

The Battalion



WEATHER

FORECAST for SATURDAY: Cloudy and warm with a 30 percent chance of severe thunderstorms. Colder Sunday. See severe weather tips on page 7.

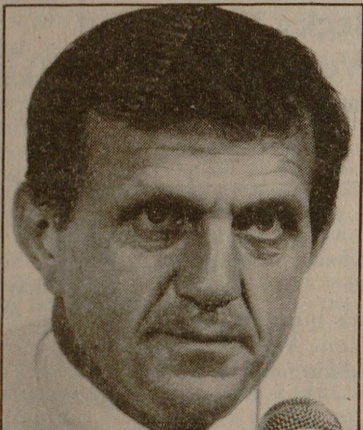
HIGH:71

LOW:52

A&M pays Sherrill \$684,000 to settle contract

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Jackie Sherrill

Texas A&M paid Jackie Sherrill \$684,000 as part of a contract settlement when he resigned as athletic director and head football coach, according to documents released Thursday.

The amount represents more than two years of Sherrill's salary under his previous five-year contract with A&M, according to a statement released with copies of his termination agreement.

The funds were paid from revenues generated by A&M's athletic program, the statement said.

Sherrill resigned Dec. 12 amid a controversy involving charges that he made improper payments to former A&M football player George Smith.

University officials released copies of his termination contract after Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox

ruled last week that it was a public document under the state's Open Records Act.

The documents stated Sherrill was to be paid more than \$1.6 mil-

lion under his now-canceled five-year contract.

He was to get \$327,120 per year plus other benefits each year of his contract.

He was to receive \$185,120 per year for services as athletic director and head football coach, and was to

be paid \$142,000 per year for participating in media programs such as "The Jackie Sherrill Show" on KAMU-TV.

The termination contract also gave Sherrill full ownership rights to his College Station home.

A&M paid \$150,000 toward the purchase of the residence as part of its previous contract with Sherrill, said Robert Smith, vice president of finance and administration.

The property was valued at \$195,540 in 1988, according to the Brazos County appraisal office.

To fulfill his part of the termination contract, Sherrill was re-

quired to return all automobiles, credit cards, club membership cards and other property that was provided for his use by the University.

The contract states Sherrill must cooperate with the NCAA and A&M in investigations involving the Athletic Department.

A&M officials initially refused to release the document to the media, saying privacy rights and a confidentiality clause in the contract prohibited them from making it public.

Four media organizations then requested the information under the Texas freedom-of-information laws.

The organizations seeking the documents were the Bryan-College Station Eagle, the Dallas Morning News, the Dallas Times Herald, and WFAA-TV of Fort Worth.

The attorney general ordered the University to release the contract on Feb. 23, saying its contents "are not sufficiently intimate or embarrass-

ing" to be classified as private.

He also said governmental bodies may not use confidentiality clauses to withhold public information.

University officials had agreed to release the contract on Wednesday morning, but delayed until Thursday afternoon at the request of Sherrill's attorney.

Sherrill returned to College Station Wednesday, but did not seek a court order to stop the contract's release.

The controversy leading to Sherrill's resignation began when the Dallas Morning News reported that former A&M football player George Smith said Sherrill paid him about \$1,400 to keep quiet about alleged NCAA violations in the early 1980s.

The next day, Smith, reading from a prepared statement, recanted his story at an A&M press conference, saying he lied to the Morning News reporter to make money on a book.

A lengthy investigation of the incident by A&M concluded that Sherrill did not violate any NCAA regulations.

A&M reported that Sherrill paid money to Smith, but said it uncovered no evidence that it was "hush money."

The investigation did little to deter negative publicity surrounding the events.

A few weeks later, Sherrill resigned, saying it was best for the football team.

Sherrill has refused to comment on the charges.

The A&M athletic program was placed on probation for two years Sept. 9 because of 25 NCAA rules infractions.

A&M also was barred from post-season appearance last season and lost five scholarships and 15 campus-recruiting trips for the 1988-89 school year because of the infractions.

Bill would increase funds for A&M fireman school

By Richard Tijerina

STAFF WRITER

Relief for Bryan-College Station fire departments and the Texas A&M Fireman's Training School could be on the way if a proposed bill currently in the State Legislature is passed.

The bill, called the Fire Department Emergency Fund, is designed to meet the most pressing need of the Texas fire service — the lack of money for equipment and training.

The proposed legislation would create a state fund that would come from one percent of the fire and allied lines insurance premiums in Texas. Allied lines include emergency situations that fire departments respond to in addition to fire, such as floods, hurricanes and tornadoes.

The bill was created by FIREPAC, a political action committee associated with the State Firemen's and Fire Marshalls' Association.

Dennis Borel, controller for the association, expects the bill to be voted on before the current Legislature's session ends on May 31. If passed, Texas voters will vote on the bill in the fall.

Borel said the A&M Fireman's Training School and the local economy would benefit if the bill is passed because it would attract more trainees to the training program.

"It will certainly benefit the training school, and it will benefit Bryan-College Station as well by pumping in more money into the local econ-

omy," Borel said. "There can be no doubt the number of students who would be able to go to the training school would go up quite a bit."

"It is the top training place in the state of Texas and in the country. We can get more firefighters in Texas to take advantage of the program (if we could get more funding.)"

Charles Page, head of the A&M Fire and Protection Training Program, said the bill would not only benefit the local fire departments, but departments statewide as well.

"It certainly could have an impact locally, and we anticipate it would be an assist to the fire school," Page said. "If we had 10 percent of the fund, we probably could get into every department in the state once every two years with a 15 hour training course."

"That's a very minimal amount of training, but there's over 1,800 departments in the state right now with only nine extension instructors, so it takes a while to get around."

Borel said the fund would consist of \$28 million per year and it would be dispersed to the fire departments based on need. If the bill is passed, the Legislature will set up a board to determine who will obtain the funds.

Page hopes the bill will provide necessary funding to hire more instructors for the training school, although he said he isn't sure whether the wording of the legislation would allow it.

"I have no guarantee that (providing funding for more personnel) would happen," Page said. "The bill as it's written now says the board can

make money available for training. We are hearing rumors that portions of that would be used to supplement the program we have."

However, the Bryan and College Station fire departments, which are basically self-supporting, would not necessarily meet the funding criteria the Board determines, Steve Yates, the assistant fire chief for College Station, said.

"I don't think it's designed and set up for us," Yates said. "I don't think we would qualify. I'm sure there will be certain criteria you'd have to meet, and because we have an operating budget and the capabilities of selling bonds and raising funds, I'm not sure how much money from that particular fund will be available to a municipal organization."

Borel said the bill was introduced because fire protection in Texas has fallen behind that of other states, including New Mexico, which passed similar legislation in 1982.

"There's a real need out there," he said. "We came across a program in New Mexico which is like this legislation. They have been extremely successful. They now have well-equipped fire protection in every community in the state."

Along with improved fire protection, New Mexico also enjoys a reduction in insurance claims throughout the state and a decrease in insurance premiums by 30 percent, he said.

Borel said although those that need funding the most will be the

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Photo by Kathy Haveman

Chuckling 'Chipmunk'

Kyle Kmiec, 3, (left), and his brother Kevin, 4, from Chappell Hill, Tx., play by Rudder Com-

plex while waiting for their mother, who is planning to become an A&M student.

U.S. soldier vanishes close to East Germany; investigators baffled

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — The U.S. Army said Thursday it is baffled by the disappearance of a "good, clean-cut" American soldier who had access to classified information and vanished near the East German border.

An Army spokesman, Lt. Col. Jake Dye, said not enough information is available to say if Spec. 4 Michael A. Peri defected. Dye acknowledged a portable computer was missing from an intelligence office where Peri worked.

Peri, of Laguna Niguel, Calif., has been listed as "absent without leave" since he failed to show up for work Feb. 21 at the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fulda, 65 miles northeast of Frankfurt.

Two days later, officials searching for Peri found his U.S. Army vehicle undamaged near the border town of Obersuhl, about 35 miles northeast of Fulda.

"Peri was authorized to drive the vehicle and had logged it out properly," Dye said.

Stars and Stripes, the Army's unofficial newspaper, quoted Dye as saying "the circumstances of that vehicle being found so close to the border are definitely suspicious."

Dye told the Associated Press later the newspaper was putting it

"a little too strongly," but he didn't deny making the statement.

Peri worked as an electronics warfare signal specialist and was responsible for operating equipment that identifies and locates non-communications signals, such as radar. He has been stationed in West Germany since March 4, 1988.

Asked about the possibility Peri defected, Dye said, "We certainly have no reason to believe that. There were no signs of distress according to his colleagues and family. We just don't have any indications."

Peri had an "active normal social life" and a "perfect record as a good clean-cut soldier," Dye said.

"In fact, he had been promoted and nominated for 'Soldier of the Month' twice in the year he has been here," Dye added. "That's what makes it so baffling. From all indications, everybody in his unit has the same feelings. They're all very surprised."

Dye confirmed the Stars and Stripes report that a portable computer was missing from the office where Peri had worked. But Dye said Peri "had not progressed very far in computers."

Better resource management can end world hunger, A&M professor says

By Kelly S. Brown

STAFF WRITER

A young boy stands on a dirt road, his age is hard to tell — his matchstick figure and long, drawn face make him look about 8, but the desperate look in his eyes adds 50 years.

Beside him is an obviously healthy boy and his smiling mother. This boy probably has eaten in one day what the other boy consumes in one month.

What separates the two boys is several inches on a screen. They are part of a slide presentation about the rights and well-being of children shown Thursday at the International Week Forum.

Dr. Harry Cralle, a professor of soil and crop science, presented the slide show, emphasizing the need to utilize the resources we have now to help starving children.

Cralle held his own baby boy in his arms during most of the speech. "My grandfather brought my father everywhere, my father brought me everywhere, and I learned a great deal, so I'm continuing the process," he said.

Cralle said the family is not what it used to be.

He said the world is missing a cohesiveness in terms of the family, and children are hurt because of it.

Children around the globe are suffering for many reasons, Cralle said.

"We have enough resources and ingenuity to save a lot of children," he said. "But until we find better ways of managing what we have, the misery of malnutrition will continue."

He said 40 million children are starving in the streets of the world while food is all around them.

"Poverty is what causes the hunger," Cralle said. "Too many people don't get any health care, have any family, or even have enough water to survive."

After Cralle kicked off the forum sponsored by the International Students Association, the audience broke up into eight round-table discussion groups before listening to a speech by the regional manager of UNICEF, Richard Mark Kimberley.

Kimberley said the means to help malnourished children is within our grasp.

"But we haven't reached out and seized it," he said. "The medical network in many countries is no longer working because clinics don't have the supplies to function, and this has cost many lives."

Dehydration from bacteria diarrhea kills five million people a year, he said.

"A solution that costs 10 cents a package could treat the patient — this remedy was discovered years ago, but the people dying of it just aren't getting it or any other kind of care they need," Kimberley said.

Polio, a disease eradicated 20

years ago in America, is paralyzing three million people around the world today, he said.

"UNICEF is making a difference though," he said. "The war in El Salvador has been essentially stopped three different times so 20,000 volunteers could go in to immunize the country."

Strides are being made and progress is felt, Kimberley said, but the prize is being snapped out of their hands.

"Since 1982 the world population has doubled," he said. "The num-

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FDIC assumes control of twelve Texas thrifts

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Twelve Texas thrifts, including eight in San Antonio with more than \$5 billion in assets, were among 37 thrifts nationwide placed under federal management by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Thursday, officials said.

Those 37 bring to 73 the number of troubled savings and loan associations now under federal management.

The 12 in Texas transferred to federal control on Thursday brings to 15 the total of thrifts in the Lone Star State being managed by a federal oversight committee.

The eight San Antonio thrifts whose management was transferred Thursday was the most for any one city in one day, federal officials said.

Other Texas thrifts now being managed by an oversight committee include one each in Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Kingsville and Kerrville. Three other thrifts earlier were placed under federal management.

George Barclay, president and principal supervisory agent of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board of Dallas, said the thrifts will run as they always have, but now federal officials will work to conserve assets and preserve services to deposit and loan customers.

Although the FDIC regulates commercial banks, it began on Feb. 7 to take over the 220 shakiest S&Ls in preparation for the regulatory reorganization proposed by President Bush.