

THE BATTALION



University responds to booster's accusations

Bowen doubts NCAA will reinvestigate

By Michele Brinkmann
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Ray Bowen said Monday he does not expect the NCAA to reopen its investigation into the summer jobs scandal involving banned athletic booster Warren Gilbert, which led to the Aggie football team's five-year probation.

in a copyrighted story Sunday that former A&M vice president Robert Smith, A&M head football coach R. C. Slocum and other A&M officials encouraged him not to meet with NCAA investigators.

He also said Smith and Slocum continued to contact him even as the University told the NCAA that Gilbert had ceased communication with A&M.

According to NCAA rules, evidence of institutional representatives being untruthful during an NCAA investigation would be grounds for the NCAA to reopen the probe and possibly sanction those involved.

University officials met Monday to discuss Gilbert's allegations and to issue a statement in response to the charges.

Texas A&M officials said the University will not respond to "rumor and innuendo" and will continue to work closely with the NCAA.

Bowen said the University stands behind its investigation, and he did not understand why Gilbert decided to make allegations now, nearly nine months after the NCAA investigation was completed.

"The timing seems a little odd," he said. "If these statements were true, it seems like he would have said them earlier. I do not think there is any truth to these charges."



"The timing seems a little odd. If [Gilbert's] statements were true, it seems like he would have said them earlier. I do not think there is any truth to these charges."

- Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president

Gilbert said he went public with the charges because he thought he was being used as a scapegoat for the scandal. He said A&M officials intentionally laid the blame solely on him to avoid greater penalties.

In January the University disassociated Gilbert from A&M athletics in order to comply with sanctions handed down by the NCAA after the organization found he paid nine football players for work not done from 1990 to 1992. As a result, the NCAA placed the athletic program on five years probation.

In the article Gilbert said he was aware that if he implicated A&M officials in any cover-up, it could lead to further penalties against the University such as a potential NCAA sanction that could suspend the football program.

"I didn't want to do one thing to cause the death penalty to the University," he said. "That is one reason I delayed ever wanting to testify before the NCAA."

The Gilberts told the Morning News they agreed to talk about what they perceived to be a cover-up because of outrage over the University's initial refusal to send them their allotment of four season tickets.

Pattie Gilbert, Warren Gilbert's wife, received her tickets Wednesday, but was told by the University that if her husband used the tickets then NCAA rules would be violated.

Bowen said he was unable to contact NCAA officials Monday because its office was closed for Labor Day.

A&M's student loan default rate ranks fifth among SWC

By Constance Parten
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M had the fifth lowest student loan default rate in the Southwest Conference in 1992 with a rate of 4.7 percent, financial aid officials said.

Jack Falks, assistant director of Student Financial Aid, said many of the students in default at A&M are not trying to avoid paying their loans.

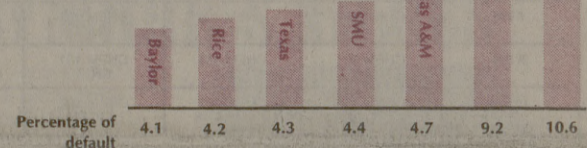
"Lots of the students in default are already making monthly payments and are simply not aware they need to make payments as well," Falks said. "When we contact them they start paying immediately."

Baylor University led the SWC with a 4.1 percent default rate, followed by Rice with 4.2 percent, the University of Texas

Student Loan Defaults

The following is a list of the percentage of loan defaults for seven out of eight of the Southwest Conference schools.

The state average for Texas is 18.8 percent. The national average is 15 percent.



with 4.3 percent and SMU with 4.4 percent.

Texas Tech and the University of Houston had the highest student default rates in the conference with 9.2 and 10.6 percent, respectively.

These figures are markedly lower than the statewide default rate of 18.8 percent and the national average rate of 15 percent.

Please see Defaults, Page 6

Poll shows Texans unaffected by religious right affiliation

DALLAS (AP) — A recent poll of Texans shows that a candidate's affiliation with either conservative Christians or the religious right would have no bearing on the votes cast by more than 50 percent of those surveyed.

"Clearly this is not a resonant issue with most Texans," said Candace Windel, director of the Texas Poll, which surveyed 1,005 people last month. "It's not something they're talking about at breakfast."

The Harte-Hanks Texas Poll indicates that a politician's affiliation with conservative Christians would not affect the voting decision of 56 percent of those surveyed, while an affiliation with the religious right would make no difference to 51 percent.

The poll has a margin of error of 5 percentage points. It sought to measure how Texans view two phrases commonly used to describe religious conservative activists. When asked what they thought of the two labels, the most common answer from those surveyed was that they did not

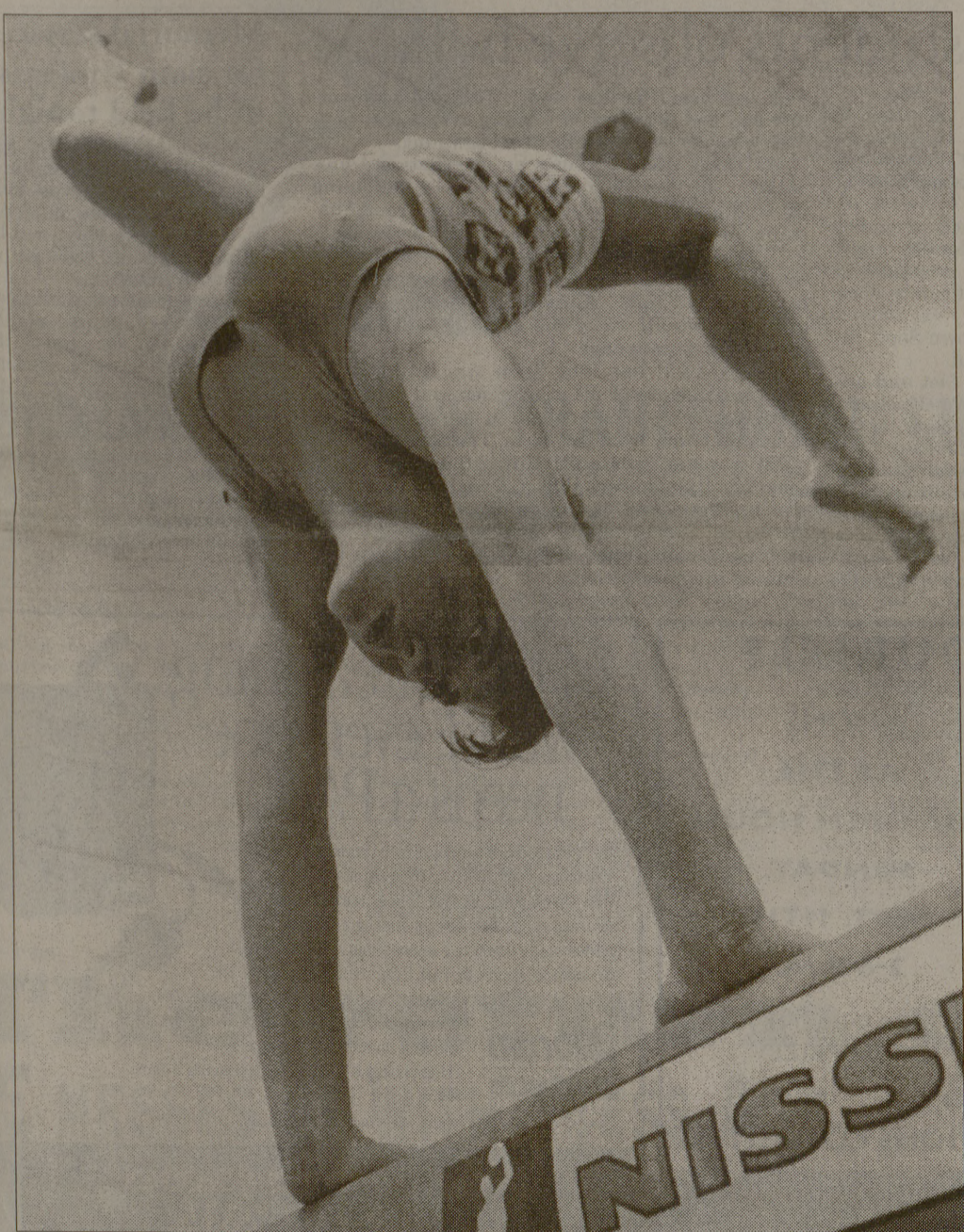
know or had not heard of them. At least 25 percent of those polled answered that way.

The poll also shows that although the news media sometimes uses the two phrases interchangeably, to the public the religious right and conservative Christians are not the same group. And while some political leaders have complained that the media's use of the phrase religious right sounds derisive, the poll found that the group is viewed as favorably as conservative Christians.

Still, far more people consider themselves conservative Christians. Two-thirds of those questioned consider themselves conservative Christians, while one-fourth say they are part of the religious right.

Analysts said that's probably because that label sounds the most benign.

"It's kind of like, 'Are you a freedom-loving American?'" said Dr. Maxwell McCombs, professor of mass communications at the University of Texas. "Not too many say, 'No, not me.'"



Tim Moog/THE BATTALION

Steady...steady.

Sophomore chemical engineering major Denise Bean of San Antonio performs a hand stand on the beam in gymnastics class Monday. Bean won a gold medal at a national competition on the bars.

Tiffany's heist nets \$1.25 million

Two gunmen overpower guards, rob Manhattan landmark

NEW YORK (AP) — Two gunmen wearing black ski masks forced their way into the Tiffany & Co. store in midtown Manhattan while it was closed early

Monday and made off with \$1.25 million in jewelry, police said.

The robbers took one hour to overpower guards, pick out jeweled watches, bracelets and rings, and take security video tapes before disappearing into the empty streets, said police Capt. Sal Blando.

"They were very, very professional," Blando said at a news conference.

Detectives were questioning the guards and other employees to determine if the robbery was an inside job, Blando said. The Tiffany & Co. store was closed Monday and officials could not be reached for comment.

The unarmed guards told police that the heist began about midnight as one of them arrived at the store's employee entrance

for his shift.

The gunmen ordered the guard to tell two on-duty guards that they were his cousins and needed to use the bathroom.

Once inside, the robbers tied up the three guards, plus a fourth who arrived minutes later, before snatching about 300 pieces of jewelry, police said.

Finally, the men forced the guards to take them to a second-floor security area to get the surveillance tapes. After the robbers fled, one of the guards worked himself free and called police.

Initially police said the stolen items were worth at least \$250,000. But Sgt. Edward Caro, a police spokesman, said later that Tiffany officials had revised their estimate upward to about \$1.25 million.

Today's BATT

Aggielife	3
Classified	6
Opinion	11
Sports	7
Toons	9
Weather	9
What's Up	10

Silver Taps

Silver Taps will be held in memory of ten Texas A&M students tonight at 10:30 p.m. in front of the Academic Building.

The campus will be darkened at 10:20 p.m. for Philip Gerard Bochat, 21, a junior biochemistry major from Moulton; Reginald Glenn Broadus, 21, a senior psychology major from Dallas; Steven Michael Claborn, 21, a senior wildlife and fisheries major from Randolph; Chris B. Hart, 18, a freshman business administration major from Huntsville; Gea Renee Jones, 19, a sophomore

agricultural science major from Columbus; Chad Robert Kovar, 19, a freshman agricultural development major from Snook; Crystal Yvette Miller, 21, a junior accounting major from Carrollton; Jalyne Forrest Orr, 22, a senior business administration major from Dallas; Juan Carlos Valdes, 21, a senior mechanical engineering from Eagle Pass; and Abraham Luther Shipsey, 23, a junior rangeland ecology major from Austin.

The Ross Volunteers honor guard will fire a volley salute and buglers will play a special arrangement of "Taps."

5, 1994

involved on me find out meeting will for more in 47-0817 or

American discuss ac- e held at 7 more info-

ur first gen- be held at 7 rs are wel- mark at 847-

A general in 404 Rud-

ociation: A p.m. in 165 ll Rose Ann bic at 696-

ship, tel- 8 p.m. at All ion call Luis

r devotional Taps will be Fountain, 847-2144.

tions will be ptember 9th on and audi-

eneral meet- Governance ng. For more at 862-1974.

show will be at of Rudder all Chris Riv-

ee: Our first ions for open Rudder. For pinks at 847-

torial service us and Cry- n. in Rudder r. will be the

Our first gen- e held at 8:30 interested in r simply pro- welcome you club on cam- Do Armstrong

vice that list- nts and activ- no later than ired run date. tices are not t's Up. If you the newsroom

5-0737
5-2624
5-2625
5-9655
5-4511
5-7826

S

696-8644
260-1611
696-5843
847-1816
862-7121
764-7427
847-1822
696-0036
847-1855
764-9513
693-8390
764-9348
846-5996
846-1999
779-3805
776-5565
846-0906
696-4651
696-5566
696-2738
693-3965
268-0353
846-7397
764-9512
846-4351
845-5911
847-3708
696-2464
764-4613
764-4613
847-2104
696-5188
693-1587
846-7212
764-8408
847-1957
846-0905
694-2305
862-2944
694-2176
696-8861
846-7701
775-9082
847-0272
764-3169
693-7502
694-2196
823-1009
696-1198
845-5020
696-1932