



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Cooler with a high chance of rain
HIGH: 59 LOW: 44

A&M research results arrive with space shuttle Columbia

By JILL BUTLER
Of The Battalion Staff

A medical experiment designed to help Texas A&M researchers find a treatment for emphysema will return from space today after 10 days aboard the space shuttle Columbia.

Dr. Edgar Meyer, professor of biochemistry, is in charge of the experiment at A&M.

Emphysema, a fatal lung disease, is among the 10 most deadly diseases in the United States, according to population statistics. The disease is caused when the enzyme elastase destroys lung tissue.

Researchers hope to grow elastase crystals in liquid drops aboard the space shuttle.

"Once we have the crystals, we will study them to make models of the elastase enzyme," Meyer said. "Then we will work on finding an inhibitor for the enzyme."

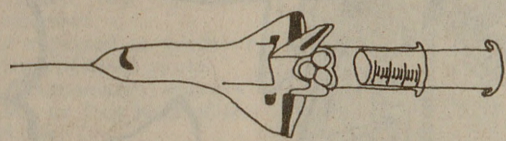


Illustration by Norzaini Mufti

This is the first time A&M has conducted a crystal-growing experiment in space.

Because of gravity's adverse effects on the crystallization process, the experiment was conducted in outer space, where crystals are able to form more perfectly, Meyer said.

Astronauts on board the space shuttle turned on the experiment during the shuttle's flight.

There is a chance that the experiment will fail, but Meyer is optimistic because other groups successfully performed the same experiment on an earlier space shuttle flight.

Meyer said that regardless of the results, researchers are not looking for a cure for emphysema.

"In the foreseeable future there will be no cure for emphysema," he said. "Our best hope right now is to create a drug that will arrest the disease."

However, creating and testing a new drug takes five to 10 years.

Meyer will pick up the results of the experiment Friday. Measuring the crystals and making the enzyme model will be completed in about a month and a half, he said.

A&M is one of six groups with experiments aboard the shuttle.

The experiments were organized at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the center for macro-molecular crystallography.

"If we get good results we'll conduct future experiments in outer space to get other good results," Meyer said.

FBI arrests D.C. mayor on drug charge

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mayor Marion Barry was arrested by the FBI on a drug charge Thursday night at a downtown hotel.

Details were sketchy, but the manager of the Vista International Hotel, Rex Rice, confirmed word from two federal law enforcement sources that Barry had been taken into custody by FBI agents.

First word of the arrest was broadcast shortly after 10 p.m. by television station WRC.

A third federal source said the drug involved was cocaine, but gave no details.

Two city police officers at the hotel sealed off the upper floors.

The 53-year-old Barry, a former civil rights worker with graduate training in chemistry, has been the subject of many allegations of drug use in recent years. He has denied all allegations.

A long-time friend of the mayor's, Charles Lewis, said in open court last fall that he had provided cocaine to the mayor.

In November, WUSA-TV said a local physician had reported to police that Barry had been treated for a drug overdose in 1983. The then-police chief later reported that investigators were unable to confirm that report.

Molestation trial finally ends Jury acquits mother, son of sex abuse

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Preschool operators Raymond Buckley and his mother were acquitted Thursday of 52 child molestation charges in the nation's longest and costliest criminal trial, inciting outrage among parents of youngsters in the case.

Jurors deadlocked on 12 sex abuse counts against Buckley and a single conspiracy count against him and his 63-year-old mother, Peggy McMarten Buckley. Superior Court Judge William Pounders declared a mistrial on those charges.

The investigation of alleged mass molestation at the suburban McMartin Pre-School ignited a nationwide wave of worry about child abuse when it came to light in 1983. It produced widespread fear among working parents that their children might be at risk at school.

The trial lasted nearly three years and cost \$15 million, making it the longest and most expensive criminal proceeding in U.S. history.

Buckley, 31, spent nearly five years in jail because of the charges, and his mother was jailed for almost two years.

Announcement of the innocent verdicts brought gasps and sobs in the packed courtroom while the defendants cried but were restrained in their reactions.

About an hour after the verdicts were read, parent Jackie McGauley said: "I'm still in shock. ... When I first heard it, I didn't believe it. I thought someone had made a mistake."

Parent Mary Mae Cioffi added: "I am really disappointed. The anger is beginning to rise. We have programs all over the country that tell children to run and tell when somebody hurts them, and our children told. Some of them spent 35 days on the stand and they get a 'not guilty.' It shows that our justice system needs a revamp for kids."

"I know my children were molested. I had my daugh-

ter sleep between my husband and I for a whole year because she was so afraid somebody would come and get her, that they would kill her, because she told," she said.

Mrs. Buckley said: "I've gone through hell and now we've lost everything. My concern was for my son and what they've done to him ... because my son would never harm a child."

"I feel wonderful," said Charles Buckley, father of Raymond and husband of Mrs. Buckley.

Prosecutor Lael Rubin said, "We ultimately must respect the jury's decision even though I personally dis-

"I've gone through hell and now we've lost everything. My concern was for my son and what they've done to him ... because my son would never harm a child."

— Peggy McMarten Buckley, defendant

agree with it. ... I believe that the families involved in this case and the children involved in this case ... cannot be forgotten or overlooked in terms of what they have had to endure in the kind of system we presently have."

Pounders scheduled a Jan. 31 hearing to determine whether the district attorney will refile charges against Buckley on the 13 deadlocked counts. Rubin said she would consult with parents in the case before deciding.

Raindrops keep falling on my legs



Photo by Jay Janner

Sophomore Amy Turner steps over a water puddle near the MSC Thursday on her way to hang up posters for OPAS.

New provost makes 'coordinated effort'

By SUZANNE CALDERON
Of The Battalion Staff

To keep up in a world with increasing international concerns, Texas A&M appointed Dr. Emily Ashworth as the new assistant provost for international programs.

Ashworth, who serves as associate director of the university's Institute for Pacific Asia, said international affairs are becoming more important to A&M. "The world is becoming more and more international," she said. "We are coming into the decade of the '90s — the tremendous change in the world provides us opportunities and challenges."

The challenge that will be facing Ashworth, when her position becomes effective Feb. 1, will be to coordinate all international activities at the University.

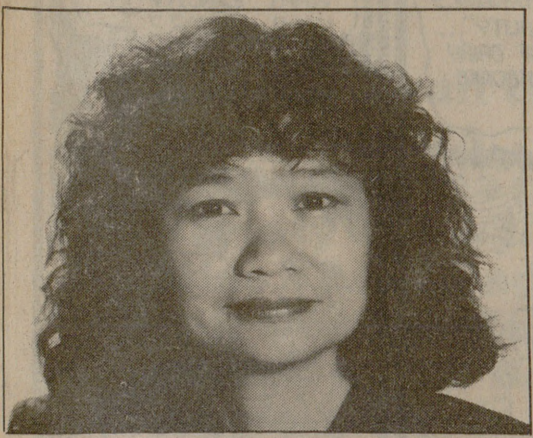
Dr. E. Dean Gage, acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, who appointed Ashworth, said the position was created to develop international programming at A&M.

"We are making a strong statement and committing that we will be a world university and prepare our faculty, staff and students to function effectively in a world community," he said.

APA, along with International Student Services, Study Abroad Office and the Office of International Coordination, will be under Ashworth's supervision.

Ashworth will chair the International Program Advancement and Coordination Council. The council is made up of faculty representatives from each college.

"The purpose of the committee is to make sure there is a coordinated effort around the entire Uni-



Dr. Emily Y. Ashworth

versity community, so we can discuss (international) issues and share information throughout the colleges," she said.

Helping international students become integrated into the University will be an issue at the top of Ashworth's agenda, she said.

"We have a tremendous growth of international students — 2,156 students in April 1989, as compared to 1,596 in 1985," she said.

She said integration would improve relations between American students and international students.

In addition to student integration, Ashworth said she will focus on:

- expanding the Study Abroad Office.
- providing incentives for faculty members interested in international research.
- giving an international perspective to academic programs.
- developing a centralized information system for collecting and distributing international program data.
- resource development to fund international programs.

Gage said that, previously, there was no centralized place for international programming.

"This will bring together things in an organized manner," he said.

Ashworth said the existing programs have done well despite a lack of resources and staff support.

"There are a lot of talented people on this campus. The international programs staff has done an outstanding job," she said. "What we need now is to create a team — teamwork to pull the resources together and develop new ideas, new resources."

Ashworth earned her undergraduate degree from Fu Jen University in Taiwan. She received her master's and Ph.D. degrees in history from Kent State University.

Before coming to A&M, Ashworth worked as a senior staff assistant to the National Governors' Association in Washington, D.C., where she helped develop education-related policies. In 1987-88, Ashworth served on the State Relations Commission for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

In 1986-87, she was a fellow with the Institute for Educational Leadership. In 1982, Ashworth was appointed a member of a U.S. delegation negotiating refugee resettlement issues with the Japanese and Philippine governments.

"Dr. Ashworth brings a wealth of international experience and contacts," Gage said. "She was recommended by a search committee as the person that could best lead this effort and who demonstrated the creative leadership and organizational skills to launch this effort."

Professor: Treat racism as a disease

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

Regardless of race, everyone on Earth is at least a 50th cousin, said a nationally recognized author and lecturer on racism last night.

Nathan Rutstein, Springfield Technical College professor of communications and author of "To Be One - A Battle Against Racism," likened racism to a disease of the heart "that is deteriorating and eroding the soul of America."

Because 1960s civil rights legislation only dealt with two major symptoms of racism, segregation and discrimination, and did not address the disease of racism itself, people have found ways to circumvent those laws, Rutstein said.

Student, faculty request granted; absentee voting box put on campus

By SELINA GONZALEZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Rural, handicapped and elderly voters who aren't students may have to contend with Texas A&M's parking problem and masses of people on campus if they want to vote absentee, said Ron Gay, former Brazos County Democratic Party chairman.

An absentee voting box will not be located at the College Station Community Center any longer. Texas A&M students, faculty and staff can vote absentee on campus starting Feb. 21 for the March 13 Democratic and Republican primaries.

Gay said the location of additional boxes should be accessible to all voters.

"An early voting box on campus is not convenient for the rural voters of Brazos County," he said.

Gay said the community center location, which is approximately one mile from some areas of campus, was more accessible to voters who are not connected with A&M, and it was within walking distance from the University.

The Brazos County Commissioners Court voted 4-1 on Dec. 18 to install three additional absentee voting

As examples, he cited the white flight to the suburbs, which left ghettos in their place, and the establishment of private education academies, which were set up to block racial integration.

Consequently, Rutstein said racism is worse now than in the 1960s.

"When a child is born in this country and takes its first breath, they breathe in the disease (of racism)," Rutstein said.

The only way to conquer racism is to acknowledge its presence, he said.

"Anyone who has any sense of education, especially higher education, knows racism is a patent evil," Rutstein said. "Denial of the disease of racism is the biggest stumbling

block to conquering it. If you deny you have pneumonia, you'll perish."

Instead of denial, Rutstein recommends finding the genesis of racism in oneself.

"We will be a better people (as a result of acknowledging racism) because we won't be living a lie," Rutstein said. "The truth will make you free."

He recommends shifting the focus in textbooks to emphasize the oneness of the human family and the establishment of an Institute for the Healing of Racism on the Texas A&M campus.

"I wanted to inspire you to take action so your cousins could come together," Rutstein said. "When that happens, this will be a far greater country."

boxes around Brazos County — at the Memorial Student Center, Ben Milam Elementary School on Ridgedale Street and the College Station school district's administration office on Welsh Avenue.

Rodger Lewis, Brazos County Republican Party chairman, said several students and staff members had requested at the Dec. 18 commissioner's meeting that a box be placed on campus.

Gay said opposition to the placement of an early voting box on campus was also expressed by a dozen voters.

"No one is opposed to people voting," Gay said. "We just want it to be fair and equitable."

Lewis said the Republican Party endorses the additional boxes.

"It (absentee voting on campus) will do what it is supposed to do, which is encourage more people to go out and vote," said Lewis.

County Commissioner Milton Turner, who voted against installing the additional boxes, plans to appeal to the U.S. Department of Justice about the boxes because it has final authority to approve or reject their placement.