

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 110 USPS 045360 6 Pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, March 8, 1991

Davis lashes out Head basketball coach calls report of firing 'irresponsible'

By Richard Tijerina
The Battalion

DALLAS — Texas A&M men's basketball coach Kermit Davis Jr. lashed out at the media Thursday night, calling newspaper reports that he was out as Aggie coach nothing but "irresponsible journalism."

The Houston Chronicle reported in its Thursday editions that Davis would be fired by next Tuesday at the latest.

The newspaper quoted "sources close to the situation" as saying A&M athletic director John David Crow made the decision to dismiss Davis after last week's 72-55 loss to Rice.

Davis was informed of Crow's decision to fire him last week, the newspaper reported.

But Davis denied the report and was quick to point out Thursday that he was still the Aggie coach.

"I know my situation here at A&M," Davis told a group of about 20 media representatives after the game. "If I was out as basketball coach, you guys would know. And if

"If John David Crow says I'm still the coach at A&M, then I'm still the coach at A&M. The story's just false."

— Kermit Davis, head basketball coach

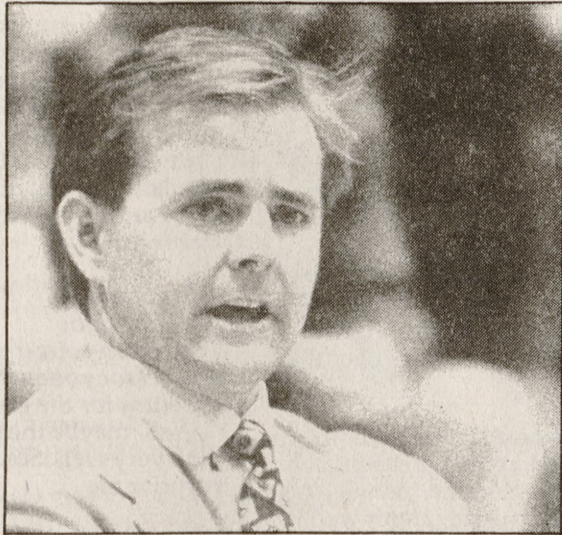
I knew right now, I would tell you that I wouldn't be the coach at A&M next year. I don't know that right now.

The University's lengthy in-house investigation into allegations that Davis broke NCAA rules should be completed soon, A&M officials said Thursday.

Davis ran into trouble with the NCAA when it was discovered he might have committed rules violations in his involvement with former Syracuse forward Tony Scott's transfer to A&M last year.

Davis allegedly became involved with reported player broker Rob Johnson of New York, who was instrumental in Scott's decision to transfer to A&M.

Davis informed the team of the newspaper report only moments af-



Kermit Davis Jr.

Aggies blow away Raiders/Page 5

ter its 57-46 win over Texas Tech in the first round of the Southwest Conference Post-Season Basketball Classic.

"(The newspaper report) is false," Davis said. "I am still the basketball coach. I can't believe a guy who would write that story wouldn't even bother to call me and ask me about it. He didn't, and that's the truth."

"Sources are close to anybody. Maybe coaches should start spreading rumors about media people, saying a source close to them or that says something."

Davis came to College Station from the University of Idaho, where he left a successful basketball program that saw the Vandals reach the NCAA tournament in consecutive years.

He replaced popular coach Shelby Metcalf, who has led the Aggies for 27 years.

"I guess you get tired of people saying sources 'close to the situation,'" Davis said. "There have been other articles about those sources 'close to the situation' before. To me, I think I would have been contacted myself. If John David Crow says I'm still the coach at A&M, then I'm still the coach at A&M. The story's just false."

The Aggies play fifth-ranked Arkansas tonight, and Davis said it was unfair to have his players worried about their coach's future while they're in the middle of the tournament.

"To bring that story up on the day of the tournament is poor journalism unless it's fact," he said. "I guess you become accustomed to irresponsible journalism in the state of Texas. That's what has happened. You want to report fact, not 'quotes from sources.'"



MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

Drug bust

Drug Enforcement Agent Steve Hanel counts a three-year investigation and yielded 15 pounds of marijuana. DEA agents estimate the street value at almost \$25,000. Three arrests were made in connection with the bust.

Gage: Administration re-emphasizes education Programs reward teaching

By Julie Myers
The Battalion

Undergraduate programs do not conflict or compete with other priorities at Texas A&M University, A&M's provost and vice president for academic affairs said.

"Undergraduate education is at the heart of everything we do," Dr. E. Dean Gage said.

Gage presented a report on undergraduate education to faculty members Thursday.

Teaching and research complement each other, Gage said. Students need to be taught by faculty who continue to learn, he added.

Gage said the administration recognized the need to re-emphasize teaching and undergraduate education about a year ago.

"We're not riding in a speedboat; we're in a big ship," Gage said. "And that ship is very slow to turn around."

"Perceptions often become reality," Gage said. "And the rumor is that teaching is not being rewarded, but we're beginning to address that. But, it takes time, and it takes action. After today, I think you will see this

is more of a perception than reality."

The presentation is the first in a series of reports that will be brought to the faculty.

Gage said good teaching entices students to follow their goals. He said teaching will be improved, identified and rewarded using the following programs:

- The Classroom Communication Enhancement Program, which identifies teaching problems.
- The Center for Teaching Excellence, which identifies and financially rewards an exemplary teacher in each college.
- The Council of Master Teachers, which brings nationally recognized teachers for one semester to work with faculty.

Gage said he would like to see endowed chairs for teaching rewarded on the same scale as those for research.

"You can be proud of what you



Gage

have done in the undergraduate programs here," Gage said.

Those programs, however, need to be strengthened, Gage said. Effective teaching will help A&M's graduates function in a world that is more complex than the one in which faculty grew up, he said.

Gage said that new world includes the following statistics:

- By the year 2006, there will be a shortage of 700,000 scientists and engineers.
- By the year 2025, Hispanics will represent 37-40 percent of the population in Texas.

"We are working to address the changes in population in Texas," Gage said.

A&M's six outreach centers have become cornerstones in the effort to increase the raw talent coming to A&M in the future, Gage said. In the coming years, this raw talent will replace today's professors, scientists and engineers.

These centers target minority junior high students for higher education by encouraging pursuit of a college preparatory curriculum and

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Board of Education to restructure life science course

By Mack Harrison
The Battalion

The Texas State Board of Education is experimenting with a new science curriculum and joining with California to find a new science textbook, an official with the Texas Education Agency said Thursday in Rudder Tower.

Jim Collins, science coordinator for the TEA, said the board recently approved modification of junior high school science programs.

"What has been given approval is completely revamping, reorganizing and restructuring grades seven and eight, with sights on grades nine and ten," Collins said.

The Board has not yet approved the curriculum for grades nine and ten.

Collins said Texas and California will combine efforts in searching for a new textbook,

because Texas' reformed science program is similar to California's.

The reforms in Texas schools will feature a coordinated, thematic approach to science. He said current seventh grade life science courses have evolved into lesser versions of upper-level biology classes.

"What we're trying to do is push the concept back from a miniature biology course into a life science course," Collins said.

Under the new approach, life science teachers will incorporate other areas of science into their lessons.

Collins said teachers will include physics, chemistry and earth/space science, as well as biology into the new life science.

Collins was one of 20 teachers — five biology, five chemistry, five physics, and five earth/space science — the TEA brought together to find out what scientific themes teachers considered important for grades seven to ten. Each group made a separate list of

ideas.

Collins said organizers wanted the teachers to stress science as a topic relevant to students.

"We want to see it on a developmentally appropriate level for our students," he said. "We don't want to teach physics concepts in seventh grade that they can't understand that would be better fitted for the tenth grade."

When the groups compared notes, they found there was a terrific similarity among all the lists, Collins said. The 20 teachers then narrowed their lists down to four areas that apply to all science courses.

The new curriculum will cover these four main themes: changes over time (evolution), energy and systems, environmental interaction and structures. Schoolchildren will study the same themes in science classes from grade seven to grade ten.

"As a child grows, his horizon tends to broaden," Collins said. "We're building as we

go, using exactly the same themes we started with in the seventh grade."

Collins said he is not advocating the old general science program, where teachers leaped from subject to subject.

He said with the new method, teachers use one concept to illustrate different areas of science.

For example, teachers could use the circulatory system to illustrate concepts in chemistry, physics and earth science, in addition to biology.

"We want seventh grade students to look at it as science, not life science," Collins said.

The Board of Education will implement the restructured seventh-grade science program in 1994 and the eighth-grade program in 1995. The board also can implement the ninth- and tenth-grade programs in consecutive years, if it approves restructuring of those grade levels.

Ambassador advocates trilateral agreement

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion



Burney

The proposed trade agreement between the North American countries will make the continent more competitive in the world market, the Canadian ambassador to the United States said Thursday.

Speaking to a Texas A&M sociology class, Ambassador Derek Burney said the agreement would draw on the strengths of the three countries to face the challenges of producers and workers.

Canada - U.S. Trade in Southern States		
State	Exports to Canada	Imports from Canada
Texas	\$ 3,057,466,000	\$ 1,841,556,000
Oklahoma	\$ 518,935,000	\$ 344,765,000
Louisiana	\$ 397,468,000	\$ 280,985,000
Arkansas	\$ 302,789,000	\$ 252,541,000
New Mexico	\$ 20,219,000	\$ 77,282,000
(in U.S. dollars)		

source: Statistics Canada

"We face those challenges whether we negotiate a trilateral agreement or not," he said. He said it would be beneficial to

standardize rules among the three countries to make the continent as a whole more productive and competitive.

Burney said Texas would benefit directly from the new trade agreement and A&M could contribute to the analysis and support of the resolution.

He said he saw the trade agreement as both a necessary counterpart to the European Community as well as a natural evolution of the growing interdependency of trade in North America.

The GNP of North America is \$6 trillion and the combined population of the three countries is greater than that of the EC.

Burney also explained Canada's role in the Persian Gulf conflict.

"It was not as patriotic an issue in Canada as it was in the United States," he said. "It also didn't affect

as many lives in Canada as in the United States."

Canada contributed three warships, 26 F-18 Hornets, a fully staffed hospital and hundreds of troops to the allied effort. Canada suffered no casualties during the war.

He said Canada, which has been accused of being the "lap dog" of the United States, debated whether it was in the gulf just to support the United States, or for other reasons.

He said the majority of Canadians believed their nation joined the conflict on behalf of the United Nations, in response to Iraq's violation of international law.

"You have to be prepared to fight for peace as well as talk for peace,"

New racism threatens education, scholar says

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

The so-called "new conservatism" emerging on American campuses could undo the progress in multiculturalism achieved in the '70s, an eminent black scholar and literary critic said.

Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. of Duke University said he is disturbed to hear what is perhaps justified talk of a "new racism" emerging at the bastions of liberal education, college campuses.

Gates spoke Thursday night in the Richardson building as part of a series of lectures sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Group for Historical Literary Study.

He said the position of blacks and other minorities in higher education in America is precarious. "We're fond of saying 'We want our kids to be better than we are,'" Gates said. "Well, that won't be hard."

The phenomenon of the new racism, he said, is not completely unconnected from larger political trends. "Today's college freshmen were approximately ten years old when the Reagan era began," he said. "The 1980s had something to do with the forming of political sensibilities."

Gates said the climate for blacks on campuses has been declining. He said one monitoring group counted over 300 racial incidents on college campuses, and at the same time there has been a marked decline in black enrollments since 1977.

Cuts in federal financial aid, as well as a slipping economy, have caused the decrease, he said.

"When it comes to watching economic trends, black people are like canaries in coal mines, the first to go when things get bad," he said.

Gates said keeping black students in universities has become an even bigger problem than getting them there.

"The attrition rate is astonishing," he said. "At Berkeley, only one in four black students graduates."

Of freshman blacks in the country in 1980, only 31 percent had graduated by 1986, he said.

Gates said approximately 4 percent of the nation's full-time professors are black, and in 1986 only 820 of 32,000 Ph.D.s awarded went to blacks.

"Less than half that number planned a career in education," he said. "That is only 0.015 percent. That is pathetic."

Gates said the situation is not the result of a conspiracy, and people are genuinely concerned about other's cultural backgrounds.

"It is a reflection of public consensus that one of the few bipartisan is-

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Notice

The Battalion is suspending publication next week because of spring break. The newspaper will resume publication Monday, March 18 at its regular time.

The staff of The Battalion wishes all students, faculty and staff a relaxing and safe vacation. Watch for a new look with the campus newspaper when you return.