

SFA battles charges of misappropriations

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The president of Stephen F. Austin State University on Tuesday defended his school in the wake of a state audit that said the college had spent money on athletics while academics were under-funded.

"We're not doing anything that's inappropriate," said Stephen F. Austin President Dan Angel. "We are going to concentrate on solving the problems, not witch-hunting and blaming things on athletics."

In addition to the athletic expenses, the audit questioned the school's bidding practices, a mobile telephone system used by university police, and payments for championship athletic rings.

"Stephen F. Austin State University should establish priorities which are in alignment with its primary mission to serve as an educational, intellectual, and cultural resource for the people of Texas," the audit said.

The school, located in Nacogdoches, has an enrollment of nearly 13,000.

The school has hired Angel and a new vice president for fiscal affairs, auditors noted, saying that the newcomers would have a chance to change the institution's priorities.

Angel said he did not think the university's athletics budget was too high. But he added, "I do think the state auditor had a very good point that we had not been spending an adequate amount of money on classroom equipment over the last few years."

Angel said the school spent \$4 million on classroom equipment between 1981 and 1991, but that this year it will spend \$2.2 million.

House calls for deferment of NAFTA for health care issue

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton was asked Tuesday by 110 congressional Democrats to put on hold the North American Free Trade Agreement until Congress has dealt with another hot potato: health care reform.

"The debate over NAFTA will be difficult and divisive. It will detract from our efforts to build a broad coalition of support for health care reform," the 103 House members and seven senators said in letters to Clinton.

House Majority Whip David Bonior, who drafted the letter, said Tuesday at a Capitol news conference that the free trade debate will be divisive and cannot be allowed to impede health care reform.

"If we fail to act on health care reform, over the next two years one out of every four Americans — 63 million people — will lose their health care coverage for some period," the Michigan Democrat said.

"We cannot afford to delay. We cannot afford to get tangled in side issues," said Bonior, a leading opponent of the trade pact.

The calls for postponement were rejected by the White House.

"NAFTA and health care are proceeding on separate tracks," White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said. "There's been no change in our timetable on NAFTA. The president still feels we can conclude it by the end of this year."

Super collider funding under debate

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Opponents of the super collider predicted Tuesday they'd be able to muster the votes necessary to kill the controversial \$10 billion project in the Senate in two months.

But the Senate's foremost collider critic told reporters at a Capitol news conference that he hasn't begun counting votes. Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., also declined to name the senators who are switching their positions and opposing the Texas-based project.

"I am firmly convinced we are

Opposers fight for votes to end project

going to get the votes this year," said Bumpers, who has sought for five years to pull the plug on collider funding. To date, almost \$1.6 billion in federal money has been spent. Tunnelling the 54-mile-circumference main ring passed the 20 percent mark this weekend.

Supporters also have suggested they have the votes necessary to prevail. "It is really too early to tell at this point, but I am quite hopeful," the Senate's leading supporter, Louisiana Democrat Bennett Johnston, said earlier

this week. "All I ask is that we look at this project on its merits and if we do that, I am confident it will pass."

Bumpers said he intends to ensure the debate is squarely focused on the economics of what he called "a totally mismanaged program, a program with costs out of control, a program that slurps money" from other science.

The discussion leading up to the House's vote last month to ax the collider also focused on

whether the nation can afford a project branded by some as esoteric science in a time of deficits.

"All those people who spoke about spending cuts are now going to have an opportunity to fulfill their commitments," Bumpers said at a news conference organized by OOPS!, Organizations Opposed to the SSC.

Added Sen. John Warner, R-Va.: "The fiscal future of this country is dependent on one thing and that is whether or not the members of the Congress have the guts to vote against spending on programs."

Boy had 'dragon inside him,' mother says

Woman charged with murder for drowning son

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORPUS CHRISTI — A woman was charged with murder Tuesday after telling investigators she drowned her 4-year-old son because he had a dragon inside of him.

Authorities said the woman's 5-year-old daughter reported that her mother drowned the boy and then told her that he wasn't real — he was a robot.

The woman's 3-year-old girl also was at the drowning scene. But Nueces County sheriff's investigator Lt. Mike Lowrance said Tuesday that authorities believe the 5-year-old was the only witness who watched Adam Shook die.

Justice of the Peace Ben Garza Jr. set bond for the 37-year-old mother, Elaine Shook, at

\$100,000. She remained under guard Tuesday at the psychiatric unit at Memorial Medical Center.

"The only reason she's given us is that God talked to her and He told her to do it," Lowrance said.

Authorities revealed Monday that she had previous psychiatric problems and had not been taking prescribed medication when the drowning occurred. Lowrance said investigators were studying her mental records.

"She made several references to killing the dragon, that she was getting rid of the dragon," he said.

Shook was arrested Sunday morning after fishermen discovered Adam's body carefully arranged in the back of a pickup, surrounded by family memorabilia.

Clad in a T-shirt and underwear, Shook ap-

proached a fisherman at Oso Creek and told him, "I've just killed my son," authorities said. The body was wrapped in a sheet with two teddy bears, one of them holding a little red heart stating: "I love you."

Next to the boy was a portrait of his parents and a New World translation of the Bible. Nearby, investigators found a scrap wood altar and a second sort of memorial made of blankets, a pillow and a refrigerator shelf, topped with a wreath of shrubbery.

Nueces County Medical Examiner Lloyd White, who interviewed the mother at the scene, said she described the drowning to him.

"She told me that she put him in the water on his back and sat on him and held him under the water until he stopped fighting," White said.

Principal: year-round school improves scores

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Charles McCasland has heard all the complaints about year-round education: It deprives kids of a summer vacation. Parents can get stuck with kids on both traditional and year-round schedules. It's a plot to destroy the family.

But for the Plano principal, putting Carlisle Elementary School on a year-round schedule was the best thing that ever happened to him as an educator.

"I've never done anything that

felt so right before. ... It sure makes a difference in the whole atmosphere of the school," he said Tuesday.

Carlisle is one of several campuses across Texas that started a year-round schedule Monday.

The Plano campus is entering its third year on the alternative schedule. McCasland, past president of the Texas chapter of the National Association for Year-Round Education, said Carlisle parents voted to go year-round to improve academic achievement.

Since then, Carlisle pupil and teacher attendance has improved,

as have standardized test scores. "This was a high-performing school to begin with and we've been able to improve even on that," he said.

Pat Pringle, TEA's acting associate commissioner for field services, said 45 districts across Texas, involving 65,000 students, used some form of year-round education in 1992-93. About 50 districts are involved in 1993-94, but he could not estimate the number of students.

Joey Lozano, a spokesman for the Texas Education Agency, said none of the districts has every one

of its campuses on the schedule.

Districts move toward year-round education as a way to alleviate overcrowding, delay construction of new buildings and better use their existing facilities, Lozano said.

Year-round schedules can be on a single track, where all pupils are in school and on break at the same time; or multitrack, where students are on staggered schedules and only a portion of the population is in school at once.

Proponents say the frequent breaks help students retain more of what they learn.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to University Police Department between July 16-23.

Driving While Intoxicated

Wellborn Road- Two intoxicated motorists were arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

George Bush Drive- An intoxicated motorist was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated. The passenger was arrested for public intoxication.

George Bush Drive- An intoxicated motorist was arrested and taken to jail.

Burglary of Motor Vehicle

Parking Area 27- An Impact, Model 305, airway suction unit

was stolen from the right rear compartment of an ambulance.

Public Intoxication

Southside Parking Garage- An intoxicated pedestrian attempting to wave down vehicles on South Bizzell was arrested.

Altered Driver's License

George Bush Drive- A citation was issued to a motorist who displayed an altered driver's license.

Burglary of Coin-Operated Machine

Blocker Building- The front glass of a snack vending machine was broken in a failed attempt to

remove the coin receptacle. Several food items were removed from the machine.

Burglary of Habitation

Krueger Hall- Two fourth floor rooms were burglarized, and \$20 in cash was removed from one and five dollar in cash from the other.

Criminal Trespass/Assault

Wells Hall- Two juveniles were released to the custody of the Brazos County Juvenile Detention Center following their apprehension. They had confronted a resident in the hallway and touched her in an inappropriate manner.

Misdemeanor Theft

Sterling C. Evans Library- A Hewlett-Packard, Model 5-14 calculator, a Visa credit card, driver's license and checkbook were stolen from the victim's backpack.

Student Services Building- Someone stole an AT&T, Model 732, double line answering machine.

Grounds Maintenance North- A Stihl Model 0252, chain saw was removed.

Zachry Engineering Center- A dark green Trek 18-speed bicycle was stolen.

Sterling C. Evans Library- A red Sears 15-speed bicycle was stolen.

Judge's smiley-face signature on documents bears criticism

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Visiting State District Judge Charles J. Hearn has put a happy face on his signature for as long as he can remember with hopes of brightening someone's day.

His driver's license is signed with a grin and he writes cheery checks to pay household bills. The 62-year-old jurist said he has even used the beaming emblem on court documents for years.

That's why Hearn doesn't understand the outcry over his order setting an Oct. 15 execution date for convicted killer Robert Nelson Drew. The message, of course, came with a smile.

"It's terribly insensitive. It's like someone laughing at a funeral," Drew's New York attorney, William Kunstler, said Tuesday. "I'm sure he (Drew) was shocked by it. Who would not be shocked?"

Hearn on Tuesday said he mean no irony by adding a happy touch to the grim notice.

"I don't mean any disrespect," Hearn said. "It's kind of amusing in some sense of the word that someone would want to make something bad out of it. It's just a signature like yours is or anyone else's is. My signature is my signature and there's not any importance as far as I'm concerned."

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