, "She Took My Soul

in Istanbul," a draining love affair is described: "And hell had never / Seemed so good / As when I lost my soul / Became a fool for love."

Other highlights of the album include the soft, inspirational "Only the Moment" and the driving "Tears Run Rings," the first single. On both songs Almond displays a clear vocal style and good range, accompanied with excellent musical arrangements.

A disappointing song on the album, however, is "Your Kisses Burn." Almond's duet with the late songbird Nico, vocalist for the Velvet Underground and Andy Warhol's protegee, Nico's growling vocals are almost indiscernible from Almond's, and the entire song sounds muddled. It is unfortunate that this song was the last Nico recorded before her death.

Despite this disappointment, the album as a whole remains a heartfelt, enjoyable look into the life of Almond. Although the record does not blaze any new musical paths, it does not regress into musical tedium; either. Hopefully for Almond it will mark his rightful place in the music industry.



Photo by Jay Janner

John David Crow, left, and R.C. Slocum meet the press as A&M's new athletic director and head football coach, respectively.

SCOTT & WHITE CLINIC, COLLEGE STATION
1600 University Drive East

<p>Audiology Richard L. Riess, Ph.D.</p> <p>Cardiology Dr. J. James Rohack</p> <p>Dermatology Dr. David D. Barton</p> <p>General Surgery Dr. Frank R. Arko Dr. Dirk L. Boysen</p> <p>Internal Medicine Dr. Valerie Chatham Dr. Alton Graham Dr. David Hackethorn Dr. Michael R. Schlabach</p> <p>Health Education Sally Seaggs, RD</p>	<p>Obstetrics/Gynecology Dr. James R. Meyer Dr. William L. Rayburn Dr. Charles W. Sanders</p> <p>Occupational Medicine Dr. Walter J. Linder</p> <p>Ophthalmology Dr. Mark R. Coffman</p> <p>Orthopedic Surgery Dr. Robert F. Hines</p> <p>Otolaryngology Dr. Michael J. Miller</p> <p>Pediatrics Dr. Dayne M. Foster</p>	<p>Dr. Mark Sicilio Dr. Dan Ransom</p> <p>Plastic Surgery Dr. William M. Cocke, Jr.</p> <p>Psychiatry Dr. Steven Kirk Strawn</p> <p>Psychology Dr. Jack L. Bodden</p> <p>Radiology Dr. Luis Canales</p> <p>Urology Dr. Michael R. Hermans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*Available November 1988</p>
--	--	--

Scott and White specialists work with your doctor to provide high quality health care for you and your family.

Call 268-3322 For Appointment

RRR2

BECKER CPA REVIEW

OUR PASSING RATE IS 70% IN 95 cities throughout the nation.

Send to: 15760 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 1101, Encino, CA 91436
or use our convenient toll-free number: (800) 423-2470

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____

Phone: (____) _____

**FOR YOUR FREE INVITATION TO THE FIRST CLASSES
125,000 BECKER CPA ALUMNI
HAVE PASSED THE LAST PART OF THE CPA EXAM SINCE 1957**