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Athletic Department defends policies

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

Despite recent investigations by the FBI and the Texas Rangers into the allocation of funds, officials in the Texas A&M University Athletic Department said there have been no illegal or unethical actions taken

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members of the department. Questions have been raised after two assistants to the A&M Board of Regents were indicted for altering government documents. The athletic department is under scrutiny for the use of funds received through participation in football bowl games and for funds used to purchase alcohol. Penny King, assistant athletic director for business, said the department is complying with the FBI and the Texas Rangers in their investigations. "There is a total commitment within the department to comply with all the regulations," King said. "There has not been any intentional abuse within the athletic department." King said some money was used to purchase alcohol, but the majority of the expenditures were for alcohol used for cooking purposes in the cafeteria. Some alcohol was purchased for entertainment

As FBI investigation continues, officials claim money spent within NCAA, University rules

purposes, but, she said, those were small purchases and the money came from a non-restricted fund.

King said these purchases were a courtesy made by the department, but steps are being taken to ensure further problems do not arise.

"We have changed our policies," she said. "We were told in 1991 that alcohol could not be purchased by funds allocated by the Athletic Department. Measures have been put into place to prevent such purchases."

Wally Groff, athletic director, said changes were made in 1991 after an internal audit showed purchases were not being made according to state law.

Groff said the department has been careful to adhere to all related policies since that time.

An official from the FBI confirmed Monday that the bureau is conducting an investigation into the misapplication of money by the department.

The group is looking at how A&M is spending state and federal dollars and if any laws have been broken

by officials.

The use of revenue from football bowl appearances was brought into question earlier this week by a reporter for The Dallas Morning News.

Groff said every expenditure made by the department is within University and NCAA policies.

"We do have a written bowl policy," Groff said. "We adhere to that. The important thing to realize is that nationwide bowl games are a reward."

The NCAA sets a limit of \$300 that can be spent on any student athlete.

Groff said the University is careful not to exceed that limit and usually spends between \$290 and \$300.

The Dallas Morning News questioned the use of bowl funds for purchasing memorabilia items for boosters.

King said no purchases are made for individuals who are not members of the University staff.

"This is a reward for people who work hard all year," she said. "This is very common, very accepted with all Division I schools that are successful in their football programs."

Lynn Hickey, associate athletic director and head

women's basketball coach, said the expenditures made by the department are not unusual practices.

"You spend the money, you pat people on the back," Hickey said. "I don't see anything unethical about it. It may be a little frivolous but not unethical."

The Dallas Morning News criticized the Athletic Department for not using the revenue from bowls for other sports, namely for the funding of women's scholarships.

But, King said, this is not a realistic argument because all women's scholarships are already funded.

"All of our scholarships are fully funded within the NCAA regulations," King said. "All of that comes through the 12th Man Foundation in the form of contributions."

King said all of the revenue made after bowl expenses goes into a general fund for the Athletic Department and that money is used to support all athletic programs.

Groff said the football program funds most of the other sports.

"Football brings in about 85 percent of our revenue," he said.

Hickey said the football program keeps everybody else in the department afloat.

"This is a business," she said. "There are parts of the business that make money, and there are parts of the business that don't."

Mandela, ANC win landslide in all-race S. African elections

The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Nelson Mandela proclaimed victory Monday in his lifetime crusade: a non-racial democracy for South Africa. As his supporters let loose in ecstatic celebration, the nation's first black president declared, "Free at last!"

"This is indeed a joyous night for the human spirit. This is your victory too," said the 75-year-old leader.

Supporters shrieked with joy in a hotel ballroom draped in the green-gold-and-black colors of Mandela's African National Congress. The celebrations spilled over into the black districts of Soweto and Alexandra, where thousands of people poured into the streets dancing ecstatically, laughing and waving ANC flags.

Mandela himself joined in the jubilation with Coretta Scott King, widow of U.S. civil rights leader

Martin Luther King Jr., and former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda. A choir sang the praises of "Madiba," Mandela's traditional clan name.

Earlier, President F.W. de Klerk of the National Party acknowledged defeat in South Africa's first democratic elections. He praised Mandela as "a man of destiny" and pledged to work with him in the new government of national unity scheduled to be installed in eight days.

Mandela in turn congratulated de Klerk "for the many days, weeks and months and the four years that we have worked together, quarreled, addressed sensitive problems, and at the end of our heated exchanges were able to shake hands and to drink coffee."

The two leaders navigated the country through an extraordinary transition in which an oppressive white minority surrendered its privileges to the black majority. Both sides promised to forgive the

past and build one nation.

ANC officials stood before their new national flag and raised their glasses in a toast in honor of outgoing President de Klerk, incoming President Mandela and the "new South Africa."

"I stand before you filled with deep pride and joy — pride in the ordinary, humble people of this country," said Mandela. "You have shown such a calm, patient determination to reclaim this country as your own."

Although ballot officials remained less than halfway through the counting, an ANC landslide was indisputable.

With about 44 percent of the estimated 22.7 million votes counted, the ANC had 62.6 percent to 23.7 percent for de Klerk's National Party. The Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party was a distant third with 6.2 percent, followed by the pro-apartheid Freedom Front with 2.8 percent.

May showers drench A&M



Amy Browning/The Battalion

Monday's showers forced students to pull their umbrellas out when they ventured outside. Monday's weather brought heavy showers and golf ball-sized hail to the Brazos Valley.

Bonfire move pushes up cut days, Elephant Walk date remains same

By James Bernsen
The Battalion

Organizers of next year's Texas A&M Bonfire said the annual event will not change despite its move to Nov. 3.

John Barr, head stack for bonfire, said A&M's enthusiasm will ensure the event is similar to previous years.

"Everything is going to be built exactly the same," he said. "It will be just as big, burn just as long and just as bright."

Bonfire, which is usually held before the A&M-University of Texas football game on Thanksgiving, was moved because UT decided to reschedule the Baylor University game for Thanksgiving Day.

This move was made by UT officials after A&M was banned from television for a year following NCAA sanctions against the athletic department.

Zack Coapland, chair of the University Advisory Committee for Bonfire, said the University is making every attempt to coordinate its activities for the event.

"We've been real supportive of them (the senior redpots), and we think they've got a good plan," he said. "I think it will take the student body working closer together because of the tight schedule."

Coapland said he is confident the leaders of bonfire will accomplish what they need to make the event a success.

Barr said the only significant change is the time schedule.

"Cut will be two weeks short," he said. "But, it's nothing to worry about. We always have more than enough wood."

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A&M's Koriyama campus to shut down

Japanese city refuses to supply needed funding, school to lay off teachers

By Angela Neaves
The Battalion

Many professors at Texas A&M's Koriyama campus will be forced to find new jobs once the school closes after only four years of classes.

Rene Henry, executive director of University Relations, said the Koriyama campus provides jobs for 15 A&M faculty and staff and eight English language instructors from the United States.

Tenured employees will be transferred to other areas, and contract employees will not have their contracts renewed, he said.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, executive associate provost, said the employees should have no trouble finding a new job.

English instructors travel all over the world

teaching the language, Gaston said.

"I'm sure they will have no problem finding other contracts," he said. "English language instructors are in high demand all over the world."

The campus was the product of an agreement between the University and the city of Koriyama.

It will be forced to close at the end of the summer for political reasons. The decision was made mutually University and Japanese officials last week, Gaston said.

"This program is very expensive to maintain," he said. "Of course, the University does not contribute monetarily. The previous mayor was very supportive of the program."

When he was replaced, the new mayor decided the city would not continue to provide financial support, and the assembly agreed. With the loss of financial support, we cannot continue to operate."

A decline in college students and Japan's economic situation contributed to the decision, Gaston said.

The University is interested in engaging in a

similar educational opportunity in Japan in the future provided the financial support comes from the city, Gaston said.

"We are open to discussion," Gaston said. "Although we are not negotiating with anyone currently, we are willing to explore opportunities."

The University is responsible for academic programming and planning, and the city of Koriyama is responsible for funding, facilities and student recruitment, he said.

The Texas A&M Koriyama campus opened in May 1990. The campus offers a 27-month undergraduate program with classes in business administration, science, engineering and liberal arts.

The classes are taught by University faculty and are fashioned after classes taught in College Station.

There are currently 150 students on the Koriyama campus. Ninety students have already relocated to College Station.

Students must complete 35 hours at the Japan campus before relocating to College Station to complete their degree programs.

Michigan jury acquits 'Dr. Death' in assisting suicide

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Dr. Jack Kevorkian was acquitted Monday of breaking Michigan's assisted suicide law after a jury concluded he was only trying to help a gravely ill man end his suffering, not cause his death.

After the verdict, the 65-year-old retired pathologist challenged doctors who have secretly supported his crusade to go public.

"I know there are doctors who want to come forward," Kevorkian said. "I want this intimidation by medical politicians to stop."

Kevorkian also said he is still receiving letters from sick people who want his help, but refused to say whether he would resume his assisted suicide practice any time soon.

"I think this opens the floodgates for Jack Kevorkian," said Lynn Mills of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue.

Kevorkian was charged in the Aug. 4 death of Thomas Hyde, 30, who suffered from the degenerative nerve disorder Lou Gehrig's disease. By the time Kevorkian hooked Hyde up to a canister of carbon monoxide on a mattress in the back of his old, rusty van, Hyde could barely walk, talk or feed himself.

Kevorkian, who had faced up to four years in prison and a \$2,000 fine if convicted, acknowledged he supplied the carbon monoxide and placed the clear plastic mask over Hyde's nose and mouth.