



Chancellor Alvin J. Schexnider

Allegations continue to mount against Schexnider

By Sam Davis
The Chronicle Staff

New allegations have surfaced at Winston-Salem State regarding the misuse of state funds by Chancellor Alvin J. Schexnider.

Last week, The Chronicle reported that several university employees and others connected to the university had reported to the state fraud hot line an incident in which Schexnider ordered state employees to transport and set up personal work equipment in his home on April 15.

Schexnider has since admitted that he authorized the employees to deliver the equipment because he lives rent-free in a \$565,000 home owned by the state. He agreed to reimburse the

state for the cost of the mileage, according to Aaron Singleton, director of media relations at WSSU.

"The chancellor is not under investigation," Singleton said. "He never was under investigation. The chancellor had Nordic Track equipment moved to a state-owned building (his residence), using state-owned trucks. He was not aware of any state policy violations. His office was informed of the complaint and he quickly addressed the complaint. To our knowledge the issue was resolved. There is no investigation planned."

However, sources told The Chronicle that Schexnider has committed other discretions in the past and not followed proper protocol on many different issues during his tenure at WSSU.

State policy prohibits the use of state funds, state equipment or employees for private gain. Several recent incidents could be violations of that policy.

According to sources close to the university, Schexnider put in a requisition to be reimbursed for the purchase of an \$1,861.75 television set for his home that he bought from Circuit City on March 7. He received a check for it on March 8.

According to state policy, any equipment purchased by the state has to be delivered to central stores for an identification number. But in this case, it was not followed.

Schexnider requisitioned \$90.60 to reimburse

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75 cents

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THURSDAY MAY 14, 1998

Reno sets stage for Herman investigation

By ROBERTO SURO
The Washington Post

Attorney General Janet Reno Monday requested the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate allegations that Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman took part in an influence-peddling scheme while she served as a White House aide during President Clinton's first term.

The decision followed what senior officials characterized as an agonized week-long debate within the Justice Department about whether to recommend an outside prosecutor. A preliminary inquiry found some corroboration for the allegations but, as Reno put it yesterday, "no evidence clearly demonstrating Secretary Herman's involvement."

The move by Reno, which came only minutes before the attorney general's deadline to make her recommendation to the special three-judge panel that oversees independent counsels, marks the seventh time Reno has sought an outside counsel to investigate alleged wrongdoing by Clinton or a senior administration official.

Laurent Yene, an African businessman, set the inquiry in motion by claiming that Herman accepted cash and consulting fees in exchange for arranging access to the White House and doing other favors for businessmen needing help from the federal government. Yene also alleged that Herman sought illegal campaign contributions from those businessmen to assure favorable treatment. Herman called the allegations "false from the very beginning" and told reporters outside the Labor Department, "I am very disappointed and extremely baffled by this decision today." In a statement, Clinton said, "I am confident that in the end, investigators will also conclude that Ms. Herman did nothing wrong."

During a probe lasting 150 days, the maximum permitted by law, Justice officials were unable to resolve the credibility of Yene's allegations but Reno decided that she was obliged to seek an outside investigation and noted that certain aspects of Yene's story have been corroborated.

Reno's doubts about how to proceed resound throughout the eight-page document she sent yesterday to the three-judge panel that will now choose an independent counsel. "In the course of this investigation, we have spent significant time exploring the issue of Yene's credibility," Reno wrote. "While I cannot conclusively determine at this time that Yene's allegations are credible, much of the detail of the



Alexis M. Herman

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Hoisting up a sign of victory, Derwin Bryant Jr. was one of the more than 1,500 students receiving degrees during N.C. A&T State University's commencement exercises held last Saturday.

'Aggie Pride': A&T grads mark graduation with Jackson

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE Reports

A spirited prayer by Civil Rights leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, ended commencement exercises at N.C. Agriculture and Technical University last Saturday.

A happy Jackson was in town to see his daughter Jacqueline receive her bachelor of science in psychology. A 1984 graduate of the school, Jackson gave the invocation

and benediction.

"On this graduation day our prayers are answered and dreams fulfilled," he said in the opening prayer. "Today we express our thanks — thanks for life, for opportunity, for character and for the will to live."

The whole Jackson family was in town, including sons Jonathan and U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. Both are alum-

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Larry Womble
State Representative



Deana Wallin
FTCC President

Wicker proposes free tuition for community college students

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

If Lieutenant Governor, Dennis Wicker has his way, the length of time students receive free education will jump from 12 to 14 years.

A new proposal by Wicker, which is slated to go before the state legislature either later this summer or in early 1999, will pay tuition for North Carolina students who want to attend any of the state's community colleges. Currently, students are guaranteed a free education only through 12th grade.

Under Wicker's proposal, N.C. high school graduates who enroll as full-time students at any community college will be eligible for the program, which is slated to begin in the fall of 1999.

While free community-college tuition has been debated off the record by state politicians and educators, Wicker's proposal marks the first time the program has been given a wide audience in North Carolina. Similar plans are in place in several states including California, which, after several years of free tuition, recently re-instituted nominal tuition for community-college students.

"A new education standard must be adopted," Wicker said. "One that is geared from kindergarten through at least 14 years of education. Today's standard of K through 12 is obsolete."

The additional two years will cost an estimated \$10 million and add more than 6,000 students to overflowing community-college campuses throughout the state.

But Wicker says, the cost is worth it.

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Black farmers air grievances during national conference

By A. J. Dickerson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Rod Bradshaw guesses he's the largest black farmer in Kansas.

But that doesn't mean much when he gets tangled in federal red tape because part of the bureaucratic problem is racial discrimination, he said Saturday at the National Black Farmers Conference.

"There's a problem. You have to fight for everything you get. There's a tough road for us to take advantage of government programs ... because we're minorities," said Bradshaw, who grows grain on his 2,500 acres near Jetson, Kan.

Getting a handle on discrimination was high on the agenda at the conference, which drew farmers and agriculture experts from across the nation. Planners hope to find ways to keep black growers from leaving the business and to get into the mainstream.

Persistent discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is one reason the number of black growers is dwindling, said Dr. Owusu Bandle, an associate horticulture professor at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La.

There are fewer than 20,000 black farmers in the nation, compared with nearly 750,000 at the beginning of the century. Some government scientific experts were on hand to promote environmental and conservation programs.

"We're about the best thing since sliced bread," said Jane Hardisty, who directs the Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service operations in Michigan.

Bandle recently began organic farming on a few acres, a project he hopes becomes a model for black farmers trying to get into other areas of agribusiness. He said he hoped black growers from around the nation could network at the conference, exploring



John Boyd, the leader of the National Association of Black Farmers, leads a mule near the Agricultural Department during a recent protest march in Washington, D.C.

regional marketing projects.

Thousands of black growers have filed discrimination complaints against the Agriculture Department and 350 are plaintiffs in a \$2-billion lawsuit set for trial in federal court in Washington next year.

The Agriculture Department has acknowledged past discrimination and is trying to resolve a backlog of about 900 complaints from farmers over denial of loans and other benefits. The lawsuit seeks to represent all black farmers who made claims between 1983

and 1997, which lawyers estimate at about 2,500.

Bradshaw said he has fought with the USDA since the mid-1970s over low-interest loan programs for minorities. Programs are on the books, but are made difficult to get, he said.

Merriam Webster blinks at racial slur, but doesn't budge

By TRUDY TYNAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Like it or not, offensive words have offensive meanings. Even the dictionary can't change that.

Under pressure from groups that want racial slurs cleaned up in the dictionary, Merriam Webster has said it will reformat entries for about 200 obscenities and "offensive" words in its Collegiate Dictionary.

But the company refused to rewrite the words' definitions.

Editors at the Springfield-based publisher said they would place a notation in italics before about 200 of the 160,000 words in the 1999 printing of the Collegiate Dictionary saying they are used as ethnic, religious or sexual slurs and obscenities.

But a Michigan woman dis-

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