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says statue's keeper

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State board alters reform

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Legislative Education Board gave new life Thursday to a controversial proposal that alters education reforms to allow a student with a failing grade to continue in extracurricular activities.

The LEB, which was formed to oversee the implementation of sweeping educational reforms passed during a special session of the legislature, told state Board of Education member Jack Strong to continue developing the proposal.

Strong's plan received a chilly welcome when first proposed to the new state school board, which was recently appointed by Gov. Mark White.

New board member Charles Duncan said in October that Strong's proposal "defeats the purpose" of

the education reform bill by weakening academic standards.

Under Strong's proposal, a student with a failing grade during a six-week period could have that grade withheld until a passing grade was achieved during the next six-week grading period.

While the grade is withheld, the student could participate in sports or other extracurricular activities.

In contrast, the law enacted by the Legislature last summer had a strict provision that required students to receive an average grade of 70 in each class before participating in extracurricular activities.

Strong said the Legislature's provision would bar a student with five grades of 91 and a single 68 from

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Nicaraguans fear U.S. attack

United Press International

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A suspected U.S. spy plane broke the sound barrier over five Nicaraguan cities Thursday, sending panicked residents into the streets amid fears of a U.S. strike to destroy a Soviet cargo that possibly included MiG jets.

In Mexico City, Czechoslovak Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal, on a state visit, said four helicopters, not MiGs as Washington feared, were unloaded Wednesday from the Soviet freighter in a Nicaraguan port.

He warned that the world would face "very grave consequences" if the United States attacked Nicaragua.

The Pentagon in Washington declined to confirm or deny whether spy planes flew over Nicaragua, saying it does not discuss reconnaissance flights. But defense sources did not rule out the possibility that SR-71 Blackbird spy planes have flown near or within Nicaraguan airspace.

Witnesses said at least one jet caused "loud explosions" over Managua, the port of Corinto, Masaya, Ocotal and Rivas.

The overflight came amid a warn-

ing by Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., that the United States would not rule out the use of force if a Soviet freighter that docked in Corinto was carrying a cargo of Soviet MiG-21s.

Nicaragua flatly denied the freighter Bakuriani was carrying the high-performance Soviet fighters, but insisted on its right to buy jets to protect itself. The Defense Ministry refused to identify the cargo.

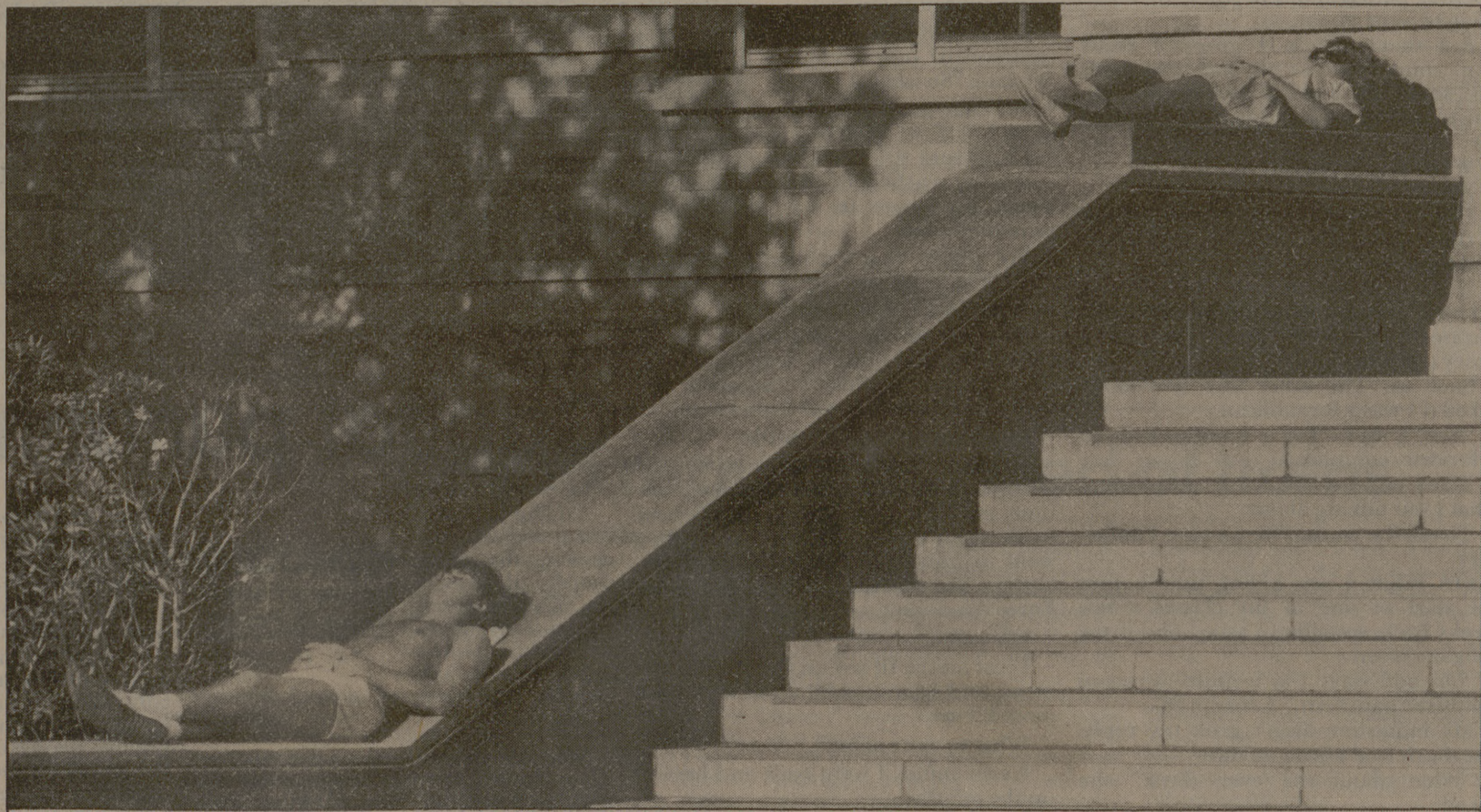
The Soviet Union in Moscow declined to respond directly to reports the freighter was possibly carrying crates of unassembled MiGs.

Instead, the official Tass news agency published the Sandinista government's statement accusing the United States of making the allegations to set the stage for an invasion of Nicaragua.

Strougal told reporters the freighter unloaded only helicopters. He did not say what types of helicopters were unloaded.

"If the United States attacks Nicaragua, there would be very grave consequences for all the world, and the United States would lose prestige," he said.

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November sunbathing

Photo by PETER ROCHA

Scott Pajeski, an architecture major from Shreveport, and Dana Rumore, a wildlife and fisheries science major from Houston, enjoy the sunshine outside the Chemistry Building

Thursday afternoon. With temperatures in the eighties, more people will be seeking outdoor recreation and relaxation. The high temperature for the day was 84.

Discovery to salvage satellites

United Press International

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Discovery streaked into orbit in pursuit of two wayward satellites Thursday, setting the stage for next week's salvage job when two spacemen will try to snare the craft with lance-like grapples.

Astronauts Frederick Hauck, David Walker, Joseph Allen, Anna Fisher and Dale Gardner also carried aloft two new communications satellites. One will be launched today and the second Saturday.

Discovery, NASA's third and newest shuttle, blasted away from Earth for the second time after a flawless countdown and soared smoothly into an orbit ranging from 174 to 185 miles high. It was the 14th shuttle flight.

"That was a tremendous ascent," said Gardner, who marked his 36th birthday Thursday.

"I hope the whole Gardner family

enjoyed that birthday celebration for Dale," Hauck said. "We sure did."

The two satellites that are the astronauts' prey — Indonesia's Palapa B-2 and Western Union Westar 6 — are in higher paths that take longer to complete one orbit, so Discovery was gaining slowly on them. Palapa was 17,000 miles ahead and Westar 17,700 miles ahead when Discovery reached orbit.

Palapa and Westar were launched successfully from the shuttle Challenger last February. But then identical rockets in both satellites failed, leaving the twin relay stations stranded in useless orbits.

Vance Brand, who commanded the February flight, watched Discovery blast off on its dual space chase and said successful retrieval and return of the two satellites to Earth will make a good ending to the story.

The insurance underwriters who paid \$80 million when the two satellites were lost are paying NASA

\$5.5 million to attempt to retrieve them. In addition, Hughes Aircraft Co., which built the satellites, was paid \$5 million for their role in preparing for the salvage mission.

The two satellites cost about \$35 million when new. Once returned to Earth, they will be refurbished and sold for launch again to help the underwriters recoup part of their loss.

Palapa is to be retrieved first, during a spacewalk by Allen and Gardner on Monday. After Hauck and Walker fly Discovery to within 35 feet of the drum-shaped satellite, Allen will use a jet-propelled backpack to fly over to it and snag it with the lance-like structure designed to lock onto the nozzle of a spent rocket on the satellite.

Fisher will then use Discovery's mechanical arm to place the satellite in a special mount in Discovery's cargo bay.

Hauck and Walker, Discovery's pilots, were scheduled to perform

about 120 different rocket firings to carry out their double-duty launch and retrieve mission. That is about 20 more maneuvers than the record during the seventh shuttle flight last year.

"This is the most challenging flight we've flown," said flight director Jay Greene. "The thing that's tricky here is there's not much room to stub your toe."

Once they reached orbit, the astronauts checked their ship and found no evidence of any damage to its fragile insulation tiles.

The robot arm was successfully tested six hours after launch, completing the group's last big job of the day.

Discovery is scheduled to return to the Kennedy Space Center Nov. 16. It also will make the next flight, in late January.

A&M to host Veteran's Day celebration, dedicate park

By KARLA K. MARTIN
Staff Writer

It's a dedication, a memorial, a celebration, and the largest Veteran's Day gathering in the area since World War II.

Sunday, Nov. 11, at 10:30 a.m., Texas A&M will host a community-wide Veteran's Day ceremony at Kyle Field.

Don Simons, a Korean War veteran and assistant director for administration at KAMU-TV at A&M, said he and 13 local generals started putting this ceremony together last year because of one person.

"There was this 91-year-old World War I nurse who came up to me and told me what a hard time she'd had finding a Veteran's Day celebration to pay respect to her old buddies," Simons said. "Well, I went up to Whiteley and told him it was a shame not to have a ceremony ... he said 'Fine. You're chairman.'"

Eli Whiteley is a 1941 A&M graduate and the only living recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest mili-

tary award in the United States.

The dedication of the Eli Whiteley Medal of Honor Park will open Sunday's ceremony. The 4-acre park borders both sides of University Drive just west of the railroad tracks along Wellborn Road.

In between music breaks by the Singing Cadets and the Bryan and A&M Consolidated High School Bands, the ceremony the A&M war monument will be dedicated.

The monument, which was moved for construction of the Albritton Bell Tower, will be placed at the northwest corner of the main drill field.

Simons, who has received support from the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American GI Forum, the Retired Officers Association and the Reserve Officers Association said he hopes for a crowd of at least 20,000.

The honored guests include 37 Aggie generals with the oldest being Gen. George Beverley, Class of '19. The main address will be presented by Gen. Bernard

Shriever, Class of '31. Shriever is the only living Aggie four-star general.

During the course of the ceremony, a special American flag will be raised. This flag was given to A&M by Senator Phil Gramm. The flag has flown over the U.S. Capitol; the Arlington National Cemetery; the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, which is the largest cemetery for Americans killed in World War I.

The flag also has flown over Pointe du Hoc, in France, where Lt. Col. Earl Rudder led his rangers ashore to secure the foothold for the invasion; the Manila American Cemetery; and the Philippine island Corregidor, where an Aggie muster was held in April 1942 and again in 1946 after World War II was over.

"The flag represents each one of the five great conflicts," Simon said. "It's important for us and our country. There's a special sense of patriotism here with the Aggies because they can see a connection to their fathers and grandfathers."

Faculty advisers harried by registration process

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Consider an example of a typical problem with academic advising during pre-registration at Texas A&M.

In the College of Business Administration, one of the University's largest colleges, there are 11 academic advisers for an estimated 5,500 students. That's about one adviser for every 500 students.

Faculty advisers often counsel students not only on their academic schedules, but on other subjects such as career decisions and goals. The advisers understandably feel harried during pre-registration when they must deal with a large volume of student traffic and still try to devote individual attention to each student.

In the past, students have complained of being rushed in and out of an adviser's office.

"These are natural problems during pre-registration," said Lynn Zimmerman, assistant to the dean of the business college. "If it takes an hour to solve one person's problem, folks will just have to wait in line. Students also sometimes wait until the last

minute to be advised, which creates a rush of business."

Zimmerman said he thinks the advising system for the business college is good, but that hiring more advisers might improve it. He also thinks computerized registration would help.

"The system was adequate for a school of 10,000. Now that there's 36,000, I think it's time to go to an on-line interactive computing system for registration," he said.

Dr. Candida Lutes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said she doesn't think there is a problem with the academic advising system.

"But no system is foolproof," she said. "I think it should periodically be reviewed."

A Faculty Senate planning subcommittee is studying ways to improve student advising at A&M.

The subcommittee on academic advising was formed in response to a letter from President Frank Vanderdiver requesting "a sound, thorough and objective study of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing across-the-boards state of the academic advising system."

The nine-member subcommittee

consists of representatives from each college, and one student representative.

Dr. Mark Busby, co-chairman of the subcommittee, described it as "a mixture of researchers and deans who work with advisers."

Busby said the group's first task will be to see how advising varies from college to college.

The second task, he said, is to study other schools' advising systems. Busby said a Student Senate random sample questionnaire sent out in October to 1,000 students contained a question asking students for their opinions on the advising system. The answers will be compiled by Nov. 16, he said.

He said he is concerned about the advisers' opinions of the system. The subcommittee plans to develop a questionnaire for the advisers.

"I don't know for sure if this is the case," Busby said. "but, for example, some advisers may feel that they are not getting enough of a reward for it, in terms of course relief or salary

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