

Commissioner denies allegations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Customs Commissioner Carol Hallett sharply denied allegations of widespread corruption in Customs Service offices along the Southwest border, telling a House subcommittee Wednesday the publicity was having a "devastating effect."

Hallett, who has been praised for her efforts to reform the agency, was rebuked by Rep. Doug Barnard for her defense of Customs personnel and practices, particularly in several Texas offices that have been under scrutiny.

Says complaints against Customs consist of 'rumors, . . . old stories'

Many complaints raised against Customs personnel were based on "rumors, gossip and old stories," she said.

"Ms. Hallett, I get the impression that your folks cannot do any

wrong, that everything is misunderstood, it's innuendo, it's rumor and the testimony by whistleblowers had no merit at all on the Customs Service," said Barnard, who chairs the House government oversight subcommittee probing Customs mismanagement.

"We are not for one moment

trying to insinuate that everybody is perfect," Hallett replied, noting that some supervisors have been transferred, demoted or otherwise disciplined.

"We had a mess and I was the first to admit it and the first one to do something to clean it up," she later told reporters.

But Barnard questioned a Customs practice of transferring supervisors who have run into trouble to postings of equal or higher

Student leaders respond to senator's actions

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mail tampering filed against Brooks are two separate things that don't have anything to do with one another," he said. "Clevenger makes it sound like the two things are interrelated, but they're not."

Corps Commander John Sherman said he wasn't sure about specific rules regarding the distribution of flyers in Corps dorms, but said he had no plans to pursue the matter.

"We usually turn a blind eye to student government fliers if they bend the rules a little, because campus involvement and campaigning is good bull," Sherman said. "I don't know about the validity of the accusations made in this letter, though, and wonder if

it qualifies as being in the same category."

Clevenger said in a phone interview Wednesday night that his letter was necessary to balance what he called lopsided coverage of student elections.

"The Battalion grossly mishandled the entire (election) story," Clevenger said. "It was grossly unfair to more than one of the candidates."

Clevenger said he had the flyers printed on his own initiative and he paid for them out of his own pocket. He also said no presidential candidate had anything to do with the letter.

Senior Yell Leader Trent Kelley declined to comment on the subject.

Clevenger endorsed two candidates in his letter: David Brooks

and Lisa Cash; but both of them distanced themselves from Clevenger's activities.

Cash said she had no knowledge whatsoever of Clevenger's actions.

"I had nothing to do with the letter," Cash said. "I had no idea Ty was writing it."

Brooks also denied any involvement, although he said he was aware of the flyers' existence.

"I had nothing to do with the letter," Brooks said. "I was not involved in it in any manner."

"I knew the letter was written because Ty called me and told me about it, but I'm not sure if the letters had gone out or not at that time," Brooks said. "Also, Trent did some campaign work for me, but this letter was totally on his own and not part of anything I

had him do."

Phipps said the candidates' conduct in this year's election has been decidedly worse than those of the recent past and is not helping the image of student government.

"I think this year's problems come from the candidates letting their personalities get in the way," he said. "Every sideways glance was construed as, 'I can't stand you,' and the problems escalated from there."

"This isn't unique to student government, and can be found in the MSC, The Battalion and even national politics," Phipps said. "There's not an organization on campus that doesn't have personality conflicts, but it's unfortunate that this got out of hand."

World leaders speak at Wiley Lecture Series

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a successful and free economy. He also said nations must resolve national, ethnic and religious conflicts.

The former Soviet Union's military seems to be lacking security, said Dr. Vitaly Shlykov, deputy chairman of the State Committee on Defense of the Russian Federation. Broken up, the former Soviet's military establishment does not know what to do.

"I stress this point that the huge Soviet military machine has disintegrated into parts," he said.

Previously, Shlykov served on the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces and senior research fellow at the Institute of World

Economics and International Relations for the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

The political leadership did not know much about the technical side of the problem, Shlykov said. The former Soviet Union needs worldwide help. Their military wants to get rid of its nuclear weapons, he said.

Tamas Katona, political Under-Secretary of State of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, said defense policies have to adjust themselves to security policies.

"We do not want to re-adjust the borders," he said.

Instead, Katona said Hungary wants to conserve and open up its frontiers. Before his current position, Katona was one of the

founders of the youth organization of the Independent Smallholders Party of Hungary.

The unification of Germany was discussed by Dr. Antoni Kaminski, who served as deputy director in charge of the West and North European Divisions for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

Kaminski said fear of Germany becoming a unified state exists.

"Germany may be too large for Europe," he said.

Kaminski said he thinks a stronger United States presence in Europe is a good idea.

In response to the United States' presence in Europe, Shlykov said that Russia would like the United States' support.

"We would like you to move a bit closer to Russia," Shlykov said, directing his answer to Crowe.

Crowe said that not long ago, United States' military presence in Europe was needed to deter Soviet attacks on Western Europe, but now the military will be supportive.

Dr. Jean-René Gehan, Counselor for Political and Military Affairs at the French Embassy in Washington D.C., answered questions about the foundation of the National Defense Studies in Paris. He said France was against the United States trying to help get new world order.

"The changes occurring in Eastern Europe are occurring all over the world," Kaminski said.

Center promotes awareness in community

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said more calls than ever are pouring in.

"You need to know your environment; that's what we've been trying to tell people," she said. "It could be a neighbor, a co-worker or a stranger."

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and McCune said the crisis center has been busy trying to promote prevention and awareness within the community.

Newton said the College Station Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit also has been spreading the word.

"We are constantly working on this by making presentations and

educating the public," he said. "You can reduce your chances by avoiding situations."

Saturday's sexual assault did alarm many students who live on-campus, Newton said, since it was so close to campus.

Director of the University Police Department Bob Wiatt said many students think that living on-campus is safer than living off-campus.

"Campus is not a sterile atmosphere," Wiatt said. "For this school year, we've had two reported sexual assaults and last year we had one reported."

Wiatt said University Police officers are on duty 24 hours a day and thousands of dollars have

been spent on improving campus safety.

"We've got new blue emergency lights, an escort service - I even have officers on top of buildings at night," he said. "We are taking every precaution we can to ensure the safety of students."

Wiatt, one of the founders of the rape crisis center, said he gets frustrated with naive students.

"College kids think nothing evil can happen to them here," Wiatt said. "Whether you are in Houston or Bryan-College Station, it can happen."

"We keep emphasizing awareness - that's the only insurance for protecting yourself," he said.

Environmental contamination

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sion meeting said the company already is implementing 14 of the staff's recommendations.

"The environmental things are being addressed. Some of our problem with the eight things that are at issue is that we don't think some of them are necessary," said Molly Cagle, an Atochem attorney.

Once technical questions are resolved, Atochem representatives will meet with a hearings examiner, who will make recommendations to the three commissioners.

The commissioners will review the examiner's report and hear testimony from Atochem before making a final decision.

But Colbert said Atochem had been "unnecessarily" slow in complying with the agency's recommendations.

"Some of those steps they say they've been gracious about doing, we had to issue an emergency order for them to do. You could say they've graciously complied with our emergency directive," said Colbert, adding that Atochem waited until the orders almost ran out before meeting them.

The commission staff alleges that in September 1990, Atochem knew that 4,000 gallons per day of the contaminated water was polluting an unnamed creek and two lakes near the company's facility.

Gay legislator discusses biases

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ing a Texas state representative.

He said he found that discrimination against homosexuals existed in the House of Representatives as well as in society.

"People moved their seats away from me in the house chambers," Maxey said.

Maxey said he has found that dealing with his homosexuality openly and humorously has made him feel more comfortable around the other representatives.

Despite the continuous obstacles he has faced as a politician, Maxey argued that people need to accommodate their lives to include the homosexual community. "They're just going to have to

get used to it and get over it," he said. "And I am finding that they are."

Maxey said he is not a single-agenda representative. As an openly gay state representative, he stressed the importance of people realizing the mutual concerns of the heterosexual and the homosexual population.

One of the main priorities on Maxey's agenda is health care reform to provide medical care to the poor. Ethics reform, economics and education in the state also concern him and other representatives.

"Most people don't care if you are gay or lesbian if you care about the same things as they do," Maxey said. "If they understand

that our issues are their issues - it's fine."

In the process of running for reelection for state representative, Maxey polled the people to find out whether they would vote for a homosexual if he or she was the most qualified and 79 percent responded yes.

Maxey challenged the audience of homosexuals to be a part of projects taken on by gays and lesbians in the next few years.

He said that by coming out they can help others to face up to their identity.

"I don't want any of you to ever be ashamed of who you are," he said. "It's your responsibility to be proud of yourselves and be out in the open."



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