

# Agency says Williams killed endangered animals on trip

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — In different ways, just about everyone touched by Republican gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams' sheep hunt in China last year wants to tan some hides.

Williams, Class of '54, and his wife Modesta are waiting for the sheepskins to come back from the tannery. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service alleges the Williamses killed an endangered species. And U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton thinks some wildlife service officials mishandled the whole affair.

It took a recent order from Bunton to secure permission to send the Williams' two hides to be preserved at a furrier's in San Francisco, where four skins were confiscated in April 1988 as the Williamses and two other big-game hunters returned from China.

Fish and Wildlife Service inspectors at the San Francisco airport impounded the hides and horns, saying they were from an endangered

species of the Argali family of mountain sheep.

But the sportsmen and the Chinese government, which sanctioned the big-game hunt, contend the hides and horns are not from the endangered ovis ammon hodgsoni species but rather from the ovis ammon darwini subspecies, which is not endangered.

Environmental specialist Dr. Vale-

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— Paul Latham, Williams' attorney

rius Geist of the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, identified the horns and hides as belonging to the endangered species.

Ironically, an employee of the Fish and Wildlife Service accompanied the hunting trip along with Chinese wildlife officials, and everyone on the trip believed they were shooting legal game, Williams' attorney said Thursday.

"The Williamses would never intentionally shoot an endangered animal," attorney Paul Latham of Midland said. "That's totally against the grain of everything they're for. That's why they had these experts with them."

Chinese officials have submitted affidavits to the court saying the endangered species is native to an area 2,000 miles from where the Williamses shot their sheep. Latham said, adding that the Fish and Wildlife employee on the scene, Dr. Richard Mitchell, did not object when the sheep were shot.

The Williamses tried for 15 months to resolve the case out of court, Latham said.

Parks and Wildlife spokesman Tom Smiley in Albuquerque was out of the office Thursday and could not be reached for comment.

# Houston businesswoman investigated

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston businesswoman who owns an international perfume company is the target of an FBI investigation into allegations she diverted bank funds for her own use, according to newspaper reports.

The FBI investigation is looking into the activities of Suzanne Frame, known professionally as Suzanne De Lyon, and a group of companies controlled by Frame and her husband, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

One of those companies is Suzanne De Lyon Inc., manufacturer of Animale perfume, a rose-scented fragrance sold in upscale department stores in the United States and Europe.

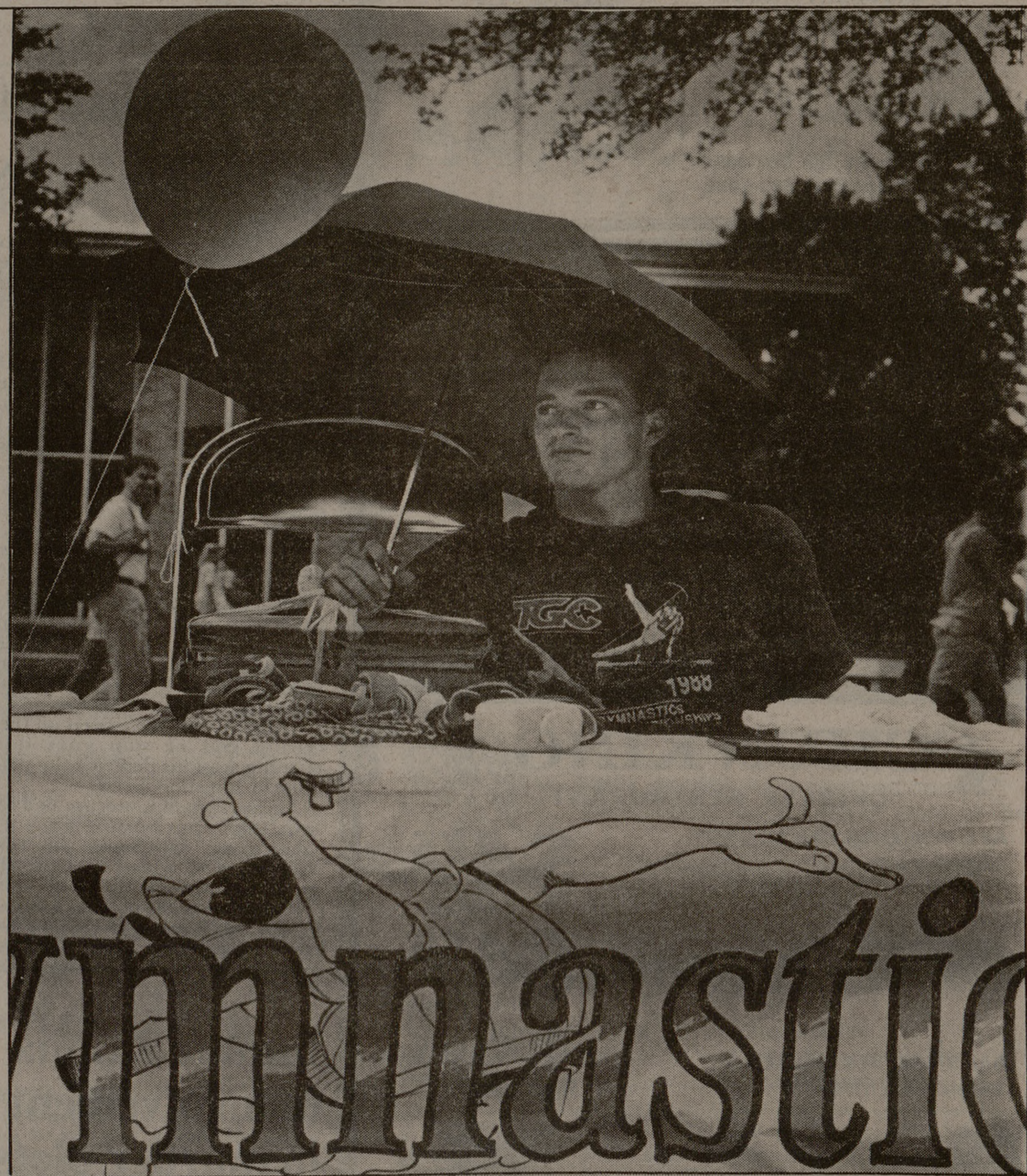
The FBI investigation centers on a series of checks made payable to Bill Thompson, who received interest payments on loans made by Texas Investment Bank at a time when Frame was an officer of the institution, according to sources familiar with the investigation.

Those checks were later deposited into a bank account at Western Bank-Westheimer in the name of Frame's husband, Jack Frame, according to records in a federal civil case filed by disgruntled investors against Frame.

At the time, Jack Frame was an officer of Western Bank-Westheimer.

The Frames have an unlisted telephone number and could not be reached for comment by the Associated Press.

Several investors in a group of companies controlled by the Frames said they have been contacted by FBI agents seeking information on Frame and her business activities.



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Photo by Scott D. Weaver

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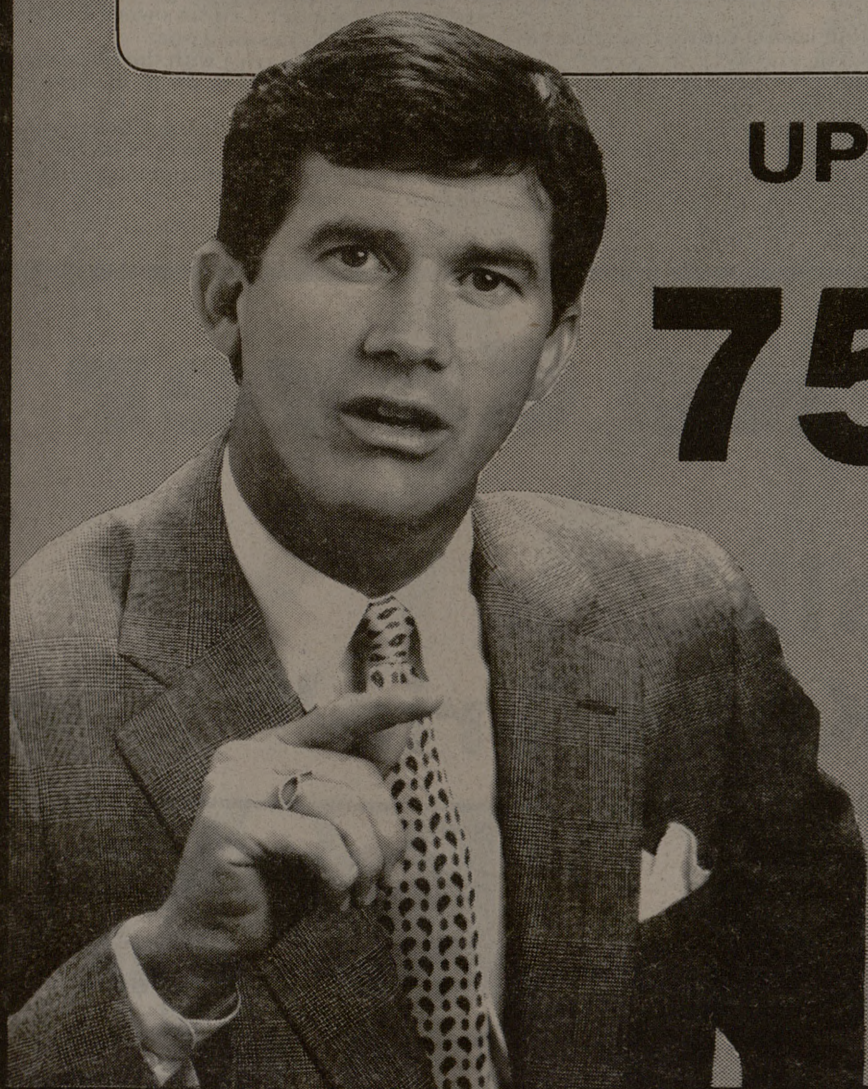
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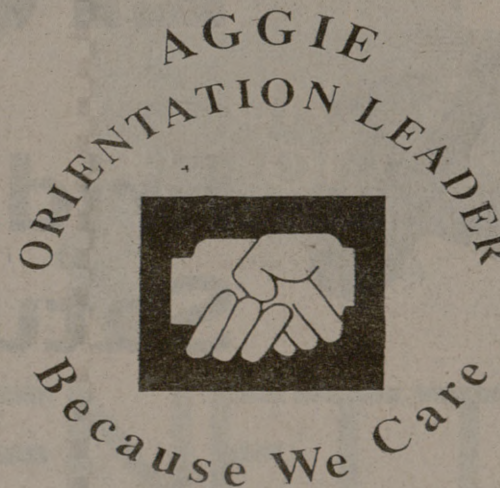
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