

State election official hands in resignation

See page 3

Venezuelan plane hijackers killed

See page 3

American gymnasts win Olympic gold

See page 7

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412 A&M women wait for housing

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

For the first time in several years, the housing office has gone through the original fall waiting list for men's dorms, but 412 women are still waiting to get a space, Tom Murray, housing services supervisor, said.

Lower apartment rates, rising dorm costs and rumors about the difficulty of getting into a dormitory may have contributed to fewer students seeking a dormitory space thus creating a shorter waiting list.

Fewer students participated in the housing lottery this year. For the 1983-84 school year, 2,400 women and 2,300 men participated in the housing lottery. In this year's lottery, 2,215 women and 1,760 men participated.

The drop in the number of students participating in the housing lottery may be accounted for in the combination of the affordability of off-campus housing rates and rises dormitory rates, Murray said.

Students also are not applying for housing as early, he said. To participate in the fall lottery, students must apply and pay their \$200 deposit between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15, ten months before school begins.

"A lot of students are not ready to commit to a university yet," Murray said.

While the \$200 deposit may discourage some students from applying for housing, it has increased the number of students meeting deadlines to cancel housing reservations.

"The earlier we know, the better," Murray said. Since the July 2 report, more students have applied for housing creating a new fall waiting list.

The Texas A&M residence halls have spaces for 9,781 students — 7,487 for civilian students and 2,294 corps members. After the fall sign-up by returning civilian students, there were 1,062 spaces open for women and 719 for men.

In 1983-84, there was a small increase in the number of students

moving off-campus after living in the dormitories. While the number of women moving of stayed about the same, the number of men moving off campus increased.

"That's a trend we're concerned about," Murray said. To combat the problem, the housing office has been implementing programs to make on-campus living more desirable. Such programs include renovating and updating the residence halls, Murray said.

This year the housing office has overassigned 340 students. Fifty-two students will be housed in study carrels in Mosher and Aston Halls, the rest will be assigned to triples.

Overassigning students is not a miscalculation or an accident made by the housing office, Murray said. Overassignments are based on statistics of the past year. Overassigning students assures there will be students ready and available to fill places not claimed by the first class day.

Dormitories will officially open Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. Summer residence halls will close at 6 p.m. Aug. 17.

Students living on-campus for summer school will be allowed to check into their fall assignment the afternoon and evening of Aug. 17. Students must have a paid fee receipt to check into their hall.

In the past, the housing office used the week between the summer session and fall semester to clean summer residence halls and train staff.

"We won't have that luxury this year," Murray said.

This year, the summer session will end two days before fall check in begins leaving the housing office to close and open dormitories simultaneously, Murray said.

With no break, housing office personnel will not be able to clean and check rooms and also will not be able to inform staff members about procedures.



Photo by JAIME LOPEZ

Closing the door on Spence Street

Rick Tucker, left, and Frank Tucker put up a fence across Spence Street at the intersection of Ross Street and Spence Street. The intersection is not closed, but a short section of Spence Street from the Ross Street intersection south has been closed because of construction of the new Chemistry Building.

Jet hijackers turn to Beirut

United Press International

GENEVA, Switzerland — Three Arabic-speaking hijackers Tuesday seized an Air France jetliner with 64 people aboard, apparently killing a hostage and forcing the terrified pilot to fly to Beirut after a refueling stop in Geneva.

"Just do what they want," the pilot told local government official Robert Ducret. "There has already been one death and if you do not hurry there will be more."

The Air France Boeing 737 was en route from Frankfurt, West Germany, to Paris with 64 people aboard when the hijackers, apparently armed with grenades, forced it down for refueling at Geneva's Cointrin airport just after 6 p.m.

It was the second airliner hijacking this week, beginning just hours after Venezuelan commandos stormed an aircraft on the Caribbean island of Curacao and killed two men who had threatened to blow up a plane and 79 hostages.

Swiss airport and police spokesmen said there were three hijackers aboard the Air France plane, which took off at 7:37 p.m. for Beirut. Lebanese officials said the plane would be denied permission to land

and the airport would be closed if necessary.

Ducret said he was told there had been gunfire in the cabin of the airliner and asked the pilot if he needed help.

"No, no," Ducret said the frightened pilot replied. "They are very threatening. Just refuel the aircraft and let us take off. You do not realize the situation we are in."

Swiss police said, however, they could not be sure anyone was dead. The hijackers may have forced the pilot to report the killing in order to place additional pressure on airport authorities, they said.

The hijackers first demanded to go to Tehran, Iran, when the aircraft landed at Geneva with its 58 passengers and six crew — a pilot, copilot and four stewardesses.

Iran said it would refuse them permission to land, however, and the hijackers decided to go to Beirut instead.

Police spokesman Jean-Claude Ducrot said the air pirates claimed in radio conversations with airport officials to be armed with grenades.

"The three men speak Arabic and also speak some English, although with a heavy accent," he said.

Soviet missiles to counter U.S.'s

United Press International

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union Tuesday said it was testing long-range cruise missiles to counter the American nuclear missile program and warned the United States it would be "naive to assume" they would not be deployed.

"Cruise missiles are something that cut both ways," an editorial in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda warned. "It is naive to assume that their massive deployment will remain unanswered."

Moscow walked out of the talks in Geneva on strategic and medium range nuclear missiles last year to protest the NATO deployment of a new generation of U.S. Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

The missiles were deployed to counter previously installed Soviet SS-20 missiles.

Pravda said the cruise missile program of the United States was the latest in a series of unsuccessful attempts to gain military superiority over the Soviet Union.

"They are heading for a washout this time too," Pravda said. "Since

the United States has refused to renounce the new type of weapons, long-range cruise missiles are already being tested in the U.S.S.R. as well."

Because of its superiority in computer technology, the United States is generally believed to have a lead of several years in development of cruise missiles.

However, the U.S. Defense Department survey of Soviet forces this year said Moscow was developing five long-range cruise missile systems with ranges estimated at 1,800 miles. American cruise missiles, some already deployed in Europe, have a range of 1,500 miles.

The Soviet cruise missiles would be fitted with nuclear warheads initially but could eventually carry conventional warheads if improvements are made in their accuracy.

The Kremlin has said the September talks in Vienna are "impossible" because the United States insists on broadening the talks on space weapons to include discussions on limiting long-range and medium-range missiles.

A&M plans west campus growth

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M University campus will someday include a major research park and may extend all the way out to FM 2818, thanks to an ambitious expansion plan, said a University vice-chancellor.

Gen. Wesley Peel, vice-chancellor of facilities and planning, recently discussed the West Campus Master Expansion plan.

"We can only expand west be-

cause there's nowhere else to go," he said. "Texas A&M owns all that land."

"The idea is for big companies, such as Shell, to lease the land from the University and build pure research buildings here."

The plan includes construction of a Research Park, a new Systems Administration Building, a new Physical Plant and a Track and Field Events Center with adjacent intramural fields.

The Research Park will be built

behind what is now West Campus, bound by Jersey Street, FM 60 and FM 2818. Construction work for the Park, to include an Ocean Drilling Program Building worth \$4.8 million, will be contracted this September. The Park will cost an estimated \$7 million.

Peel said the Park will be completely devoted to research, not academics, although it is probable that students and University faculty will be employed there.

Early plans place the new Poultry Science Center at the corner of West Campus bound by FM 2818, near the Sewage Treatment Plant.

There also are tentative plans for a Track and Field Events Center, which would be located at the corner of Beef Cattle Road and Jersey Street. The Center would be funded by donations.

A new Systems Administration

See EXPANSION, page 4

Problems face all graduate students

Foreign TA's fight status, not culture

By REBECCA DIMEO
Reporter

(Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series about foreign graduate students who teach.)

Almost one-sixth of Texas A&M graduate students are foreign. Nearly one-third of the university-supported graduate students — those on teaching and research assistantships or fellowships — are foreign.

One, Pablo Gottret, 24, is a doctoral candidate in economics from Bolivia. He taught Economics 203, Principles of Economics, Spring 1983. He is teaching it the second summer session and is scheduled to teach it again in the fall. He says his difficulties with teaching are not a problem of culture but one of status.

"I think the problems I have with teaching are shared with American graduate students," Gottret says. Because students are skeptical of all graduate teaching assistants, he says, TA's must work to prove compe-

tence in the subject before students take them seriously. As an international student, he has an extra problem.

"When you speak with an accent students say, 'Maybe this guy knows what he's teaching, but I don't know if I'll be able to understand what he says,'" Gottret says.

Although Gottret has an accent, after six years he no longer has any trouble speaking or understanding English. He says the language differences don't interfere with his teaching ability, especially since he learned economics in English and is only now studying the Spanish equivalents of economic terms.

"Being a foreigner brings a lot to your teaching ability," he says. "When I'm teaching economics and talking about the United States deficit or economic development, I'm able to compare it with that of third world countries."

Being able to bring personal experiences from abroad to the classroom means something to Gottret,

who, in addition to his childhood in Bolivia, as a youth spent a year and a half in Paris with his aunt and uncle.

"You don't go to a foreign country just to go to school," he says. "You go to live the culture. I don't think people can become bicultural, but they should be able to understand, share and enjoy another culture."

Gottret, who received his bachelor's degree in economics at Texas A&M, says he's well adjusted to life in College Station. Although he's met a few rude students, he doesn't feel he's been discriminated against.

"I don't think they're disrespectful because I'm a foreigner or I'm not a professor," he says. "I think they're disrespectful because they don't like the material."

Another foreign graduate student with the same ideas is Chung-Ping (Peter) Chung, a doctoral candidate in electrical engineering from Taiwan. More foreign students at Texas A&M are from Taiwan than any other country.

Chung, 29, plans to graduate in

August. Although he originally had a tough time adapting to classes in English, after five years he speaks it slowly but effectively.

"If they really don't understand me," he says of his engineering lab students, "it's because they don't understand the content of the subject — so if they're lost, I know why they're lost."

Chung came with his wife to Texas A&M for graduate work after one semester at the University of Detroit. He came because his brother, a professor of chemistry at the University of Taiwan, sent Chung favorable reports from his former Texas A&M students who had returned to Taiwan.

"I guess if one department is good, the others aren't too bad," Chung says with a grin.

Chung says his subject matter, engineering, may be easier to teach as a foreign student than some others be-

See GRADUATE STUDENTS, page 6

In Today's Battalion

Local

• For the first time in a year, a Texas A&M Emergency Medical Services paramedic was allowed to start an IV. See story page 3.

State

• A Houston girl has contracted rabies, and is in a coma. See story page 5.

National

• Mondale and Ferraro open their campaign tour together at a rally in New York. See story page 5.