



Board interference upset Mobley, paper says

Eagle reports president almost quit over meddling in Sherrill investigation

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Battalion file photo

William Mobley

Texas A&M President William Mobley was on the verge of resigning last November because of what he felt was interference by former Board of Regents Chairman David Eller into his investigation of Jackie Sherrill, the *Bryan-College Station Eagle* reported Sunday.

The *Eagle*, basing its story on anonymous "sources close to the administration and to the regents," also said several regents discussed firing Mobley because he insisted on pursuing the Sherrill investigation.

Tensions between the two intensified in December because Mobley decided Sherrill must resign or be fired, the paper reported.

Eller said Sunday he had no differences with President Mobley. He said he had not read the *Eagle's* story and, therefore, could not comment on its accuracy. President Mob-

ley could not be reached for comment Sunday.

A spokesman for the *Eagle* said its story is accurate, and its sources are knowledgeable. He said the sources requested anonymity for fear of reprisals.

The *Eagle* reported that Mobley typed out a letter of resignation the morning of Nov. 21, after newspapers reported statements by Eller that contradicted his own.

The statements were related to accusations made by former A&M football player George Smith that Sherrill had paid him "hush money." Smith retracted his statements at a press conference set by A&M Nov. 19.

The next day, Mobley told reporters he would continue investigating the accusations against Sherrill.

The same day in a separate interview, Eller told reporters he didn't think there was any reason to continue investigating Sherrill.

Mobley apparently was prepared to turn in his resignation at the Board of Regents' bimonthly meeting, the *Eagle* story said.

But Chancellor Perry Adkisson persuaded Mobley to delay his resignation until a compromise could be

attempted with the regents, the paper reported.

A compromise was reached, the paper said, and a statement was released in which Mobley and Eller expressed complete support for each other, saying earlier statements were contradictory because they were interviewed separately.

Mobley continued his investigation, the paper reported, and hired a firm of private investigators to look into Sherrill's conduct.

After the investigation, the *Eagle* said, Mobley decided Sherrill must go. The paper said Mobley wanted to buy out Sherrill's contract by paying him off for only one year.

Sherrill is reported to have been willing to accept a buyout, but only for his entire five-year contract, which would have cost A&M about \$1.6 million.

Tensions continued between Mobley and Eller, the paper reported. It stated that Mobley apparently was angry his administration

was being hampered by the Sherrill controversy, and was upset by questions over who was in control of the University.

But some regents also were upset that Mobley would challenge them, the *Eagle* stated.

In the regents' box at Kyle Field during the Dec. 1 A&M-Alabama game, the paper reported, some regents debated whether to fire Mobley because of his insistence on investigating Sherrill. One regent is quoted as saying, "Maybe we should fire Mobley."

Regents Eller and William McKenzie decided at that time to meet with Mobley on Dec. 8, the paper said.

At the meeting, which included Regent Douglas De Cluijt at Mobley's request, the president kept his stance and said he would try to fire Sherrill for failing to perform his duties as athletic director if he did not accept a contract buyout, the *Eagle* reported.

Under Sherrill's contract, the only reasons he could be fired were an intentional breach of NCAA regulations that resulted in TAMU being put on probation for more than three years or resulted in A&M losing its television appearance rights for more than three years.

Last September, A&M was put on probation for two years.

Sherrill also could be dismissed for becoming physically or mentally disabled.

The *Eagle* reported that Mobley would have tried to dismiss Sherrill on the basis of another part of the contract, which states:

"His duties as Athletic Director shall consist of the following: 1. Administer all athletic programs and insure that all appropriate rules, regulations, policies, etc. are adhered to . . ."

A compromise was eventually worked out, and Sherrill resigned Dec. 12.

Newspaper says Iran kidnapped Kuwaiti royalty

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Iran's navy hijacked an Arab tycoon's yacht with five members of Kuwait's royal family and four Britons aboard and was holding them for ransom, news reports said Sunday.

Government information officers in Kuwait, Bahrain and other gulf states said they had no information about the incident, which reportedly occurred Thursday.

Independent Television News in Britain quoted diplomatic sources in Kuwait as saying the four Britons are young women who were aboard the 82-foot yacht, owned by Kuwait's al-Sabah royal family.

The report said the yacht apparently was seized for ransom after it strayed into a sensitive area near Iran's northern Farsi island.

It said officials leaked information to the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Anbaa* because Iran's Revolutionary Guards are demanding a ransom and negotiations between Kuwait and Iran are going badly.

Al-Anbaa first reported the story, saying the yacht had come from France and docked briefly at Bahrain, before leaving Thursday. Six hours after it sailed for Kuwait, a distress signal was picked up, said the paper.

Officials at a Bahrain yacht club said their registers showed a distress signal issued Thursday.

A man speaking English with an Arabic accent said, "My yacht is burning. What can I do?" according to a club official.

In London, Britain's foreign office said it was the first it had heard of the report.



False start

Cindy Wells pulls back her son, Cole Jordan Wells, who tried to get a head start on the other participants at an Easter Egg Hunt

sponsored by MSC Hospitality. The event was held Saturday afternoon at Hensel Park in Bryan.

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Pope offers Easter wishes from Rome

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Sunday offered Easter wishes in 55 languages to a world he said was driven toward self-destruction, and the Roman Catholic patriarch in Jerusalem blamed politicians for violence in the Holy Land.

The patriarch, Michel Sabah, made his comments before pilgrims at Easter Mass in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site where Christians believe Jesus was resurrected.

Elsewhere Sunday, shells and rockets pounded Beirut as Lebanese Christians commemorated Easter, and in Afghanistan, about 30 members of the dwindling Western community gathered for services.

In Czechoslovakia, Christians called for the pope to visit the communist nation and in the Soviet Union many Masses were celebrated for the first time in years.

About 180,000 faithful crowded the Vatican's St. Peter's Square for John Paul's message commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In his 20-minute speech in Italian, the pope decried religious persecution, exploitation of women, degeneration of family life, sectarian strife and lack of concern for the environment.

Earlier Sunday, the pope, squinting in the warm spring sun, held a Mass on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

Calling Easter the new Passover, a reference to the Old Testament account of the miraculous rescue of the Jews in Egypt, the pope said, "God passes where there do not exist conditions worthy of a truly human life."

Tanker accident causes nation's largest oil spill

VALDEZ, Alaska (AP) — Millions of gallons of crude oil spilled when a tanker ran aground, spread across a wildlife-rich area of ocean Saturday while

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crews briefly tried to pump out some of the oil remaining in the ship's holds.

The biggest oil spill in U.S. history created a slick 8 miles long and 3-and-a-half miles wide in Prince William Sound. The Coast Guard said only Reef Island and the western edge of Bligh Island had been touched by the slick.

The effect on wildlife had not yet been assessed but commercial fishermen who depend on the sound for a catch worth millions of dollars were outraged and said a key herring spawning area had been polluted.

"The whole food chain could be affected by the spill," Alan Reichman, ocean ecology coordinator for the environmental group Greenpeace, said in Seattle.

"There's a high concentration of sea otter, waterfowl, sea birds and pink salmon in that area," Steve Goldstein, a spokesman for the Interior Department in Washington, said. "Some birds have already died, and we are doing our best to try to save the fish by containing the oil to the area where it presently is and by

trying to skim it." Some 270,000 barrels — or 11.3 million gallons — of crude oil from Alaska's North Slope spilled early Friday when the 987-foot tanker Exxon Valdez ran hard aground on Bligh Reef, about 25 miles outside Valdez, where it had taken on a total cargo of 1.2 million barrels.

Pumping operations to transfer some of the remaining oil from the Exxon Valdez to another tanker started early Saturday, but were halted after about an hour, the Coast Guard said.

Coast Guard Lt. Ed Wieliczkievicz said he was unsure why the pumping was stopped.

Exxon wants to pump 200,000 barrels of the stricken ship's cargo onto the Exxon Baton Rouge, in hopes that would remove enough weight to let the ship float free of the jagged reef, said Tom Cirigliano, a spokesman for Exxon Shipping Co. Inc. He said the unloading would continue for a number of days.

The Port of Valdez remained closed to tanker traffic. North Slope crude oil is shipped 800 miles through the trans-Alaska oil pipeline from Prudhoe Bay south to Valdez for shipment aboard tankers to refineries outside Alaska.

The Coast Guard said the Exxon Valdez struck the reef when it maneuvered outside normal tanker traffic lanes to avoid icebergs.

Students take care in allocating service fees

By Sharon Maberry

STAFF WRITER

Every Texas A&M student pays a student service fee each semester, but most people don't know where their money is going.

Student service fees help fund campus organizations or programs that potentially benefit all students. It's the Senate Finance Committee's job to distribute the money.

The current student service fee of \$67 per semester will increase to \$73 next fall. Four-year Finance Committee member Guy Diedrich said the \$6 increase is necessary because A&M fees have not risen with inflation.

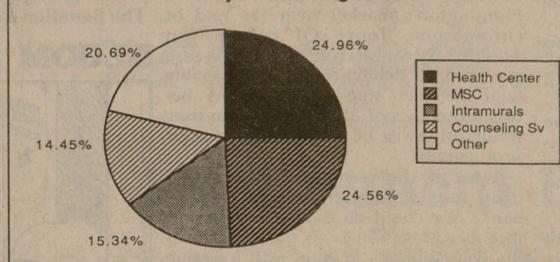
"We've been amazingly conservative," Diedrich said of the Committee's 1989-90 recommendations. "Since I've been here, fees have gone from \$65 to \$67. For the student service fees to go up only \$8 in four years is, I think, phenomenal."

"We were told this year that a 7 percent increase would bring us (A&M) up to standards. Essentially, our increases were responsible. Many of the groups applying for money didn't get everything they asked for. Maybe next year they can hire that half-time secretary or extra graduate student, but to hit students with any more than a \$6 increase would be too much."

Finance Committee Chairman Michael Lister said A&M's fee is among the lowest in the state.

"According to state legislation, student service fees can't be more than \$90 per semester, although they're attempting to increase that to \$120," Lister said. "Many Texas schools are at \$90."

Recommended Student Service Fee Allocation Major Funding Areas



This year, 18 budgets were sent before the Finance Committee for consideration. Each budget was assigned to a committee member who researched the requests to determine if they were justified.

"We audited the 18 budgets and gave detailed and responsible recommendations on where these funds should go and how much they should be," Diedrich said. "Now, our budget report goes to the administration for approval."

"In the past, the administration has almost always gone exactly by our recommendation. This system keeps the huge bureaucracies that student services are becoming responsible and in check."

According to the Finance Committee Budget Report, \$5,799,385 from student service fees are recommended for allocation to those organizations and programs offering services to all students for the 1990

fiscal year. Diedrich said the committee cut more than \$1,350,000 from the 18 budgets' original requests.

"If we had given everyone what they wanted, the fee would have been \$94," Diedrich said. "We determined that \$73 could be allocated this year. That's what's necessary for those (student service) groups to properly function and provide their services."

The following is a list of the Finance Committee's recommended funding for different organizations:

- A.P. Beutel Health Center — \$1,422,450.
- MSC — \$1,424,196.
- Intramurals — \$889,402.
- Student Counseling Service — \$837,983.
- Student Activities — \$371,570.
- Intra-Campus Bus Operations — \$178,690.
- Students' Attorney — \$133,397.

- Multicultural Service Center — \$127,659.
- International Students' Association — \$114,226.
- Extramurals — \$62,236.
- Student Government Association — \$58,265.
- Center for Drug Prevention & Education — \$46,062.
- Student Publications — \$39,000.
- Study Abroad — \$23,912.
- University Art Exhibits — \$22,680.
- Student Handbook — \$14,550.
- Graduate Student Council — \$8,103.

Of the 18 groups requesting funds, only one was denied. The Texas Aggie Band requested \$110,000, but the committee agreed that funding for the band should come from resources other than the student service fee.

All other groups, except the Graduate Student Council, traditionally have been funded by the student service fee. This is the first year the Council has requested funds.

"We're getting more and more graduate students each year," Lister said. "They're paying the student service fee just like everyone else, but they have different needs from undergraduate students."

"The average age of graduate students is 28. Many of them are married and are interested in things such as tax and insurance seminars and child day care. We can't deny them money from the student service fee because their needs are justified."

Apart from the financial recommendations, the Finance Committee

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