



staff photo by David Fisher

The Texas A&M observatory, currently under construction

Observatory being built for astronomy classes

by Susan Dittman
Battalion Staff

An observatory to be used as an aid for teaching astronomy classes is being built on Texas A&M property about one mile south of the Nuclear Science Center near Easterwood Airport.

Dr. John Lestrade, visiting assistant professor of physics, came from Rice University to oversee the project. Lestrade said the two-story building will have a five-meter dome on the second floor which will house a Celestron 14-inch reflector telescope.

The bottom floor, he said, will consist of a classroom, restrooms and a workshop.

Sixteen telescopes will be permanently mounted on a platform and will be used by stu-

dents taking astronomy classes, Lestrade said.

"The main purpose of this observatory is the educational purpose," he said.

The cost for the observatory, which Lestrade said will be completed in about a month, is approximately \$200,000.

Dr. Tom Adair, professor of physics, said the observatory will be used for demonstrations and for teaching astronomy courses that are now being taught in the Physics Building.

Students taking Physics 306, Basic Astronomy; Physics 307, Observational Astronomy; and Physics 314, Survey of Astronomy, will be allowed to use the new observatory, Adair said.

Lestrade said students in Physics 307, the laboratory course,

will use the observatory every night while students in the lecture course will use it about once a semester.

Adair said the physics department decided an observatory was needed at Texas A&M about seven years ago when enrollment in the astronomy classes grew to about 300 students per semester.

Currently, Lestrade said, about 1,000 students enroll in the lecture courses while the lab has about 100 students per year.

The proposal was written six years ago and construction on the observatory was finally started three months ago, Adair said.

"It is nothing unusual for a university to have such a facility," Adair said.

German leader arrives in Houston for speech

United Press International
HOUSTON — West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt arrived for a goodwill visit in which he was expected to outline German-American policy and review the political organization of the United States and its Atlantic allies.

Houston is the first stop on Schmidt's 10-day U.S. tour, which includes a meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mayor Kathy Whitmire, German Ambassador Peter Hermes and about a dozen Houston dignitaries and business leaders greeted Schmidt at Houston's Executive Air Terminal late Tuesday. Dressed in a casual navy jacket and light blue pants, Schmidt waved at reporters but

made no comments.

"This is a private visit, but of course he's taking the opportunity to clarify our points of view concerning American-German relations," said Consul Rolf Saligmann of the German Consulate in Houston.

Schmidt attended a private breakfast with business leaders Wednesday. Among the gathering were officials of the Port of Houston, the Houston Chamber of Commerce and Schmidt's old acquaintance, former Texas Gov. John B. Connally.

Schmidt made no breakfast remarks. A spokesman said, "It was just an informal breakfast."

Schmidt also was slated to deliver a policy address at a luncheon sponsored by several Houston organizations, includ-

ing the Chamber of Commerce, the World Trade Association and the Institute on International Education. The speech is entitled "Atlantic Partnership in its Fourth Decade."

Saligmann said: "It's a general speech he's giving covering security, economic issues and German-American relations."

Schmidt was scheduled to leave Houston Wednesday for San Francisco. He is due to meet with Secretary of State George Shultz in California. He and Shultz will attend a party thrown annually by the ultra-exclusive Bohemian Club.

The 2,000-member club of politicians, world leaders and businessmen holds the party each year in the mountains of northern California.

Airline may have to go dry

United Press International
AUSTIN — Southwest Airlines faces the loss of its liquor license and a fine if the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission finds the carrier guilty of serving beer to a boy, 14.

A hearing to determine if Southwest Airlines violated liquor laws on a flight from Lubbock to Austin Jan. 17 concluded Tuesday. Leonard Pressley, who at the time was 14 and wore a mustache, told commission officials the airline served him seven beers on a flight from

Lubbock to Austin Jan. 17. A decision is expected within 60 days on what, if any, steps should be taken against the airline. A hearing examiner's report will be issued in about two weeks, then a final decision will be issued by a commission administrator on Southwest's innocence or guilt.

The airline's attorney suggested the youth made the statement at the prompting of his father for use in a possible lawsuit against the airline.

Southwest faces a charge of serving alcohol to a minor, an offense punishable by revocation or suspension of the airline's liquor license and/or a fine.

Airport police said Pressley had seven beer tabs in his pocket when he was found on an airport couch and that he appeared disoriented and had vomited.

Southwest officials said that it would be virtually impossible for attendants to serve Pressley and for him to drink seven beers during the brief flight.

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