

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Team to evaluate A&M self-study

by Maureen Carmody
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M is in its 59th year of accreditation, but to maintain that prestigious recognition, the University must conduct a self-study every 10 years.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools — one of six accreditation associations in the United States — is responsible for evaluating Texas A&M's programs to determine if they meet the requirements for re-accreditation.

Members of the association will observe and investigate the campus Monday and Tuesday and will com-

plete reports of the University on Wednesday.

Dr. R. William Barzak, editor of the overall self-study report, said Texas A&M has been hard at work to ensure that it will be re-accredited. He said he feels the University is in no danger of losing accreditation, but said a lot of work had to be done to prove that it is a competent educational institution.

The comprehensive study, which takes about two years, is conducted on three levels. The first stage consists of reports from the 88 departments at Texas A&M. The second stage con-

sists of reports from the 10 colleges. In the third stage, 12 University-wide committees issue reports.

About 110 reports are generated at those levels and then submitted to Barzak and Dr. R.J.Q. Adams, coordinator of the program. Barzak, who has worked on two previous accreditation studies, said the information has been condensed into a 300-page report and submitted to the association.

The visitation team that will be here next week is a 31-member group consisting of university professors, staff members and administrators

from throughout the South, Barzak said.

The team is made up of members from universities in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Gordon W. Sweet, a SACS staff representative, also will be present.

The group will report on 12 major standards, Barzak said. These consist of purpose, organization and administration, education program, financial resources, faculty, library, student development services, physical resources, special activities, graduate

program, research and computer resources.

Barzak said the University is already one step ahead of itself in impressing the members.

"We are already taking steps to make changes," he said. "It (the self-study) is a critical and advisory study of where we'll be going within the next 10 years. It makes us look good if we can tell the committee — and we will — that we have already begun making changes."

"We have already taken progressive steps in the computer department. However, finances are always a

problem, especially (since Texas A&M) is a state-supported school."

The University is requested to submit a first-year report, a fifth-year report and a midpoint report, which is essentially only a summary of such statistics as the number of students enrolled, the number of professors, the number of computer terminals, and so on, he said.

Barzak said the information that has been collected about the University is open to all who wish to see it. A copy can be obtained in the reserve reading room of Sterling C. Evans Library.

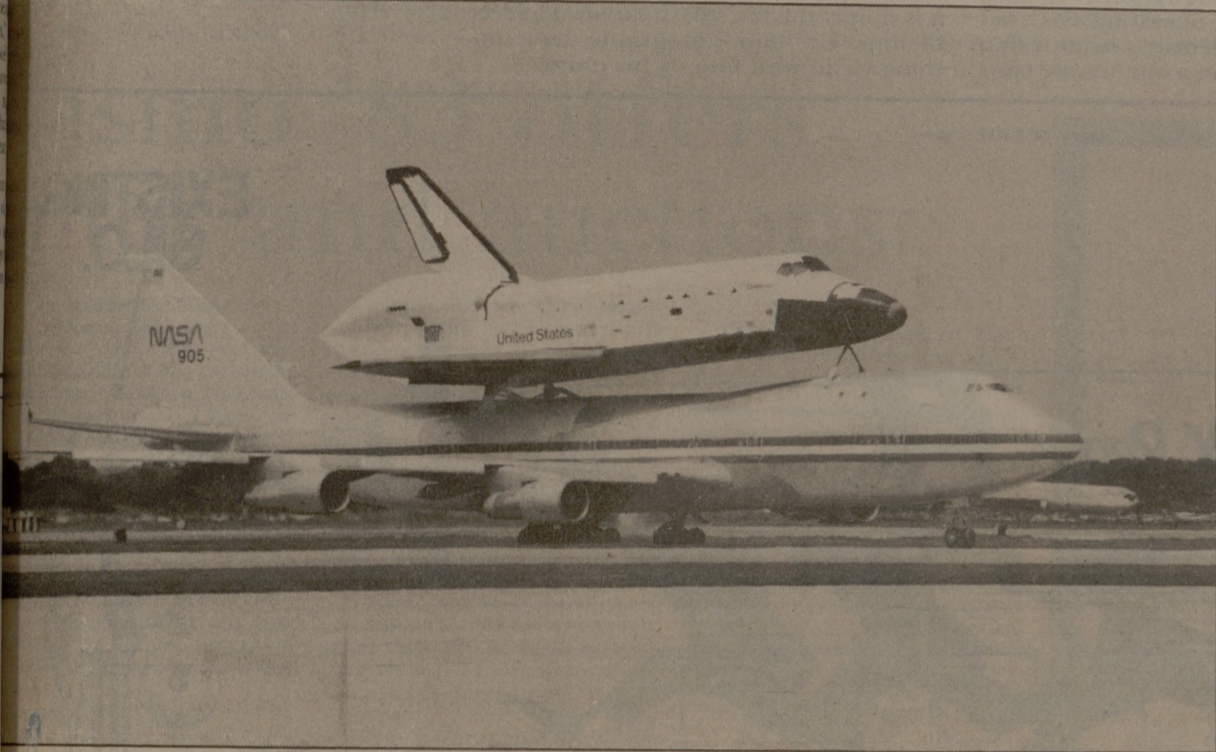


photo by Howard Kirk Gibbs

The space shuttle "Challenger," atop a modified Boeing 747, landed for refueling Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Kelly Air Force Base in San

Antonio. The shuttle is scheduled to leave for Cape Canaveral in Florida today.

Weather forces shuttle to stay in San Antonio

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The space shuttle Challenger, which circled the earth in 90 minutes when it was in orbit, was forced to spend the night at Kelly Air Force Base on its return to Florida on the back of a Boeing 747.

Bad weather farther east Thursday prevented the 747's four-man crew from making the ferry flight from its Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., landing base to the Kennedy Space Center launch base in one day.

The 747 and its billion-dollar piggyback cargo originally landed in San Antonio to refuel. Several thousand people watched the black and white jumbo jet and its converted jetliner ferry plane land.

Fitzhugh Fulton, pilot of the 747, said the plane flew at 11,000 feet rather than the normal 13,000 to 15,000 feet Thursday because of cold temperatures at the higher altitudes, which might have damaged the shuttle's heat shield tiles.

Once the takeoff was delayed, the ungainly combination was put on display at the air base.

Challenger landed at Edwards April 9 and is scheduled to be prepared for launch again from Cape Canaveral in record time. It is tentatively set for blastoff on June 9.

For its second mission, the ship will carry a record crew of five, including the first American woman to go into orbit, Sally Ride. The mission will last six days and includes the launching of two communications satellites and a test satellite that will later be retrieved by the ship's 50-foot-long mechanical arm.

The flight is scheduled to end June 15 with an unprecedented landing at the new 15,000-foot runway at the Kennedy Space Center. That will eliminate the need for the ferry flight from California and speed up the "turnaround" for Challenger's third flight in early August.

A space agency spokesman in Washington said the weather wait was called because of a frontal system in Mississippi.

Because the shuttle weighs more than 75 tons, the 747 is limited to flying at about 15,000 feet and often cannot fly over bad weather. NASA engineers do not want the ship flying through thunderstorms because of the possibility of hail damage to the fragile insulation tiles, and because the tiles would absorb water from rain.

Texaco executive freed by guerrillas

United Press International
MIAMI — Texaco executive Kenneth Bishop, looking thin and tired, said his 38-day ordeal at the hands of Colombian guerrillas who got a \$1 million ransom for his safe release was "ugly, real ugly."

"I'm glad to be back," said Bishop, 57, who walked with a slight limp and had to be helped out of the private jet hired to fly him and his Colombian-born wife, Bertha Cuellar Bishop, to Miami Thursday.

Reunited shortly after his release at 7 a.m. Thursday, the two left El Dorado Airport in Colombia aboard the jet at noon and arrived in Miami four hours later.

Bishop still wore the full beard and long hair he grew during his imprisonment.

He said the guerrillas treated him "ugly, real ugly" during his captivity. He said he was "damn glad" to be free, but would not discuss his abduction further.

Bishop was whisked through U.S. Customs by five officials who met him at the airport. He jumped into a car and quickly left.

Bishop, who began working for Texaco in Colombia as a geologist in

1956, was kidnapped by a band of armed guerrillas March 7 on his way to work. His two bodyguards were killed.

Colombian national police officials said a \$1 million ransom was paid to the People's Revolutionary Organization, a previously obscure guerrilla group, for his release. Police refused to disclose the exact location in Bogota Bishop had been released.

Texaco officials in New York and Bogota refused to comment on the ransom, but issued a statement on the release from New York saying the firm was happy Bishop had been reunited with his family.

The guerrilla group had planned to "execute" Bishop March 29 if an undetermined ransom was not paid. The deadline was extended and the two parties continued negotiations despite the company's policy against paying ransoms for kidnapped employees.

"The family of Kenneth Bishop, who was held captive for 38 days, confirms he has been released and is in excellent condition. The family wishes to express its gratitude to all those who helped during the ordeal," the company statement said.

Solidarity calls for May Day protests

United Press International
WARSAW, Poland — Former Polish union leader Lech Walesa said he was not "distancing" himself from appeals from the banned Solidarity underground for anti-government demonstrations on May Day.

Gdansk police interrogated Danuta Walesa, the former Solidarity leader's wife, Thursday about her husband's secret rendezvous with fugitive underground leaders, but afterward she said she refused to answer any questions.

Walesa also refused to answer police questions about his meetings in the same type of interrogation on Wednesday.

But a bulletin issued Thursday by Solidarity fugitives defiantly confirmed they held talks with Walesa at the beginning of the week and called on Poles to show their opposition to the government's "apparatus of terror" on May Day.

The appeal for protests, similar to previous underground declarations on the same issue, urged "all organs of the union and all who are true to the struggle for social justice to organize independent celebrations on May 1."

The hand-typed circular said the time and place of anti-government rallies and marches would be circulated later, but asked Solidarity sup-

porters to start preparing protest placards for the demonstrations.

The communique, made available to Western reporters Thursday, said members of the banned union's "Temporary Coordinating Commission" agreed on "a joint attitude" with Walesa in their meetings last weekend.

But Walesa, who took a cautious line after his five-hour session with police interrogators Wednesday, had little to say about the bulletin, signed by the five-man committee in charge of the outlawed union's clandestine activities.

Pre-registration blocked for over 2000 students

by Melissa Adair
Battalion Staff
More than 2,000 students have been blocked from pre-registration because of unpaid debts, Texas A&M officials say.

Pre-registration for the fall semester begins Monday.

Officials from the fiscal office, University Police and the Student Financial Aid Office say students can be stopped from pre-registering if they have not cleared their financial records.

Mary Smith, a clerk in the fiscal office, said students can be blocked from pre-registration if they owe money for loans, library fines, housing or classes that were added late.

Smith said students who will be blocked should have received a notice in the mail.

"We mail notices out on all billings, but many times students don't get them because they don't keep us updated on their current address," she said.

Smith estimated that the fiscal office has blocked 1,500 students from pre-registering next week.

Students can clear their records with the fiscal office by paying their bills.

Nancy Kent, circulation supervisor at the University library, said the library will block students through the fiscal office if they have grossly overdue books.

"We don't like to block students at all because it's time-consuming for us, for them and for the fiscal office," she said. "But they have plenty of opportunity to clear their records. All we want is our books back so that others can use them."

Deborah Garrity, with the University Police, said the department will block students from pre-registration if they have six or more tickets and have cars registered with the police department.

However, she said, they also can block students who do not have cars registered with the University Police.

When students who do not have parking stickers have their cars towed, she said, the University Police can obtain their student identification numbers and block them from pre-registration.

Garrity estimated that the University Police has blocked 500 students from pre-registration.

When students pay for the tickets they have accumulated, she said, they will be allowed to register.

The Student Financial Aid Office can block students who have failed to pay overdue loans from pre-registration. Students can be kept from re-enrolling if they received a scholarship, but quit school and never returned the scholarship money.

Lori Harvell, a secretary with the Student Financial Aid Office, said that if students pay part of their loans, they usually are given extra time to pay off the rest.

The Student Financial Aid Office estimated that it blocked 200 students from pre-registration.

Regents to meet

The Texas A&M Board of Regents will hold a special meeting Saturday to discuss the purchase of two tracts of land in Brazos County, near the Veterinary Medicine Complex.

The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the regents' annex in the Memorial Student Center.

A System spokesman said only one agenda item is scheduled for the meeting and adjournment is expected before noon.

The next regular meeting of the board will be May 22 through May 24.

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forecast

Clear skies and mild temperatures today with a high of 68. Northeastly winds of around 10 mph. Clear and cool tonight with a low near 43. Sunny skies Saturday with a high near 74.



staff photo by Irene Mees

Burying the dead

A group of students who believe art is dead at Texas A&M lead a processional past the

library to Rudder Fountain to hold a short eulogy Thursday. The coffin was empty.