

Carl Lewis wins second gold medal

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House hears stories of ride malfunctions

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by CHRISTINE COCHRAN

... But someone has to do it

Galveston cleanup crews shovel up the last of the oil spots near Stewart Beach Sunday. The workers said that they man-

aged to clean up the worst spots on Saturday. Despite the oil globs, there were still many tourists and sunbathers.

## GSS will apply for recognition

By KARI FLUEGEL  
Staff Writer

Members of Gay Student Services will file for recognition by Texas A&M University as an official on-campus organization sometime this week, Marco Roberts, GSS president, said Monday.

The action follows a Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling made Friday stating that Texas A&M will have to recognize the group as a campus organization.

The ruling, made by a three-judge panel, reversed the 1982 decision of U.S. District Judge Ross N. Sterling, who had ruled that the University had not violated a protected constitutional right by denying recognition to the group.

GSS was denied recognition by Texas A&M in 1976 on the grounds that homosexual conduct was illegal in Texas and that it would be inappropriate for Texas A&M to recognize an organization likely to "incite, promote and result" in homosexual activity.

That argument became moot when a federal judge in Dallas struck down the section of the Texas Penal Code forbidding sexual acts between adults of the same sex.

Texas A&M also argued that GSS was a social organization and that the University does not recognize social groups. Sterling upheld the University's claim that the group was a

social organization and that Texas A&M had legal justification to decide what type of organizations were recognized on campus.

But the Court of Appeals stated that: "At (the) heart of the First Amendment is the freedom to choose, even if such choice does not accord with the state's view."

The ruling also said: "TAMU's refusal to recognize Gay Student Services as an on-campus student organization impermissibly denied appellants their First Amendment rights."

In a press conference Saturday, Roberts said, "At this point, we're elated about the decision rendered. We are even more pleased that the decision was unanimous."

"All GSS has asked for is the benefits that are granted to all other campus organizations and now we have been given the right to do so."

Texas A&M has not yet received a copy of the formal ruling, said Ted Hajovsky, general counsel for the Texas A&M University System. He expects to get a copy of the ruling later this week.

"Having not as yet seen the formal ruling, we prefer to refrain from commenting at this time," Hajovsky said in an official statement. "As soon as we have received a copy of the ruling, we will study it in great

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## Oil clean up speeding Galveston beach erosion

United Press International

GALVESTON — Bulldozers and steamshovels kept a steady hum along Texas' beaches near Galveston Monday, scraping a gooey coating of oil that washed ashore and raising a new concern from officials — erosion of beaches.

Galveston County Judge Ray Holbrook said the cleanup operations to clear the beaches where oil spilled from a ruptured tanker began washing ashore Friday could cause serious problems with erosion begun by last August's Hurricane Alicia.

"The problem is on the west end

of the island where the spill was heaviest. They are grading the sand there to get the oil up but they are taking a lot of sand with it. That sand will have to be replaced," he said.

Holbrook said he will consider a class action suit on behalf of the

landowners along the west island to restore the beaches if there is a greater risk of erosion after the cleanup. Erosion was already a concern on the beaches, where sand was swept away last summer by Alicia.

Coast Guard spokesman Jim Kosch said it would be two weeks at

least before the 55-mile stretch of coast stained by the spill is cleared.

The Coast Guard flew over the shoreline early Monday and reported no signs of additional oil floating in the Gulf.

Kosch also said it could take up to 12 days to unload the Alvenus,

which broke apart off the coast at Cameron, La., July 30, dumping nearly 2 million gallons of thick Venezuelan crude into the Gulf of Mexico.

The oil slick drifted southwest for five days before hitting the beaches

## It's not too late to apply for August graduation

By PAM BARNES  
Reporter

Although the deadlines for August graduation have passed, Assistant Registrar Don Gardner says it's not too late to apply.

"I'm sure there are a few people who missed the deadlines," Gardner says. "Some people have paid their fees, but they haven't officially applied for graduation. There's still time this week to apply, but the student won't get a diploma on time."

Gardner says the clear list for graduating seniors will be posted

outside Heaton Hall August 16, at 8 a.m. and seniors will have until 5 p.m. that same day to clear any problems.

A red dot next to a senior's name means he has a fiscal or an academic block that must be cleared, Gardner says. If it's a fiscal block the student can't receive an official transcript, he says, but if it's an academic block, the student may not graduate.

Gardner says that letters are sent to blocked students a couple of weeks before the clear list is posted. This early warning gives students a

chance to clear up any problems, Gardner says.

Gardner suggests that all graduating seniors check with the fiscal department, the library and the campus police to be sure that they don't have any parking tickets or drop-add fees that haven't been paid.

He says it's a good idea for all seniors to check the clear list on the 16th to be sure that they aren't blocked.

"You never know," Gardner says, "there are a lot of things that can foul up at graduation time."

Colleen Cook, head of library circulation department, suggests that all students return any library books before they pack to leave.

"We get returned books from all over the world," Cook says. "We usually don't have to, but if a recurring problem of overdue books is caught, the fiscal department will be notified and the student may be blocked."

Morris Maddox, assistant director of administration with the University Police Department, says that many graduating seniors come into

the police station and check to see if they have any tickets. He says most find that they don't but that it's a good idea to check anyway.

Gardner says that some students have had trouble transferring credits in time for graduation. He says that an official transcript must be on file before the student can graduate.

"For example," he says, "if students took classes somewhere else the second summer session, they probably won't have enough time to get their transcript here in time to graduate this August."

Gardner says if seniors do receive letters about their blocks, they should bring them into the degree

check office in Heaton Hall and have the problem cleared up. He also suggests that all students planning to graduate in the fall apply for graduation early in the semester.

Graduation will be August 18, at 9 a.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The procession will form at 8:30 a.m. in room 351 of the gymnasium, and roll call will be at 8:45.

## Computer phobia lessening — some

By BONNIE LANGFORD  
Reporter

(Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series on computer use.)

Computers aren't scary anymore. That doesn't mean the foreboding images of HAL, the killer computer in the film "2001," have disappeared, nor has the fear of losing a job to a machine that works for less money, without coffee breaks, gone away. It does mean people are starting to breathe easier around computer technology — just a little.

For now, however, computers are viewed with a combination of fear, awe, distrust and reverence. As George Wright, an engineering technology instructor here, says, it will change:

"I remember when I was in college, television was the big thing. People said we would all be taught by TV's in the future. Today TV's are used as teaching aids, but they

haven't taken over. The computer's newness will wear off, and they will be as accepted as cars and telephones."

Despite a newness in the public's eyes, computers and computing aren't new, they've been around since the beginning of numbers and counting. And they were plagued by fears and problems then. The first mechanical aid for computing was the abacus. It was invented more than 2,500 years ago, but was never popular outside the Orient. Part of the popularity problem was from the man who introduced the abacus to Europe — Pope Sylvester II. He was better known for his wickedness and dealings with the occult.

In 1614, John Napier advanced computing aids further with his slide rule, which until recently was an engineer's best friend. But it was 1642 before the first mechanical adding machine was invented. Blaise Pascal's idea used wheels and gears like a car speedometer. However, the

machine had problems. It was expensive, delicate and inefficient, and not marketable.

Over the years other machines were created that added to Pascal's invention, such as the one Gottfried von Leibniz invented that added, subtracted, multiplied and divided, and did square roots. Not until 1801, however, did a breakthrough for modern computers appear. Joseph Jacquard developed a card reading device for weaving; the system worked so well that it was adopted for Charles Babbage's analytical engine. Unfortunately, his machines were correct in theory, but the technology of his day was too primitive. Early funding from the British government was discontinued, which, combined with Babbage's unpopular image — he was notorious for his attacks on the Royal Society and his campaigns against street music — kept him seeking ways to raise money, and people to understand his work.

One of the few people who understood Babbage's machines was his assistant, Lady Ada Lovelace. She was a mathematics genius who devised a form of binary arithmetic for his machines that is still used today. A binary code, or machine language, uses ones and zeros — since the machine only recognizes "on" and "off." For example, the number two is represented by the code 010. But even Lovelace's published explanations of Babbage's work didn't push technology further.

A large push for technology finally came in 1879. It was then that an American census office employee, Herman Hollerith, began to ponder the problem of processing data. More than seven years were needed to complete the 1880 census, and by then it was too late for the data to mean much.

(See COMPUTERS, page 4)

## In Today's Battalion

### Local

• Cadets can make up one to two years of training in an Army ROTC compression program that takes only six weeks. See story page 5.

### State

• A Texas town — containing the schoolhouse where Lyndon Johnson learned how to read and write — is up for sale. See story page 5.  
• Groups protesting the sale of Penthouse and Playboy magazines in 7-Elevens picketed 400 7-Elevens. See story page 8.

### National

• Ling-Ling, the National Zoo panda, gave birth to a stillborn cub. See story page 8.