

Horse course starts Thursday

The Department of Animal Science, which will begin its annual horse short course Thursday, will hold a sale of more than 50 young registered Quarter Horses at noon Friday.

Both events will be held at Texas A&M's new Livestock Pavilion on Jersey Street. Registration for the sale, which is open to the public at no cost, begins at 7:30 a.m. A preview of the sale horses will be held at 8 a.m.

The horse short course includes a Brazos County horse farm tour, a visit to a ranch which breeds Quarter Horses for racing and a cutting horse training clinic conducted by

Buster Welch, a professional horse trainer.

A cutting horse contest, sponsored by the National Cutting Horse Association, will end the two-day's activities on Friday at 6 p.m.

Preregistration for the course costs \$25, registration costs \$30. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday morning. Dr. Gary Smith, acting head of the Department of Animal Science, will present opening remarks at 8:20.

Proceeds from the horse sale will be used for a new indoor horse arena being built at FM 2818 and Turkey Creek Road in College Station.

Shuttle gets economical satellite

United Press International
SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON — The space shuttle Challenger will carry an experimental satellite next month made by a West German company from parts including scuba diving tanks, helicopter lights and structural tubes developed as masts for sailing surfboards.

The 3,300-pound satellite was built by Messerschmitt-BolkowBlohm to demonstrate how an orbiting platform can be used for commercial purposes such as materials processing and surveying the Earth for mineral deposits.

Since the satellite is designed to utilize space for commercial

purposes at low cost, program manager Konrad Moritz said the company had to avoid the high prices usually associated with space hardware.

"We had to find ways where we could save money," he said Monday at a briefing at the Johnson Space Center. "The overall goal of the program was, if it's not cheap, if we don't find ways, we don't make it."

The satellite, for example, uses four scuba diving tanks to hold the nitrogen gas used for stabilization jets. Moritz said the tanks are five times as heavy as those built for space use, but "we saved probably some \$100,000."

Instead of buying special

lights made for spacecraft, MBB used \$10 lights made for helicopters. Moritz said they passed all tests and probably saved the company tens of thousands of dollars.

He said the main structure of the satellite is made from carbon fiber reinforced tubes developed by a Swiss company for masts on sailing surfboards.

"We just took the production line of them and made a space product out of it," he said. "It turned out we had almost zero development costs in this item."

The satellite, called SPAS-01, is worth \$23 million. MBB's investment is only \$3.5 million, and MBB marketing manager Dieter Davidts said the company expects to recoup the invest-

ment by flying the satellite at least four more times. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration charges \$3 million for each flight.

The satellite is a secondary payload on this mission. The primary job of the flight, set to start with launch June 18 from Cape Canaveral, Fla., is to launch two communications satellites — one for Telesat Canada and one for Indonesia.

The satellite built by MBB will be launched and later retrieved for the first time by a 50-foot mechanical arm installed on the Challenger.

Besides serving as a test satellite for NASA, the satellite carries six scientific experiments

for which the German Ministry of Research and MBB \$7 million.

The company hopes to use space on this satellite for more advanced platforms — primarily remote sensing space telescopes and processing operations to utilize on the weightless space to make special measurements.

Moritz said under the company's agreement with the satellite could even be used for military reconnaissance cameras and other equipment for non-aggressive military purposes.

He said, however, that the company's potential markets are civilian in nature.

Drug theft report puts owner in jail

United Press International
MARCO ISLAND, Fla. — Gregory T. Mershad phoned security when he discovered \$1,000 worth of property was missing from his hotel room.

But Mershad was reporting the theft of cocaine — and he wound up in jail instead of en-

joying a vacation with his girlfriend.

Mershad, 21, of Dayton, Ohio, reported the theft of \$1,000 worth of cocaine from his room Sunday night at the plush, 500 room Marriott Marco Beach Resort.

Drug charges net 'white-collar types'

United Press International
COLUMBIA, S.C. — Federal prosecutors say the 40 people named in the first major indictments from President Reagan's anti-narcotics task force were "white-collar types" who financed and organized the smuggling of \$800 million worth of marijuana and hashish.

About a dozen of those indicted have been arrested, including two in custody in Australia, authorities said Monday in announcing the indictments from "Operation Jackpot."

The defendants, mostly from South Carolina, were traced to alleged narcotics operations through a "paper trail" of bank drafts, passports and other documents.

"These are all upper-level or mid-level people in drug traf-

ficking," U.S. Attorney Henry Dargan McMaster said at a news conference. "These aren't the peddlers out on the streets — these are white-collar types."

"These are the first major indictments coming from President Reagan's special task force on drug trafficking," McMaster said.

The defendants were named in two indictments. The first involved 159,600 pounds of marijuana valued at \$153.2 million and 30,000 pounds of hashish valued at \$84 million. The second indictment concerns 187,500 pounds of marijuana worth \$180 million and 130,000 pounds of hashish worth \$364 million.

The drugs allegedly have been smuggled into the country since 1975.

"The indictments reach peo-

ple behind the scenes who believe have been operating financing and operating smuggling ventures with impunity for years," McMaster said.

"Getting them out of the country could put a precedent in these operations won't stop the flow of drugs. There's big money in smuggling and if these people leave the scene, they'll be replaced by somebody else."

In addition to those eight people have pleaded to drug charges in the McMaster said.

The charges include smuggling and distributing marijuana and hashish, illegal transportation of money and income tax evasion.

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Postal worker arrested

United Press International
HOUSTON — Seven employees of the main post office have been arrested and charged with buying and selling marijuana and cocaine at the post office.

Postal inspectors made arrests over the weekend the result of a six-month undercover operation.

"What we basically found is that it is not too widely known," Chief Postal Inspector Slavinski said.

Slavinski said the investigation showed only small amounts of drugs were in the possession of the employees.

Edward Pickard, 25, a bet with cocaine delivered by Benjamin, 34, Robert Russell, and Russell were charged with selling marijuana. Gregory, 26, and W.J. Hines were charged with possession of marijuana. Hubert R. In 1982, was charged with possession of cocaine.

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