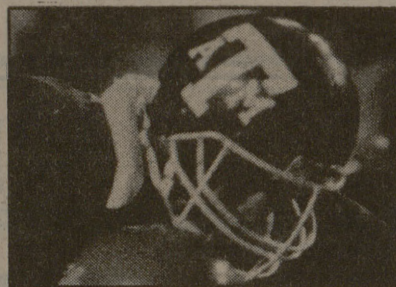




A&M postal service handles
3rd largest mail volume in U.S.

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A&M's no-name linebacker
to lead defense against UH

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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Vietnamese may agree to MIA hunt

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — In what could be a major breakthrough in the search for Americans missing in action, a top-ranking Vietnamese cabinet minister says his government is agreeable in principle to allowing U.S. excavation teams into the Hanoi area for the first time.

Other official American and Vietnamese sources said Vietnam has agreed to a U.S. proposal that the countries carry out a joint survey and excavation of a crash site near Hanoi as an experiment.

The sources said the date and other details of the excavation have yet to be worked out.

Vo Dong Giang, a Cabinet minister without portfolio and the second-ranking official in the Foreign Ministry, told The Associated Press Wednesday that with regard to joint excavations: "In principle we are agreeable except in the crash sites where our security cannot permit foreigners to have access."

A U.S. State Department official in Washington confirmed that American officials have discussed the joint excavation of sites with a Vietnamese delegation led by Giang.

The State Department official said the Vietnamese had expressed their agreement in principle to the proposal at meetings in Hanoi Aug. 28-29 and in New York Sept. 27 with Richard Childress, the National Security Council's political and military affairs director.

He said that since both sides had agreed to speed up the search, the U.S. passed on to the Vietnamese "many more cases" at the Hanoi meeting.

The first official U.S. excavation in Communist territory was carried out last February in southern Laos at the site where a C-130 transport was shot down in December 1972.

American excavation teams have never ventured into North Vietnam.

In his interview with the AP, Giang disclosed for the first time details of Vietnam's three-part plan designed to settle the MIA issue within two years:

- The Vietnamese will do the major part of the searches.
- In cases where it is extremely difficult to reach crash sites such as those in deep water or in an abyss where cranes and other heavy equipment would be needed, Hanoi would ask the U.S. for help.
- Giang said his government was agreeable to joint excavations.



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Chemists In Action

As part of the research being done for the Office of the State Chemist, Larry Whitlock (left) and Bob Rumberg create a mini dust storm while grinding corn feed. The resulting cornmeal will be tested for minerals, proteins, antibiotics and fungus.

Air Force declassifies 2 main shuttle payloads

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Air Force on Thursday declassified the two primary payloads that the space shuttle will carry on its first mission from the West Coast next year. One is designed to track cruise missiles; the other is to be, eventually, a detector for ballistic missiles.

It has been a badly kept secret that

the inaugural flight from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California next March 20 will carry an infrared space surveillance experiment called "Teal Ruby," and another infrared sensor called "Cirris."

Major Ron Rand, an Air Force spokesman, said that "since Teal Ruby and Cirris are experimental rather than operational, we deter-

mined that disclosure of their identities and mission would have a negligible effect on national security."

An earlier version of the Cirris, which is a sensor to collect data on the Earth atmosphere, was flown on the fourth mission of the space shuttle in June 1982. It failed, apparently because a telescope cover didn't open.

Teal Ruby and three other experiments will be aboard a satellite that is to be released from the shuttle cargo bay. Cirris is one of six experiments mounted on a shuttle pallet that will be exposed to space during flight, then brought back to Earth.

Teal Ruby is described as a "staring mosaic array" — detector that concentrates on a specific area of the

Earth. The detectors sense infra-red energy, which is then transformed to an image.

The device is able to swivel, enabling the sensor to focus on a point while the satellite orbits. After a detection attempt, Teal Ruby's telescope can be stowed in the satellite.

A&M bids for brightest of America's students

By CYNTHIA GAY
Staff Writer

The stakes are high and the competition is keen when Texas A&M bids for America's brightest from the nation's pool of high school students.

"We recruit national merit scholars and other outstanding students," said Dr. Lawrence Cress, assistant provost of the University Honors Program.

In the spring of their junior year, students who score over 1250 on the SAT and are in the top 10 percent of their class are mailed letters containing A&M scholarship information, Cress said. Four thousand Texas students and 2,000 out-of-state students received letters this year, Cress said, in the largest mail-out in the program's history.

"We reach out to every student in Texas with an outstanding academic record," Cress said.

When looking beyond the Texas borders, A&M's honors program takes a random sample of students with high PSAT and SAT scores, mainly from Louisiana, New Mexico, New York and California, Cress said. Maryland and Virginia students are also considered, he said, because many of their parents are in the military, and the transition to a Texas school would be made more easily.

A&M has received national publicity from its national merit scholars, which now stands at approximately 625 students. For Dr. Cress, all the hullabaloo has resulted in interviews with such major newspapers as the New York Times, USA Today and many metropolitan newspapers in Texas.

"We have doubled the number of national merit scholars from out of state in the last two years," he said.

"It's important to get the good students (national merit), but there are other good students who are not national merit scholars," Cress said.

The honors program offers three academic scholarships: the Presidential Endowed Scholarship, the Lechner Fellowship and the McFadden Scholarship. While the Presidential Endowed Scholarship comes from a \$25,000 endowment usually given by former students, and pays the student \$2,500 per year, the Lechner and McFadden award students between \$1,000 and \$2,000 each year. Cress said all three four-year scholarships guarantee a dorm room.

After students mail A&M their scholarship applications, Cress said honors program officials cut down the potential scholar number to about 600. Out of the 600 students awarded a scholarship, 300 accept, he said.

See Honor, Page 16

Policy at Beutel 'discriminatory'

Students discuss health policy

By LAURIE MATUSEK
Reporter

"This is not an issue of birth control or sex on campus, but an issue of discrimination," says Ann Robbins, a senior psychology major at Texas A&M.

Robbins and other A&M students gathered at Rudder Fountain Thursday to discuss the discontinuation of physical exams and birth control prescriptions at the A.P. Beutel Health Center. Full gynecological care was eliminated at the health center Sept. 1.

Although Robbins says this is an issue of discrimination, Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the health center, said previously that the health center does not want to discriminate against women, but it is understaffed and overworked.

Robbins began discussion of this move at the open forum sponsored by Memorial Student Center's Great Issues committee.

"There are two traditions (at A&M) that need to be put to an end: student apathy and discrimination against women," Robbins says.

Patrick Zinn, a senior modern languages major, says that men



Ann Robbins

should be concerned about this issue also.

"This is a people's issue, one of discrimination and one of awareness," Zinn says.

Katie Cokinos, a senior history and philosophy major, says, "I want people to be aware — not to sleepwalk."

Cokinos is a member of a concerned group of students protesting the discontinuation. She says the forum was an excellent way to get the student body's attention.

Awareness of the subject may lead to some changes, she says.

See Policy, page 16

Health Center will resume prescribing birth control

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Senior Staff Writer

The A.P. Beutel Health Center will resume conducting gynecological examinations and prescribing birth control Monday, said Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services Thursday.

Koldus announced this shortly after the Memorial Student Center's Great Issues open forum in front of Rudder Tower.

Dr. Claude Goswick Jr., director of the health center, has hired a female physician who will be in charge of administering gynecological exams and prescribing birth control pills, he said.

She will start her practice here Monday, Koldus said. He said the forum had nothing to do with the decision to hire the new physician.

Goswick could not be reached for comment Thursday, and according to an article in The Houston Post Thursday, he could

not be reached for comment Wednesday either.

According to the same article, a spokesman for Goswick said the services were discontinued in part because of budget constraints. But Koldus said this was not the case.

"There was some kind of misunderstanding about the budget constraints," Koldus said. "What it amounts to is that he (Goswick) just needed someone to fill two positions at the center. There was never a lack of money involved."

"Hiring a female helps with this particular problem," Koldus said.

Goswick told The Battalion that another reason examinations for birth control were not given was because some doctors personally prefer not to give prescriptions for birth control.

The National Organization for Women will distribute free literature about birth control and free condoms in the MSC today and Monday.

Senate agrees to raise government debt limit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After ending eight days of wrangling over a balanced budget plan, the Senate agreed to raise the national debt limit to more than \$2 trillion Thursday night.

By 51-37, the Senate voted to increase the government's line of credit from its current \$1.824 trillion to \$2.078 trillion, enough to meet the government's borrowing needs for the next year.

The action came after the Senate completed several revisions to the balanced budget plan that was attached to the debt limit legislation on Wednesday.

The House, in effect, agreed to the debt limit increase when it passed a budget blueprint on Aug. 1, but the addition of the budget plan in the Senate will require further action.

The Senate has been tied up since last week on the debt and budget issues, which forced an extraordinary weekend session, prompted hard feelings between Republicans and Democrats and between the Republican leadership and the Treasury Department.

Earlier Thursday, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole angrily accused the Treasury Department of undermining efforts to pass the balanced-budget plan and displaying "no guts" with an emergency \$5 billion auction that eased the government's credit crisis.

"What they've done is give the House plenty of time to try and kill the package," the Kansas Republican said before the Senate went back to work on fine-tuning the measure.

U.S. request to deny the hijackers sanctuary — refused the Egyptian plane permission to land in that North African country, U.S. administration sources in Washington said.

An Italian government statement said President Reagan had asked Craxi to let the plane land in Sicily, and Craxi agreed, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. Craxi's spokesman confirmed to the AP that the premier received a call from the White House, but did not know what was said.

"The aircraft landed with Italian consent and was surrounded by American and Italian troops," Speakes said. Sources in Washington said the U.S. troops included Navy

SEALS, a specially-trained combat unit.

The airliner touched down at Sicily's Sigonella airport, a NATO base near Catania, at 12:30 a.m. (7:30 p.m. Thursday EDT), said Craxi's spokesman.

"The (Egyptian) plane will leave for Egypt, but the terrorists will stay here to be tried here," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Speakes said the U.S. government would "pursue prompt extradition," so that the four Palestinians could be tried in the United States.

PLO hijacker's plane forced down by U.S.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — American F14 warplanes intercepted an Egyptian aircraft carrying four Palestinian hijackers, forcing the plane to land Thursday night at a NATO base in Sicily where the gunman were taken into Italian custody, according to White House spokesman.

"... it should send a message and a strong one, that we will do what is necessary to apprehend those who are involved in terrorism," Larry Speakes said. "We will do it again, if the opportunity presents itself."

He said that "in a matter of hours" the United States would "pursue prompt extradition" so prosecution could be undertaken for the murder of 69-year-old American tourist Leon Klinghoffer. Italian authorities have expressed their own plans for prosecuting the men.

"This operation was conducted without firing a shot," Speakes told reporters. He said the four Palestinians, who hijacked the Italian luxury cruise ship Achille Lauro on Monday, were in Italian custody "for appropriate legal proceedings."

Asked what the Palestinians said as they were taken from the plane, Speakes said, "I judge they probably had an expletive or two."

In a midnight briefing, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger told reporters: "On the plane were the four terrorists, two other Palestinians and four Egyptians and the crew of the plane."

He said that if an Italian investigation shows the two other Palestinians were implicated in the hijacking, "than our extradition request will be extended to them."

The F-14 jets blasted off from the Saratoga, and intercepted the Egyptian Boeing 737 aircraft on its way from Cairo to Tunisia, Speakes said.

During the flight, the Tunisian government — apparently heeding a