## State and Local

A&M prof tests old concept

## Propeller power explored

By BECKY BARRET

Rising jet fuel costs are causing e aviation industry to take a lanes powered by propellers. Newly designed counterrotat-

propellers, shown to be more el efficient and almost as powrful as jet engines, could replace AT LEAS standard jet engines within eight to 10 years, says Dr. Kenneth Korkan, a Texas A&M aerospace

engineering professor.
"We have taken the concept of he traditional propeller with two lades and have expanded it to adule two propellers with six lades," Korkan says. "The two propellers moving in opposite diections capture energy normally t in single propellers moving in

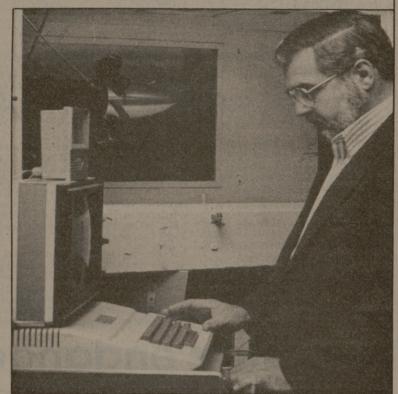
The eventual use of these pro-ellers by airlines will lower fuel osts by one-third, thus reducing senger cost significantly, Kor-

Although counterrotating prolers have been used extensily by the Soviets for 30 years, it s not until three years ago that air industry in the United tes took a renewed interest in e system, he says

ince then, A&M has received veral grants from companies research and testing of the unterrotating propeller system. Although airplanes with counrotating propellers cannot exct to go as fast as a 747 or other rge jets, they can match the sed of smaller jets and are able climb and descend faster, pos-bly reducing travel time, Kor-

The propellers are made of va-ous fiber composites, making em thinner and lighter than

od or metal. Korkan, along with graduate sudents John Gazzaniga and Javer Camba, is primarily involved propeller performance, noise eduction and de-icing proce-



A model propeller testing rig designed and built by Gazzaniga and former student Carl Cornell is used in many of the experiments. The model rig was the first of its kind in the country and took the students only seven months to construct.

Because there are only a few propeller models in the country, Korkan says the rig would cost \$300,000 in the open market. By placing the rig in a carefully

created acoustic environment, tests can be done to reduce the sound levels, he says.
"The theory involved in coun-

terrotating propellers is very challenging," Korkan says, "but the experimentation can be very dangerous due to the high speed of the blades."

The future use of redesigned

propellers for aircrafts has generated international interest, with the French, British and Japanese conducting their own experi-

Major companies, such as General Electric Co., Boeing Co. and Lockheed Aircraft Corp. also are testing counterrotating pro-

"Some people may not trust the propeller powered airplanes at first, but the reduction in cost of air travel should speed acceptance," Korkan says.

Planes with counterrotating propellers have been experi-mented with before in the United States, Korkan says, but they were dismissed due to high noise levels and an extremely complicated gear box that needed frequent replacing.

Board members heard testimony on its staff recommendation for an average 1.3 percent statewide decrease in those rates. Part of the de-

As a result of a law approved this year, Texans riding in the front seat of vehicles must wear seat belts. State

duce deaths and injuries in wrecks.
Gaylon Daniel, the board's staff actuary, said his recommendation includes a projected 15 percent cut in losses to insurance companies as a result of the seat belt law. He said that prediction was based on 50 per-cent compliance with the law.

is concrete," he said in response to board members' questions. "This is a case where judgment is involved very heavily. We know not everybody will use seat belts.

in the first months of that state's mandatory use law, according to Daniel. However, in later months, usage dropped to 57 percent, he

lower rates, a recent Texas Supreme Court ruling could counteract some of that decrease. The staff recomhigh court ruling that a person who wins a personal injury lawsuit — such as that can arise from a car wreck —can collect interest calculated back to the time of the injury.

day.

The staff recommendation would mean an overall cut of \$35 million in premiums next year. Actual premiums vary widely, based on type of coverage, hometown, drivers age and the type of car.

The insurance industry pushed Thursday for a 10.6 percent average increase, a total of \$288 million.

# **Associated Press**

in trying to figure out what the man-datory seat belt law means to auto in-

crease is due to the new seat belt law

officials expect the law to greatly re-

'There is not a calculation I'd say

While the seat belt law could mean mendation takes into account the

Board Chairman Lyndon Olson said no decision had been made on whether the three-member panel would rule on the auto rates Thurs-

# SSS planning to reach more people

By JUNE PANG

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For The Ba

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ast year Texas A&M's Gay Stu-Services was embroiled in a ch-publicized fight for official ognition on campus. But this it President Marco Roberts says, ts for over is is planning to make a bigger eft to reach more people since the a in 1980 ganization has more money and

"We'll operate pretty much as journalismer organizations on campus," The Batta oberts said. "We want to get more Roberts said he is aware of the hostility of some students and the University toward gays

"We are trying to foster an atmosphere of cooperation," he said.
"We're not going to unnecessarily criticize. I always want to cooperate with the University.

"We are trying through forums and bureaus to let them know what we are all about — distribute information of what we're doing."

The organization's eight years court battle started almost by acci-

Back in 1976, three men and

three women responded to an advertisement in The Battalion about a national gay organization. They met on campus only to find that the advertisement was a joke. Prodded by this false advertisement, they decided to start an organization them-

They tried to put fliers on campus and the fliers were torn up. When they tried to get permission to post advertise their meetings, their request was rejected because they were not recognized by the University.

"At that time, we didn't want to be recognized," said Marco Roberts, current president of GSS. "We just wanted to put up fliers."

In order to get the right to post

fliers, the GSS applied for recogni-

In February 1977, they filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court. The case went back and forth between District Court, Circuit Court and the Supreme Court. The District Court ruled in favor of the GSS.

Finally, in June 1985, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case. The University was forced to recognize the group.

Over the long years of the lawsuit, Texas Human Rights Foundation

The case actually was tried only once — in U.S. District Court in 1982 — although the appeal process took more time

According to Thomas Coleman, the president of Texas Human Rights Foundation, the attorneys representing GSS argued the case for free. But the University paid GSS's legal fees since it lost the case. It is not known exactly how much GSS will get, but according to Roberts, it is "definitely in the thou-

"There's certainly a lot of respect toward them," said Roberts about the founders of GSS. "There were a lot more difficulties then than now.

GSS includes several committees which provide specific services to-gays and heterosexuals in the community. The services include:

• Gayline, a telephone service providing information, peer counseling and referrals for gays.

• Forum, invites speakers to talk about gay-related issues. This semester GSS plans to have three speakers.

· Speakers' Bureau, a service for heterosexuals which provides speakers for interested groups and classes was the main supporter of the GSS, to aid in the discussion of gay issues.

#### Seat belt law may decrease insurance rates

AUSTIN — The State Board of Insurance looked for help Thursday surance rates.

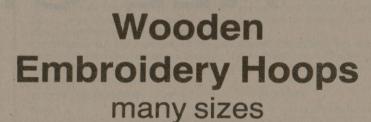
In New York, records showed that seat belt usage went up to 70 percent

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### Correction

A Safeway spokesperson says wrong information was given African got to a Battalion reporter for an artion Safeway's Touch-n-Save opping machine. The article, iblished in Tuesday's Battalion, correctly stated that customers who purchase \$29 worth of gro-teries will receive a coupon for \$5

The article should have read: Customers who purchase \$29 worth of Touch-n-Save merchan-

of free groceries.

Also, the double-your-moneyback guarantee mentioned in the article is actually a guarantee that if, within 30 days of a purchase, a Touch-n-Save customer finds the same item he bought at Safeway at a lower price somewhere else the customer will be refunded double the difference.

The Battalion regrets the er-

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