

State and Local

Space Center move unsure

1,900 future jobs at risk

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Up to 1,900 potential jobs could be lost at the Johnson Space Center if the complete space station program is moved to Washington as announced earlier, the center's director said Thursday.

But Director Jesse Moore said NASA Administrator James Fletcher is going to "rethink" the proposal to move the program from Houston to Washington.

Fletcher announced last month that the space station management center would be moved from Houston to NASA headquarters in Washington.

"He has agreed to come to the Johnson Space Center," Moore said of Fletcher. "He has not agreed to change anything. I did not get any kind of new commitments out of Dr. Fletcher, but I do think Dr. Fletcher

is giving some additional thought to this structure."

Moore said Fletcher is expected to meet with JSC officials July 25.

Moore explained during a news conference that the estimated total of 1,900 jobs is based on an assumption of how many people could be hired as the space station program progresses.

He said the \$1.4 billion program is in its infancy and doesn't expect a deployment until 1992 or 1993.

Fletcher has said that only about 100 jobs would be transferred to Washington and not necessarily from Houston.

The 1,900 potential jobs involve the systems engineering, analysts function and systems integration function departments. Integration function is the combining of all the

elements of the different space station sectors.

Moore said he expressed concern to Fletcher on Wednesday that a well-structured space station program might be better kept in Houston.

"We really wanted to make sure our center expertise here at Johnson was fully utilized in the development part and operational part of the space station program," Moore said.

He said the decisions handed down by Fletcher "didn't have a lot of details associated with them. There still is a fair amount of detail that needs to be worked out."

The director said he also expressed concern to Fletcher about the manned system and habitability area, flight operations, and the distributed sub-systems area.

Explosion hits college in Beaumont

BEAUMONT (AP) — A major explosion Thursday blew out walls and windows of the administrative building of Lamar University, injuring one person slightly but heavily damaging the one-story building, a Beaumont fire department official said.

"The only reason there were no serious injuries or deaths is because there wasn't anybody there," fire Capt. David Hooks said.

The explosion erupted just before 4:30 p.m., Thursday, after gas leaked from a line in the boiler room, Hooks said.

Officials were able to plug the two-inch leak and contain spot fires within an hour after the explosion was reported, Hooks said.

He said one person suffered minor injuries but he did not know the identity of the person.

The explosion apparently also blew lines in the university's telephone system as he said he could not reach university police by phone about the fire.

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Brazos Valley SPCA sponsors weekly dog dip

By TRACEY BABER
 Reporter

The Brazos Valley Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is having a dog dip Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. in the Manor East Mall parking lot.

A flea dip costs \$3, and a bath and a dip costs \$6.

The BVSPCA has sponsored dog dips every summer since the chapter's organization four years ago.

Angela McCoy, BVSPCA vice president, said the dog dips average \$1,500-1,800 and are the organization's sole fund raiser.

The organization bathes and dips about 50 dogs each Sunday and rarely turns a pet owner away.

"If the dog is very aggressive to the handlers or other dogs we will refuse to dip or bathe the dog," McCoy said.

Also, puppies under six months old and dogs over eight years old only will be bathed.

Owners are asked to bring a leash to control their dogs.

Money raised at this event is used

to fund the BVSPCA's Spay-Neuter Subsidy Program.

The BVSPCA will send a \$5 rebate to anyone who has their cat or dog spayed or neutered, a senior citizen is eligible for a \$10 rebate, McCoy said.

The owner is required to send a copy of the veterinarian's bill to the BVSPCA within 30 days.

Regents to consider revision of A&M investment policy

In three days of meetings beginning Sunday, the Texas A&M Board of Regents will consider revising the investment policy for the University system.

The revisions would allow pro-

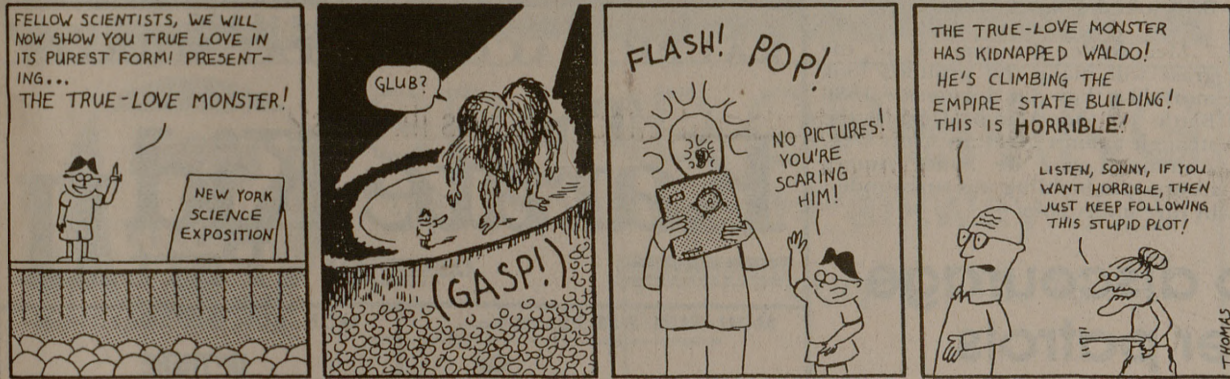
ceeds from the sale of bonds and related bond issue accounts to be placed in a common account that would permit daily investment and withdrawal.

The board also will consider es-

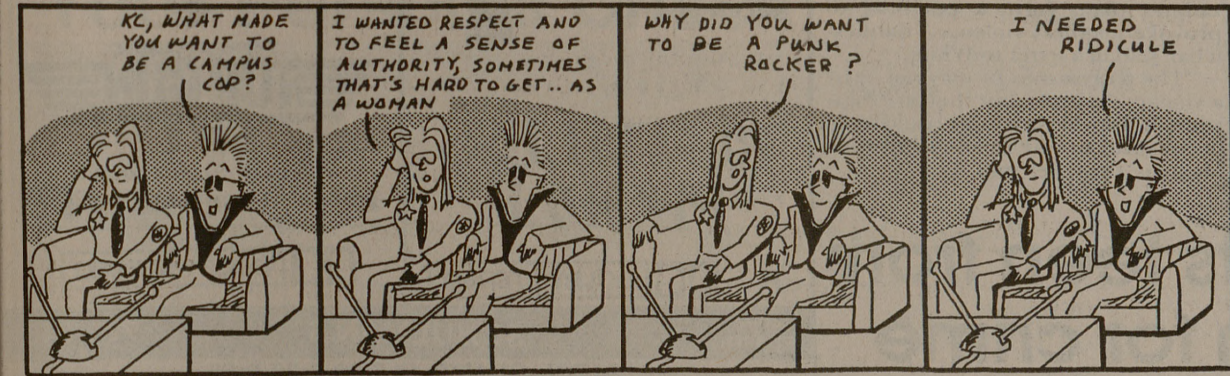
tablishing a system office at the Texas Medical Center in Houston. The Target 2000 Study recommended that the University develop a greater presence in urban areas, especially Houston.

A statement from the board said the office would encourage new research between the system and the medical center scientists and provide a higher degree of research in several areas.

Waldo



Harsh Reality



Shoe



Court rescinds child support formula

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court responded Thursday to complaints about its child support guidelines by rescinding its formula for calculating the payments.

Critics said the guidelines unfairly based the payments on gross salary, rather than net, and left too little discretion for judges faced with unusual situations.

"We just made a mistake, let's face it," said Justice William Kilgarlin. "We want to rectify it. Sometimes it's better to say you were wrong and start over again."

The court will appoint a task force to make recommendations for revised guidelines.

The 1985 legislature, concerned with a wide variance in child support

payments ordered across the state, instructed the Supreme Court to come up with first-ever statewide guidelines. The guidelines were approved May 19 and went into effect June 1.

"I got hundreds of letters from all over Texas, from individuals and lawyers," Kilgarlin said. "A majority of the lay people were certainly men."

Included in the guidelines was a formula for calculating the payments. For one child, it was 17 percent of the gross income of the parent ordered to make the payment. For two children, it was 25 percent. There also were percentages for cases involving more than two children.

Dallas lawyer Louise Raggio said the guidelines unfairly based the payments on gross income, rather than take-home pay.

"When it's based on gross for a union worker, after he gets through with taxes and dues he has to pay, he won't have enough left for himself," she said.

Attorney General Jim Mattox said the guidelines were good, although they did have some problems.

"The court was faced with the position of whether to allow some inequities to take place while they tried to work out the problems or whether to rescind them and attempt to work out the problems," he said. "I think I would have preferred them kept in

place and worked out, rather than rescinded entirely."

Mattox said the guidelines did not adequately take into account the economic situation of the parent with custody of the children.

"Seventeen percent is fair sometimes and sometimes it's not quite as fair," he said. "The guidelines had provisions to adjust the support order, but the judges felt those guidelines were so tight they had to make up reasons to justify it."

Mattox said statewide guidelines are needed.

"There are some areas where the judges do an excellent job, and there are some areas where judges don't do much of anything," he said.

Merchant seminar offered

By Karen Kroesche
 Staff Writer

With the help of two Texas A&M retailing experts, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce will present a one-day training seminar July 29 to help local merchants improve their businesses in the face of a depressed business environment.

Dr. Larry Gresham, an assistant professor of marketing at A&M and a co-presenter at the seminar, says only the best businesses will survive in today's increasingly competitive retailing market.

"The good retailers... will be OK regardless of the economic climate," Gresham says. "It's going to be the marginal businesses that are going to get knocked out."

Gresham and Dr. George Lucas, also an A&M assistant professor of marketing, will speak about trends in the retailing environment, improving advertising and customer service, and salesmanship.

Beverly Barron, director of community affairs for the Chamber of Commerce, says that the seminar, entitled "Planning a Successful Retail Strategy," is a timely one that should help all types of businesspeople in the area.

She says that with the economy as it is, the chamber felt a successful strategy seminar for retailing businesses would be a pertinent topic.

The seminar will be held in the Brazos Center from 8:30 a.m. to noon. There is a \$35.00 fee for chamber members and a \$45.00 fee for non-members.


Barron says the chamber sponsors several business-related seminars each year. In the fall they will be presenting another symposium on "How to Do Business with the University."

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