

Proper landscaping key to lower energy consumption

— Page 3

A&M cyclist to participate in '85 Race Across America

— Page 6

U.S. advisory warns travelers of conditions around the world

— Page 8

Texas A&M

# The Battalion

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## Beating the Heat

Wesley Lewis, 2½, finds hot weather relief Thursday in the fountain outside the Chemistry Building. The mercury on thermometers rose

to 86 degrees Thursday. Today's high is expected to be 90 degrees, with no rain in the forecast.

Photo by GREG BAILEY

## Hostages urge U.S. not to try military rescue

Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Five American hijack hostages, brought to a news conference Thursday, said they feared any military rescue attempt and beseeched the United States not to attempt one.

Allyn Conwell of Houston, who acted as spokesman for the group, said he had seen all 37 Americans held at secret locations in Beirut and "can verify they are all in good health."

Reading from a handwritten statement, he said: "We as a group, most importantly, beseech President Reagan and our fellow Americans to refrain from any form of military or violent means as an attempt, no matter how noble or heroic, to secure our freedom."

The captives, most of them unshaven, sat at a long table covered with a white cloth. Plates of cake and bottles of water gave it the look of tea party, but the table was ringed by Shiite militiamen in camouflage fatigues, some armed with automatic weapons.

Conwell, 39, said they were "disappointed" that the Reagan adminis-

tration had not done more to secure their freedom.

Also brought to the news conference were Peter Hill, 57, of Hoffman Estates, Ill.; Arthur Toga, 33, of St. Louis, Mo.; Thomas Cullins, 42, of Burlington, Vt., and Vicente Garza, 53, of Laredo, Texas.

The hostages appeared ill at ease among their captors and evaded sensitive questions about the hijacking of Flight 847, which had 153 people aboard when it was seized. The other hostages were released at stops in Beirut and Algiers, and the hijackers killed a U.S. Navy man.

The White House said Thursday that Reagan is asking Middle East governments to use their influence.

In Dallas, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger called for the unconditional release for the American hostages in Beirut and said the United States cannot give into terrorists' demands without jeopardizing the lives of other Americans abroad. Kissinger said he supported some type of punishment for terrorists but did not recommend military action at this point.

## Operating expenses slashed

# KAMU-TV to drop news department

By JERRY OSLIN  
Staff Writer

The news department at KAMU-TV, Channel 15 in Bryan-College Station, will be terminated on August 31 due to a lack of University funding, the department's chief administrator said Thursday.

Dr. Mel Chastain, director of Educational Broadcasting Services at Texas A&M, said he was forced to eliminate the station's news department because of a cutback in University departmental operating expenses.

EBS oversees the operation of the news department at KAMU.

Chastain said he received a memo from University President Frank Vandiver telling him to cut expenses at EBS.

"I was told that departmental operating expenses were needed else-

*"The students who are involved in the broadcast concentration should not panic. We will have our broadcast courses next fall and we will have someone to teach them." — Dr. Edward Smith, head of the Texas A&M communications department*

where at the University," Chastain said.

He said he chose to eliminate the news department because it was a non-revenue producing part of EBS.

Four full-time employees and seven to eight part-time, student employees will lose their EBS jobs because of the cutback, Chastain said.

Currently, three broadcast journalism classes use the news department's equipment and facilities as

part of a laboratory, but the loss of the news department should not drastically affect those classes, said Dr. Edward Smith, head of the communications department.

The news department's equipment and facilities are owned by KAMU, which is owned by A&M.

If the classes lose the use of the news department's equipment and facilities, they can use communications department facilities, Smith said.

Smith said the communications department was planning to take over the laboratory responsibility from EBS and the loss of the news department is "just a speed up of what was already under way."

Among the full-time employees losing their EBS positions are its news director, Sheila Detrick, and its program director, Rodger Lewis.

Detrick and Lewis still work part time teaching broadcast journalism, but may leave A&M to find full-time work, Smith said. If they decide to leave, the communications department will probably hire a full-time broadcast journalism professor, Smith said.

"The students who are involved in the broadcast concentration should not panic," he said. "We will have our broadcast courses next fall and we will have someone to teach them."

## Aggie leads spending for open House seat

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Ed Hargett had spent twice as much as his nearest Democratic challenger for Congress, according to campaign finance reports on file with the House Clerk as of Thursday afternoon.

Hargett, an engineer from Linden and a former quarterback at Texas A&M, reported spending \$387,675 as of June 9, the end of the reporting period, compared with \$191,795 reported by Democratic State Rep. Sam Russell.

The bulk of Russell's campaign chest — \$145,000 — was loans, his report said. Hargett said he had \$78,740 in his coffers by the end of the reporting period. Russell's campaign was \$8,768 in the hole, according to his report.

Warren G. Harding, the former Texas state treasurer, filed late for the seat and had not filed

any documents with the House Clerk or the Federal Election Commission.

Eight candidates have filed for the seat, vacated when incumbent Democrat Sam B. Hall Jr. was appointed federal judge. The election to fill the seat is June 29.

Of the other candidates who did have reports on file as of Thursday: Billy Flanagan of Mount Pleasant had spent and raised \$20,893; Jim Chapman of Sulphur Springs reported raising and spending \$13,762; and Billy McWilliams said he had raised and spent \$7,626.

Hargett reported receiving \$58,157 from special-interest political action committees, mostly related to energy and banking businesses.

Russell reported raising \$7,500 from PACs.

The other candidates reported no PAC contributions.

## Career ladder stirs Texas teachers

By KAREN BLOCH  
Reporter

The four-level career ladder, a part of the education reform act passed by the Legislature last summer, is causing unrest among many Texas teachers, says Dr. John Morris, professor of curriculum and instruction at Texas A&M.

He says the teachers resent the inconsistency in the implementation of the program.

"The career ladder is not being implemented the same everywhere," Morris says. "With House Bill 72, the legislature provided for a career ladder with four levels, but the details were left open for interpretation."

"For example, Bryan and College Station are handling it very differently."

The Bryan Independent School District implemented the program a year ago, immediately after the legislation was passed, says C.B. McGown, director of personnel for BISD.



Tommy Attaway, director of personnel for College Station Independent School District, said CISD waited for clarification of the policies before making level two assignments last month.

Presently, there are no teachers in

## Platformed launched to seek out black hole

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Discovery's crew Thursday launched a science platform to search our Milky Way for a black hole with an insatiable appetite for stars, as an embarrased space agency rescheduled the "Star Wars" shuttle experiment it botched one day earlier.

For nearly two days, until it is retrieved on Saturday, Spartan will trail the shuttle and its crew of seven as it studies a point 180 trillion miles into space.

The platform's instruments will be scanning the heavens for sources of X-rays and the hot gas in a large cluster of galaxies in the constellation Perseus and in the center of the Milky Way.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said the Air Force will make another attempt today to measure the reflection from a laser beam that will be aimed at the shuttle from the Hawaiian island of Maui.

The first attempt failed Thursday because a mathematical error caused

a shuttle window, which contained a mirror to reflect the beam, to be turned toward space instead of toward the laser on Maui.

The exercise, is an attempt to see how much a laser beam diffuses on its 400-mile round trip from Maui to the shuttle and down again. It is the first use of the shuttle for an experiment associated with President Reagan's missile defense research, popularly known as Star Wars.

Scientists believe black holes are created when a massive star or galaxy exhausts its nuclear fuel and suddenly collapses. The Milky Way includes the sun, Earth and the rest of our solar system.

A black hole sucks in nearby stars, gas and dust rapidly with a gravitational pull so strong that not even light escapes. The galactic material swirling into the hole forms a huge disc that heats up and begins radiating energy, much of it in the form of X-rays.

Discovery is to end its weeklong flight Monday at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

the state that have advanced beyond level two because the program has been in effect for one year, and a minimum of four years must be spent at level two before a teacher is eligible for advancement.

Texas teachers are eligible for promotion to higher levels on the career ladder if they meet criteria outlined by the state. The requirements for promotion to level two on the career ladder include:

- B.A. or B.S. degree.
- Satisfactory performance rating.
- Nine semester hours of higher education coursework or 135 hours of advanced academic training or equivalent combination so that one semester hour of higher education coursework is equivalent to 15 hours of advanced training.
- Or, M.A. or M.S. degree in the subject taught and two years teaching experience.
- Satisfactory score on a comprehensive examination.

The career ladder was imple-

mented last June, Morris says, but a committee to clarify the policies was not formed until November.

The state committee has not yet developed the comprehensive examination, Morris says, so the different school districts are basing decisions on different criteria.

The standardized state exam is scheduled to be administered in March and again in June 1986, he says.

"Teachers who don't pass the exam the first time may repeat it, but if they fail again, they may lose their teaching certification," Morris says.

He says he is skeptical about how fairly the essay portion of the test can be graded and he also wonders if enough time has been left for scoring the tests between exam dates.

Also, Morris says he thinks the Legislature has made a mistake by not being able to provide adequate funding to promote all qualified teaching.

See CAREER, page 5