



THE FILE

DOCUMENTING THE SPORTS WORLD, ONE PIECE OF PAPER AT A TIME

\$3,330 FOR CHICK-FIL-A ...

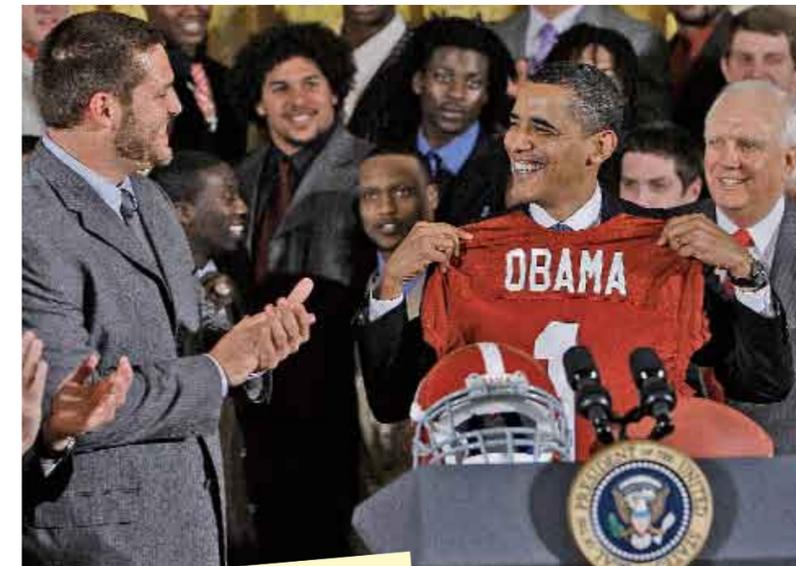
NO, SERIOUSLY. THAT'S WHAT IT COSTS TO BUY 190 BOX LUNCHES FOR A BCS CHAMPION ON THE WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE. ALABAMA'S TRIP TO DC WAS JUST ONE OF SEVERAL EXPENDITURES WE WENT LOOKING TO FIND. LET'S HIT THE PAPER TRAIL.

BY SHAUN ASSAEL



O, BAMA: THE \$97,327.25 PHOTO OP

When the Crimson Tide visited Washington, D.C., on March 8, President Obama lauded the BCS champs and their leader, Nick Saban. "There aren't too many coaches in the country who have the knowledge, the motivational skills, the program discipline to win two national championships in six years," Obama said. The prez might have added, "Congrats, Coach, on cashing that \$400,000 title bonus, too."



Air
\$79,314

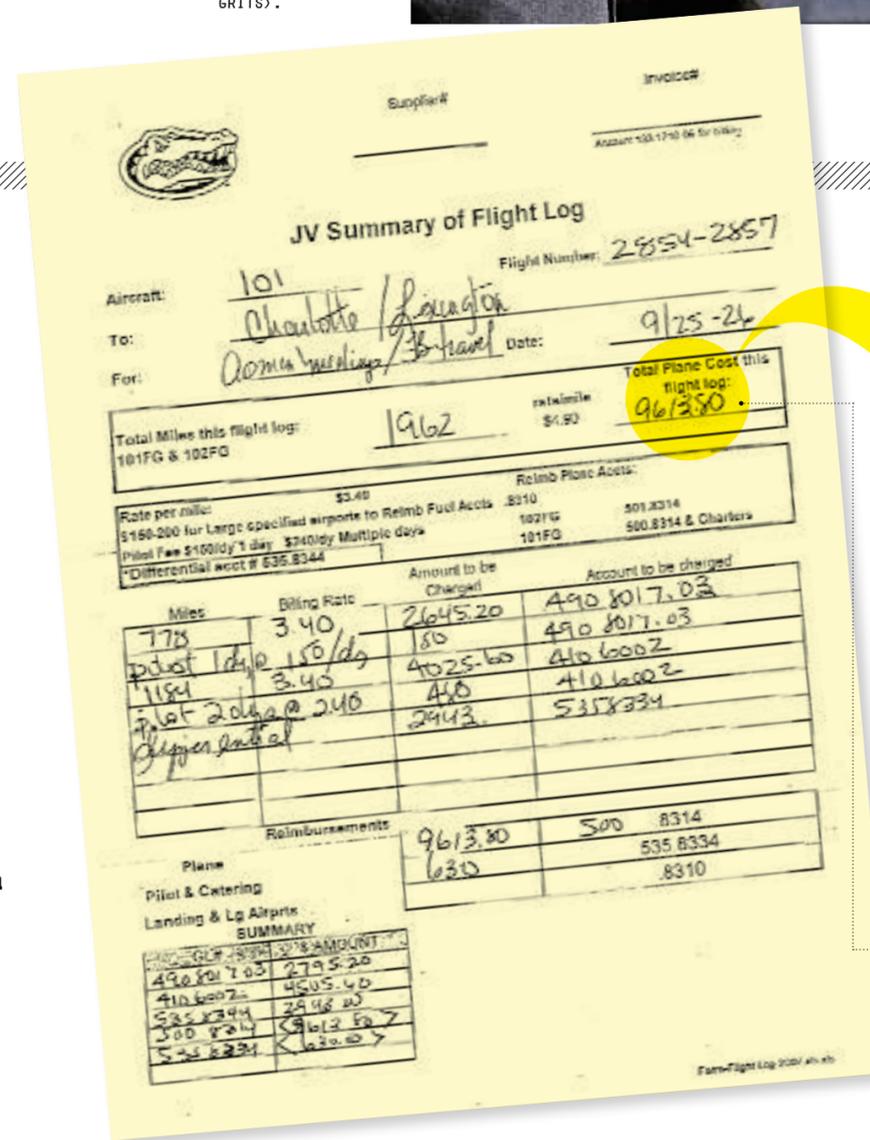
ROUND-TRIP CHARTER FLIGHT FROM TUSCALOOSA TO WASHINGTON FOR ABOUT 170 PLAYERS, STAFF AND COACHES.

Ground
\$1,671.30

BILL FROM DC'S HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU FOR THREE OFFICERS TO ESCORT THE TIDE ALL DAY.

Eats
\$3,512

BEFORE THE \$3,329 CHICK-FIL-A LUNCH, THERE WAS A \$3,512 BREAKFAST FROM CLASSIC FARE CATERING (EGG-AND-CHEESE CASSEROLE, GRITS).



WHEN A STAR SNEEZES

Last September, Tim Tebow was laid low by a flulike bug that ripped through Florida's roster. To avoid the further spread of germs—and to keep the QB in the lineup against Kentucky—the Gators paid almost \$10,000 for a private plane to get to Lexington. Return on investment: Tebow rushed for 123 yards, passed for 103 and scored 3 TDs in a 41-7 win.

1,962 miles traveled
X **\$4.90** per mile
= **\$9,613.80**
total plane cost

SPIFFY SPARTY

He works every Michigan State home game, stars in SportsCenter commercials, and twice has been named Muscle & Fitness magazine's "buffest mascot." That's a lot of wear and tear, as seen in Sparty's upkeep bills.



Sparty Arms
\$1,131.99 per pair

MSU STOCKED UP ON THREE PAIRS LAST JUNE.

Sparty Boots
\$2,650 per pair

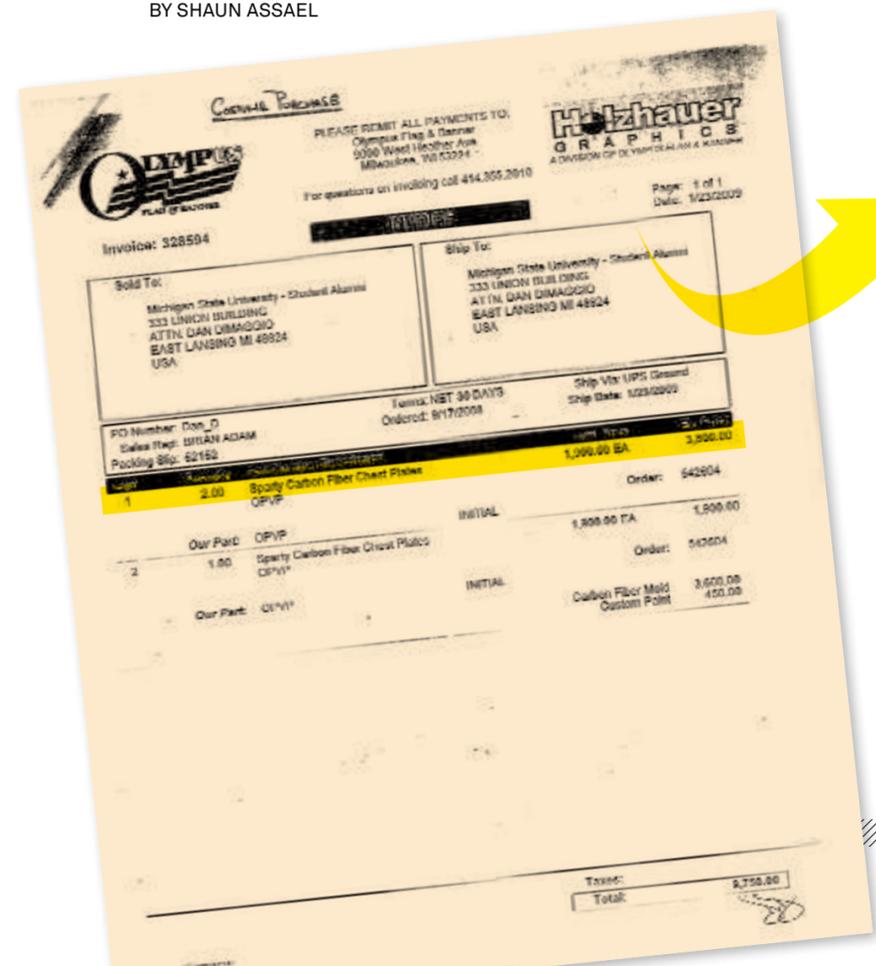
HEY, LEATHER IS EXPENSIVE.

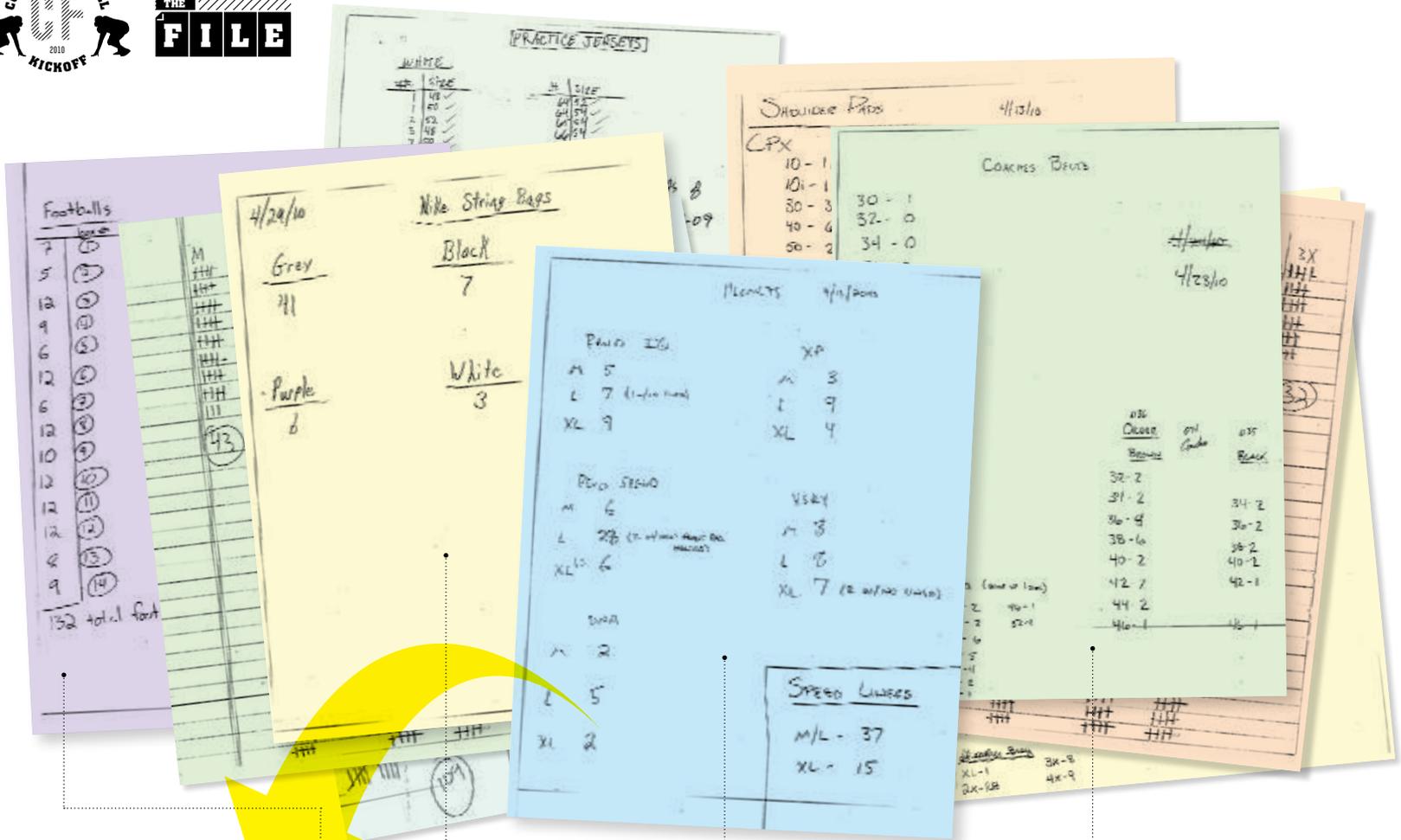
Sparty Head Cleaning
\$50

THE SCHOOL ALSO SPENT \$100 TO RESEW HIS FACE.

Sparty Skirts
\$1,075 each

TO BE SAFE, MSU BOUGHT TWO SKIRTS.





WELL-EQUIPPED

What's it take to outfit a big-time program? We asked Texas to detail its spring locker stockpile. We got back a 32-page response, listing everything from visors (181) to practice jerseys (197) for 111 players and 14 coaches.



132

footballs



252

game pants



57

string bags



59

Flex Tech sandals



77

orange T-shirts



104

helmets



365

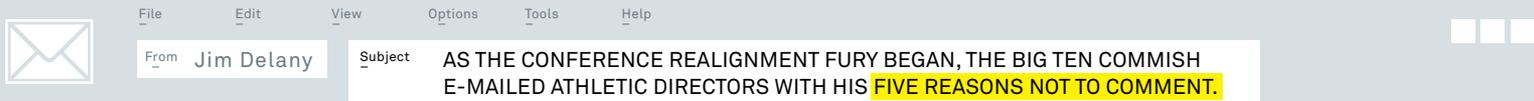
skullcaps



39

coaches' belts

FROM THE DESK OF JIM DELANY



"To reiterate as a collective we have no conference stake in contributing either on or off the record or via background on these stories. These comments



- 1 can do some brand damage because they tend to focus on the pecuniary side;
- 2 do not accurately reflect the complexity or the political challenges both internal and external associated with expansion execution;
- 3 tend to complicate and confuse the messages with respect to process that we painstakingly crafted in order to insulate ourselves re: charges of insensitivity to others;
- 4 are an affront to those who are practicing discipline by refraining from commenting;
- 5 are inconsistent with the protocols of collegiality and trust which are the foundational elements of moving big and meaningful issues thru a governance system such as our own."