

State and Local

2 students hurt when tube explodes

A laboratory explosion Wednesday in 406 O&M sent two Texas A&M students to local medical facilities where they were released after treatment for minor injuries.

Laura A. Priest, an oceanography graduate student, received lacerations on her arms and face after a vacuum tube exploded during an experiment, said Elmer Schneider, University Police chief. She was taken to the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

Benjamin Cox, an oceanography research assistant, experienced a temporary hearing loss and pain in his leg after being knocked back by the force of the explosion, Schneider said. Cox was taken to St. Joseph Hospital and later released.

Oceanography professor Jim Brooks said the accident was a result of overpressurized tubes, or an accidental bumping of the tubes while setting up the experiment.

Brooks said other possible causes for the tube explosion could have been a change in temperature or a manufacture's defect in the tube.

Schneider said two other people were in the lab, but they were not injured.

Few blacks choose science as career option, prof says

By Melanie Perkins
Reporter

Recent figures show that blacks have increasingly ignored science career options, and a Texas A&M researcher says it may be to their advantage to take another look at science-related jobs.

Dr. Julia Clark, an associate professor of curriculum and instruction at A&M, said most studies concerning the low participation rate of blacks in science concentrated on why blacks didn't choose science as a career. She took a different perspective — she looked at those who were successful in science.

Clark sent out 200 questionnaires to black professionals in science-related fields asking them what factors influenced their career choice. She received 75 responses, a return rate of almost 38 percent.

Based on the replies, she determined that blacks are depriving themselves by not choosing science as a career option.

She said she found that the greatest motivational factor for those that chose science and math careers was an early exposure to science — both in the classroom and through such outside activities as trips to museums.

Clark said black role models such as parents, relatives or teachers employed in the scientific fields can be important motivational factors.

"The absence of black students from today's science classes will lead to a corresponding absence of blacks from professional science tomorrow."

— Dr. Julia Clark, associate professor of curriculum and instruction.

"(It's) especially important for young black students to have early and extensive exposure to blacks who are employed in the sciences," Clark said.

She said parents need to be involved and need to show an interest in their children and any program designed to cultivate and maintain interest in the sciences.

"The absence of black students from today's science classes will lead to a corresponding absence of blacks from professional science tomorrow," she said.

Another factor discouraging blacks from choosing science careers is that some teachers and even some minority students feel that minorities can't understand science.

"Black students are not cognitively

different than any other race of students," Clark said.

Dr. Kenneth Manning, professor of the history of science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, touched on some of these principles and ideas in his lecture on the role of blacks in science and technology March 31 in Rudder Tower.

Manning focused his lecture on his award-winning book, "Black Apollo of Science: The Life of Ernest Everett Just."

Manning, like Clark, stressed motivation, the role of education and role models as being important in the selection of science as a field of study.

"It's less a question of what you were born with, but a question of the opportunities you had or were denied," Manning said.

Manning also said schools should develop a policy on racial harassment just as they have for sexual harassment.

"A teacher is a very powerful and influential person and he or she can determine what a student's life will be like," he said.

Manning also said much of what is achieved in science depends on working closely with others.

Singer must remain in prison during appeal

AUSTIN (AP) — Singer David Crosby cannot be freed on bond while he is appealing two convictions that sent him to state prison, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled Wednesday.

Crosby was convicted in Dallas in July 1983 of cocaine possession and carrying a handgun in a nightclub and was sentenced to five years in prison.

He was initially released on bond pending appeal, but was arrested last year when he fled from a New Jersey hospital where he had been undergoing drug abuse treatment since Jan. 10, 1985.

A Dallas judge refused to set bond for Crosby, who appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeals. That court Wednesday noted Crosby had failed to appear at a Nov. 25, 1985, Dallas hearing on the bond question.

Crosby joined Stephen Stills and Graham Nash in the late 1960s to form Crosby, Stills and Nash.

Testimony at a 1984 hearing in Dallas indicated Crosby had a long-time problem with drugs. Psychologist Stephen Pittel of California said Crosby had been addicted seriously to cocaine and heroin for 14 years.

Pittel examined Crosby and decided that Fair Oaks Hospital in New Jersey, a locked facility, was best-equipped to treat him.

Officials at Fair Oaks had denied Crosby's request for an electronic musical instrument on which he could compose music, Pittel said.

Crosby told the court that his time in a variety of jails had shocked him toward recovery.

"Rikers Island is no joke," he said. "The Tombs is no joke. The Dallas County Jail is no joke. Handcuffs are no joke. It's not very funny. It's real serious stuff."



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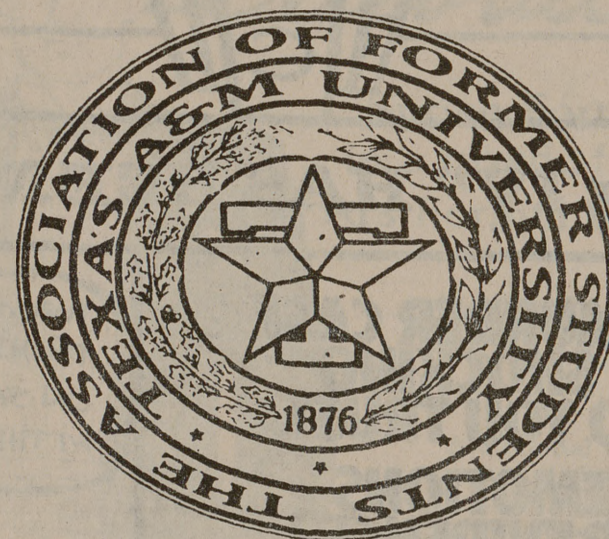
'87 AGGIELAND

Staff applications available in Room 230 of Reed McDonald.

General Meeting for applicants
Monday, April 14
at 7 p.m. in Room 011
Reed McDonald.

Applications due April 15

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ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRESENTATION

9:00 A.M.

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RUDDER AUDITORIUM

All applicants should attend!