

17 A&M students renovating facilities as on-job training

By LORRAINE CHRISTIAN
Reporter

After a month of work, the New Trends Industry facilities will be completed this week. But New Trends isn't an average industry and the facilities weren't built by average construction workers.

New Trends is an organization which helps mentally retarded adults find contract work. And building construction students from Texas A&M have been renovating the indus-

try's facilities as part of a semester on-the-job training program.

The 17 Texas A&M students are painting, building walls and building storage supply racks at New Trends. They have been working there every Tuesday and Thursday for the past four weeks.

Craig Colby, work shop supervisor at New Trends, said he is extremely happy with the work done by the class.

"I'm very pleased with the quality of the work being done,"

Colby said. "I'm proud to be affiliated with a student body like this."

Tony Marino, building construction graduate assistant, said experience is why the building construction class

works on a project every semester.

Marino said he is pleased with this semester's renovation project.

"This project includes more activities than usual," he said. "It's more versatile."

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Life expectancy hits highest rate for 1983 babies

United Press International

NEW YORK — Babies born last year can expect to live 74.6 years, an all-time high for the United States and almost a year longer than the 1980 life expectancy rate, statistics showed Tuesday.

If the trend continues, the average American will live into his 80s by the year 2050, said Stanley Kranczer, senior research associate for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

"The improvement is due to a combination of factors, but primarily reflects the continued downward trend in infant mortality rates," Kranczer said.

Kranczer said the United States is still behind the Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan and Iceland in life expectancy.

Life expectancy rates are compiled annually by Metropolitan statisticians.

The life expectancy rate of 74.6 years for babies born last year showed a slight increase from 1982's rate of 74.5 years and a nearly one-year jump over the 73.7 years of 1980.

The infant mortality rate fell from 11.2 per 1,000 live births in 1982 to an all-time low of 10.9 per 1,000 live births last year. Infant mortality rates have been steadily declining since 1962.

Kranczer attributed "better medical treatment, and a better awareness of prenatal and postnatal care for risk groups" as primary factors contributing to the decline in infant deaths.

"There is a general awareness of the risks for certain

groups of women, and it is these women who are seeking attention earlier in their pregnancies," said Kranczer.

"There's also been improvements in cardiovascular categories that have helped lengthen the life expectancy but these are counter-balanced by increased death rates from cancers," Kranczer added. "Lung cancers are continually going up."

Kranczer said Metropolitan's projections going into the year 2050 indicate a gradual improvement in life expectancy rates. Babies born that year may live to be in their low 80s, he said.

The average boy born last year may expect to live 70.9 years and the average girl for 78.3 years. The news from longevity statistics was not all good last year.

Kranczer noted higher mortality rates for women are beginning to show up, believed to be the result of more women in the work force and contracting heart diseases and cancers.

Among males, life expectancy increased 0.1 years in the first year of life and also at ages 15, 35 and 65.

For females, life expectancy remained the same at all ages except at age 35, when it increased 0.1 years.

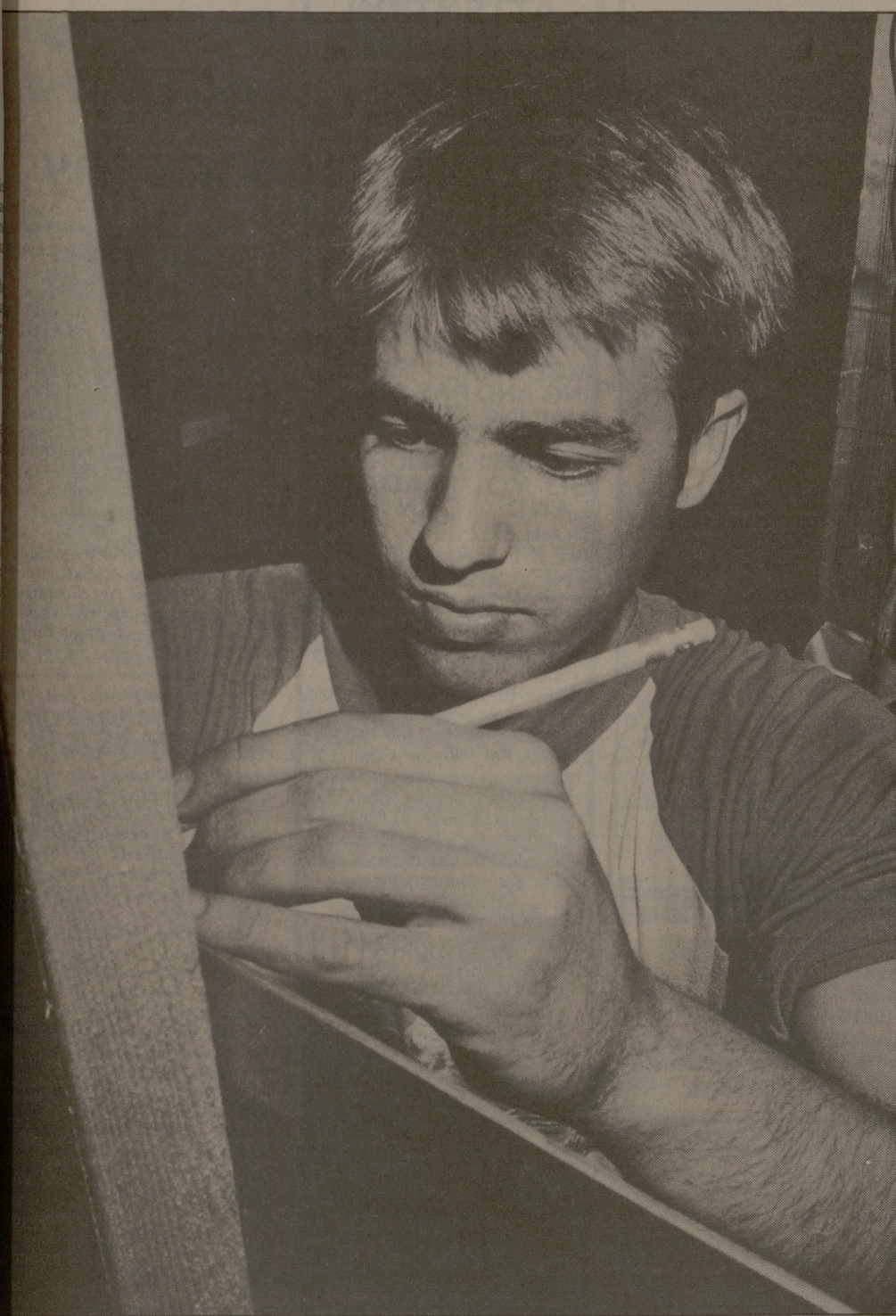


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Michael Isermann, a junior building construction and industrial education major from Dallas, marks where the next support section will be nailed.

Visiting professor to lecture on oldest human skeleton

By PATRICIA FLINT
Staff Writer

At 3.5 million years old, Lucy is a little more than middle-aged. In fact, she's the oldest pre-walking human ancestor ever to be recovered.

Today at 7 p.m. in Rudder Forum, Dr. B. Thomas Gray, who discovered the fossil, will give a lecture and slide show on the controversy surrounding

Gray found the remains during a research excavation in Ha-

graduate student. Until then, the oldest human ancestor was dated at 2.5 million years old. Lucy is not only the oldest, but with 40 percent of the skeleton recovered she is the most complete humanoid ever found, and the best preserved. Controversy has arisen over the accuracy of date given to the site.

Gray is a professor of physical anthropology at Southwest Texas State University. He was

a key member of the International Afar Research Expedition to Hadar. Dr. Thomas Johanson, who co-discovered Lucy with Gray, wrote a book with Maitland Edey entitled "Lucy: The Beginning of Humankind."

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Air force planes crash, pilots eject to safety

United Press International

UVALDE — A Laughlin Air Force Base T-37 training plane crashed southwest of Uvalde Tuesday morning, but both pilots ejected without injury, officials said.

The cause of the 10:50 a.m. crash was undetermined, Cathy Campbell, an air force spokeswoman at the Del Rio base said.

The two pilots, identified as Capt. Michael G. McGuire and Lt. James Witten, were on a routine check ride when the plane went down in a field near the Smythe Ranch between Uvalde and Klein.

Campbell said both men were experienced pilots and the purpose of the flight was to make

sure the instructors were still up to date on the skills.

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