

The Battalion



WEATHER

FORECAST for WEDNESDAY:
Morning clouds giving way to a mostly sunny, warm and humid afternoon.

HIGH:86

LOW:63

Wright charged with 69 House ethics violations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House ethics committee, with Democrats and Republicans united, formally charged Speaker Jim Wright Monday with 69 violations of the chamber's rules including what the panel's chairman called "a scheme to evade" limits on outside earnings.

After a 10-month, \$1.5 million investigation, the committee of six Democrats and six Republicans voted unanimously to issue a report finding "reason to believe" the Texas Democrat had run afoul of House rules requiring reporting of gifts, barring acceptance of gifts from persons with a direct interest in legislation and limiting outside earned income.

"I know in my heart I have not violated any of the rules of that institution," Wright said in a speech to a labor meeting shortly after the ethics report was released.

He said he had asked "urgently and earnestly" for a quick meeting

with the committee to confront the allegations directly.

At a news conference, committee chairman Rep. Julian Dixon, D-Calif., emphasized that Wright is presumed innocent until the charges are proven, and he underscored that proving them requires a much higher weight of evidence than the step taken Monday, which is the panel's equivalent of an indictment.

The move set in motion a series of steps in which Wright can defend himself and the panel must prove with "clear and convincing" evidence that the violations occurred. That is likely ultimately to throw the matter before the full House, where Wright's position as the nation's highest elected Democrat, or even his House seat, could be on the line.

Wright immediately began his defense in earnest, operating what one supporter, Rep. Charles Wilson, D-Texas, called "a war room" out of his office. "At some point we've got to

start figuring out who's on our side and who's on the other side," Wilson said.

Wilson predicted Wright would win on the floor, "losing a few cowardly Democrats and picking up some brave Republicans."

The most serious allegation against Wright, that he accepted some \$145,000 in gifts over a 10-year period from George Mallick, a Fort Worth developer, also had the narrowest margin of support on the ethics committee.

According to records of internal committee votes released along with the report of the panel's special outside counsel, Chicago attorney Richard J. Phelan, Democrats Chester Atkins of Massachusetts and Bernard Dwyer of New Jersey joined the six committee Republicans for an 8 to 4 margin on that issue.

The panel agreed with its counsel, Phelan, that Mallick's major interests in real estate and oil and gas ven-



Battalion file photo

House Speaker Jim Wright

Constituents offer varied opinions about violations

FORT WORTH (AP) — Residents of the town that proudly boasts it is "where the West begins" are known for expressing blunt opinions. But when it comes to the ethics investigation of House Speaker Jim Wright, the opinions about the hometown representative fall on both sides of the political spectrum.

The House Ethics Committee announced on Monday that the investigation is moving into a more formal phase with public hearings. Not only will there be public testimony to the charges, but Wright also will have an opportunity to respond to what the committee said were 69 violations of the official rules of conduct.

But the verdict in Wright's hometown remains deadlocked.

"I think he's guilty and they ought to hang him — just like (former Sen. John) Tower," businessman Gary Dempsey said. "They use everything that everybody else does to keep

them out of office. But other people can do things and get away with them.

"I'm not sure how it will end, but I would be surprised if it got him out of office," Dempsey said.

"I think he's guilty," said Tish Lucas, a Housing and Urban Development employee in Fort Worth. "Any time a woman takes \$18,000 a year and a Cadillac when she's living in Washington, D.C., when the jobs are here — that doesn't make sense."

But others staunchly defended the 34-year congressman.

"Really, the type of things that he's done don't bother me that much," Mara Hoyler, an employee of Texas Cycling Journal in Fort Worth, said. "What bothers me is if they're going to do (such an investigation) with him, they should do it to everyone."

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Preregistered students will receive hangtags by mail for parking

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M students who order parking permits through preregistration will have to stand in one fewer line in the fall thanks to a new parking policy.

Tom Williams, director of parking and transit services, said A&M will mail all non-parking garage permits with fee slips to students who preregister. The University also will switch from stickers to hang tag permits, he said.

Spaces in the Northside parking garage must be renewed by May 12 for the 1989-90 year. After a space is lost, names will go back on the over 1,100-person waiting list for spaces, Williams said.

Permits for parking garage spaces must be picked up between July 17 and Sept. 15.

Parking fees will not change from the 1988-89 school year, he said.

A&M issued around 5,000 tags on a limited basis for the 1988-89 school year to test the hang tag system, Williams said. He said theft of the tags has not been a problem.

"We've had a few lost or reported stolen, but the problem has not been large enough to discourage us from going to the hang tag system," he said.

Williams said because the hang tag can be moved from car to car, students and faculty will no longer be required to fill out registration forms for their vehicle.

"With the hang tag process we don't need to register each car," he said. "The tag goes with the person, not with the car."

Williams said the tags will be assigned to the last vehicle registered in that person's name. Incoming students do not preregister so they will not be affected, he said.

All permits go into effect Aug. 28.



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Brick-a-brak

Senior Anthony Eppolito, an accounting major from Sugarland, talks to a friend through the spaces in the wall surrounding the All-Faiths

Chapel Monday afternoon. The clouds early in the day didn't stop students from enjoying the moderate temperatures and breezes.

MBA degrees pay dividends to recipients

NEW YORK (AP) — They may be satirized in cartoons and criticized by their peers, but MBAs — men and women holding the master of business administration degree — are pervading the big business scene.

While most of them still can be found at the division manager level, more and more are making it all the way to the presidency or chairmanship.

Their influence is spreading laterally, too. Once found in finance jobs, they now serve in every functional area, including manufacturing, sales and marketing. They are displacing psychology majors in personnel departments. And they have made deep inroads into the steel, automotive and chemical industries, which in the past weren't known as especially promising areas for MBAs.

They are now a critical mass, exerting power and influence throughout corporate life and tending to hire even more MBAs. Noting the need and the interest, the nation's universities are doing their best to maintain a supply.

"No degree program in the past two decades has grown faster than the MBA," Eugene Jennings, professor of business management at Michigan State University, said.

Research by Jennings, who pioneered studies of corporate mobility patterns in the late 1940s and wrote "The Mobile Manager," suggests a large industrial company is three times more likely to be headed by an MBA than was so a decade ago.

Between 1981 and 1986, he found, MBAs made up 9 percent of new employees with college degrees. At the supervisory level their representation was double that. And at the even higher division level it was triple.

UT graduates will picket system headquarters

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Graduate student leaders at the University of Texas in Austin plan to picket the UT System headquarters today to protest what they say are inadequate efforts by the administration to restore funding for graduate employee health benefits.

This protest is part of a controversy that has been steaming at UT since February 1988 when the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board declared illegal the state insurance benefits being paid to about

3,500 graduate employees in the UT and University of Houston systems.

Texas A&M does not provide health benefits for its graduate employees.

Nancy Jeffrey, interim chairman of the newly organized Graduate Professional Association at UT, said they are angry because they discovered that UT System Chancellor Hans Mark has not made an effort to get funding for the benefits into the state appropriations bill.

UT has been paying its graduate employees an extra \$115 per month to substitute for the lost health benefits. However, the supplement will

end August 31. Other schools in the UT and UH systems have been providing similar supplements.

Erik Devereux, former secretary of the UT Graduate Council, said the health premiums were declared illegal because of changes made in the state insurance code in 1983 that made participation in the teacher retirement system mandatory in order to be eligible for health benefits.

But graduate employees had gotten out of the teacher retirement system in 1977, he said, because most didn't work at universities long enough for it to pay off. They were able to keep more of their income by

not paying into the system, he said.

"As far as we can tell, the persons who helped with the 1983 changes in the law never anticipated the effect of these changes on graduate student's eligibility for insurance benefits," Devereux said.

Legislation pending in the state Senate and House would make the health benefit payments legal again, but they provide no funding.

The Senate passed its appropriations bill Wednesday, but no funding for the health benefits was included. The House appropriations bill also does not include any fund-

ing for the benefits.

A legislative aid for Sen. Kent Caperton, a Bryan Democrat and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said it would be "difficult, if not impossible" to get the funding included before the state appropriations bill is sent to the governor.

At another rally April 11, leaders of the UT Graduate Student Council resigned en masse because they were not told earlier that promised summer salary supplements would not be given to graduate employees who didn't work during the summer.

New warrants issued in drug-ring killings

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Three new U.S. federal arrest warrants were issued Monday with one man taken into custody in the expanding international investigation of an occult-influenced drug ring believed responsible for the deaths of 15 people found the past week in Mexico.

Arrested Monday in Houston was Serafin Hernandez Rivera Sr., of Brownsville, son of Brigid Hernandez, who owns the Santa Elena Ranch near Matamoros, Mexico, where the group reportedly performed human sacrifices.

Also named in the new warrants were Martin Quintana and Malio Fabio, two Mexican citizens believed to have participated in the sacrificial slaying and mutilation of University of Texas student Mark Kilroy, said Oran Neck, chief U.S. Customs agent in Brownsville. The two remained at large Monday, and are considered dangerous, he said.

"Anybody that's involved in human sacrifices either directly or indirectly ought to be feared," Neck said, adding that Fabio and Quintana also are wanted on the same drug charges as Hernandez.

Across the border in Matamoros, federal Mexican charges against four men in custody in the case were delayed Monday after the discovery of two bodies Sunday near the ranch where 13 mutilated corpses were found buried last week.

Hernandez is the father of Serafin Her-

nandez Garcia, 20, and is the brother of Elio Hernandez Rivera, 22.

Elio Hernandez is considered one of the top cult figures, Mexican authorities said. Both Elio and Serafin Jr. were in custody in Matamoros.

Serafin Sr. is not believed to have been involved in the cult activity, only in drugs, officials said.

Neck said the Hernandez family has a long history of drug-smuggling activity.

Saul Hernandez Rivera, brother of Serafin Sr. and Elio Hernandez, was machine-gunned to death last year in Mexico, in what Mexican officials attributed to a drug-related execution, Neck said.

Neck also said the search for Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo, 26, and Sara Maria Aldrete, 24, believed to be the cult ring leaders, has shifted back to Mexico with information that they traveled to Mexico City with the intention of going to Miami from there.

"There might be one or two other subjects

with them," Neck said, declining to discuss the information further.

The three new warrants brings to 11 the number of federal U.S. warrants issued, but only Serafin Hernandez Rivera Sr. was in custody in the United States.

Four were in custody in Mexico and six remained at large Monday.

Two bodies of suspected drug traffickers missing since May were unearthed Sunday on a collective farm two miles south of the Rancho Santa Elena. The newly discovered victims, Moises Castillo, 52, of Houston, and Hector de la Fuente, 39, of Ejido San Francisco, west of Matamoros, did not appear tortured or mutilated like the other victims, officials said.

Castillo's father, Hidalgo, 76, of Brownsville, said he found \$70, a pair of eyeglasses and a passport in his son's pocket when he unearthed the bodies.

Castillo disappeared on May 30, 1988, the same day de la Fuente dropped out of sight,

officials said.

Castillo said he first suspected his missing son might be at Ejido Santa Librada after children told him they saw something suspicious there while rabbit-hunting.

"They said, 'Look over there. There's a hand sticking out of the ground,'" Castillo said.

But Castillo added that he avoided digging it up until after the 13 bodies were discovered last week at Rancho Santa Elena, about a mile south of the border and 20 miles west of Matamoros.

"I was afraid the police might detain me," said Castillo, who feared that he somehow might be arrested if he told anyone about the body.

Formal Mexican federal charges were to have been filed Monday against four men in custody here, but the new deaths complicated the case, said Jose Piedad Silva Arroyo, Mexico's chief federal narcotics investigator for northeastern Tamaulipas state.

Silva said authorities Monday were considering adding the latest victims' deaths to murder, kidnapping, drug and weapons charges already pending against the four suspects.

"It's a big case, not simple, and there are a lot of details to attend to before we take them before the court," Silva said.

The two new victims were drug traffickers somehow involved with the cult, authorities said.

"Anybody that's involved in human sacrifices either directly or indirectly ought to be feared."

— Oran Neck, customs agent