State and Local

Police Beat

By
Staff Writer

The following were reported to the University Police Department from Jan. 26 through Friday:

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

• Nine bicycles were reported stolen.

• The Bryan Police Department recovered three bicycles that were reported stolen.

• A student reported that while he was delivering pizzas his bicycle was removed from Moses Hall where he left it. About twenty minutes later, the student reported that he found his bicycle in the second floor restroom of Moses Hall.

• A student reported that her blue bag purse was taken from a first floor restroom in the Blocker Building.

• A student reported that his blue jean jacket was taken from a fourth floor washroom of Dunn Hall.

• A maroon backpack was reported stolen from the storage shelves of the Commons Dining Hall.

FELONY THEFT:

• A man reported that he found the Eli Whitely Park sign in some bushes next to the railroad tracks.

BURGLARY OF A HABITATION:

• A senior ring was reported stolen from a dorm room in Moses Hall.

ASSAULT:

• A student reported that, while walking in a hallway, in Aston Hall, he was struck in the face by someone wearing a paisley shirt and blue jeans.

HARASSMENT:

• A student reported that he received several phone calls from about 1:45 to 2:15 a.m. in which the caller would say nothing and hang up.

FALSE ALARM:

• Officers responding to a smoke/fire alarm in the Sterling C. Evans Library reported that they couldn't find any sign of smoke or fire.

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:

• A man reported that someone removed his Nikon 35mm camera and accessories from an office in the USDA building.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

• A student reported that someone put two scratches along the entire length of his 1986 black Monte Carlo.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION:

• University police received a report of a drunk man near Puryear Hall. Responding officers said the man appeared to be intoxicated and transported him to the Brazos County Sheriff's office.

Proposed plane more fuel efficient than space shuttle

By Christina Caywood-Brennan
Reporter

Around the world in 80 minutes? Yes, minutes, not days. That's just what the proposed National Aero-Space Plane will be able to do if it is launched as scheduled in 1993, Col. Leonard Vernamonti of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency said Tuesday night.

Vernamonti, the guest speaker at a joint meeting of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, said the proposed X-30 aircraft would take off like a regular airplane, achieve orbit and come back to Earth — all on one tank of hydrogen fuel.

"We want a marriage of space and aeronautics," Vernamonti said of the 250,000-pound aircraft, which potentially could reach a speed of Mach 25.

Compared to the 4.4 million-pound space shuttle, the much lighter X-30 will be able to carry the same 32,000-pound gross weight payload with greater fuel efficiency.

The shuttle is much heavier than the X-30 because it requires 1.4 million pounds of liquid oxygen to get it into orbit.

Some of the features of the plane will include horizontal takeoff and landing — much like a regular airplane — and air-breathing propulsion for landing.

The greatest feature is that the plane will be reusable for up to 150 flights.

The plane will combine two flight regimes, a hypersonic flight reaching a speed of Mach 12-to-13 and a single-staged orbit in which the craft will use air-breathing engines and would be able to take off from a runway.

"Super-computers are allowing this to happen," Vernamonti said. "It couldn't be done without them."

The plane will contain an artificially intelligent control system. Within the system, a pilot association program will be used to control the aircraft. The pilot association program will be like a robot which flies the X-30 aircraft.

The National Aero-Space Plane program has many potential benefits, Vernamonti says. The most impressive of these benefits are the aircraft's reusability and its efficiency.

Col. Leonard Vernamonti *Photo by Jennifer Friend*

Texas prisons remain open; population nears capacity

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The number of inmates in Texas prisons inched closer to a state-mandated 95 percent capacity mark Tuesday as more prisoners arrived, a prison spokesman said.

As of midnight Monday, 38,336 inmates were in the Texas Department of Corrections, prison spokesman Charles Brown said. He said there were 50 empty beds.

The inmate count totaled 94.88 percent of capacity, Brown said.

Unofficial tallies showed that more than 175 new inmates arrived Tuesday, with more expected.

About 75 inmates were released from prison Tuesday, Brown said.

The unofficial figures could push the inmate population past the 95 percent ceiling, but Brown said TDC officials would not know the official count until today.

"Today, we're kind of projecting that we would reach or exceed the 95 percent ceiling," Brown said.

But since the official tally would not be known until sometime after noon today, prison doors will remain open to more arrivals, he said.

Mattox: Out-of-state banks should 'beware'

AUSTIN (AP) — The new state law permitting out-of-state banks to purchase Texas banks is constitutional, but buyers must beware about trying to run the Texas institutions, Attorney General Jim Mattox said Tuesday.

"It's legal, but they had better be careful," Mattox said after issuing a legal opinion on the law that took effect Jan. 1.

"They had better abide by the letter of the law, or we think they will be found to be in violation of the (Texas) Constitution," Mattox said.

The Texas Constitution was amended in 1904 to prohibit out-of-state banks from operating banks in Texas, Mattox said.

In his opinion, Mattox said the interstate banking law approved by the Legislature last summer "authorizes foreign ownership, not foreign operation" of the Texas institutions.

"Ownership . . . of bank stock by an out-of-state bank holding company does not violate per se the (constitutional) prohibition against a foreign corporation exercising banking and discounting privileges," Mattox wrote.

"If, however, the holding company acts in a way to disregard the separate corporate existence of individual banks, then we think that courts would conclude that (the constitution) had in fact been violated," he said.

Maximum punishment would be $1,000 per violation per day and possible revocation of a bank's charter, Mattox said.

At a news conference, Mattox refused to say what specific actions might violate the prohibition against an out-of-state company operating a Texas bank.

The Legislature passed the bill to allow out-of-state takeovers after backers of the idea said the oil price plunge and Texas' shaky economy had endangered many of the state's largest financial institutions.

Mattox said the new law "very clearly was passed in an effort to get around (the portion of) our state constitution that prohibits the conducting of banking services in state by out-of-state corporations."

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	Our Price	compare at
2.87	$8275.00	14,500.00
2.04	7750.00	13,900.00
2.02	7750.00	13,900.00
1.41	3850.00	7500.00
1.33	3595.00	6900.00
1.29	2495.00	4900.00
1.17	2525.00	4900.00
1.17	2525.00	4900.00
1.17	1295.00	2800.00
1.16	1395.00	2800.00
1.15	2200.00	4300.00
1.10	1345.00	2650.00
1.10	1595.00	2900.00
1.09	2925.00	5700.00
1.08	2895.00	5600.00
1.08	2250.00	4500.00
1.06	1950.00	3900.00
1.06	1975.00	3900.00
1.02	2685.00	5300.00
1.02	1495.00	2800.00
1.01	1395.00	2700.00
1.00	1950.00	3800.00
1.00	1345.00	2700.00
1.00	1950.00	3800.00
.99	1395.00	2700.00
.97	1150.00	2300.00
.97	1520.00	2900.00
.96	1840.00	3700.00
.80	1200.00	2500.00
.73	1150.00	2200.00
.76	1025.00	2000.00
.72	1145.00	2300.00
.71	1195.00	2300.00
.67	760.00	1500.00
.67	895.00	1750.00
.65	815.00	1700.00

ROUND

	Our Price	compare at
.65	$785.00	1400.00
.63	975.00	1700.00
.62	850.00	1550.00
.62	715.00	1495.00
.61	695.00	1350.00
.61	775.00	1400.00
.61	715.00	1400.00
.59	930.00	1700.00
.59	930.00	1800.00
.58	850.00	1750.00
.57	695.00	1375.00
.53	845.00	1750.00
.51	795.00	1400.00

PEAR

	Our Price	compare at
1.38	$2275.00	4800.00
1.01	1250.00	2400.00
.83	1975.00	3500.00
.62	1495.00	2800.00
.60	1195.00	2300.00
.52	665.00	1250.00
.51	695.00	1300.00
.45	325.00	600.00
.37	350.00	600.00
.37	375.00	650.00
.31	245.00	595.00

HEART

	Our Price	compare at
1.36	$1750.00	3300.00
1.87	985.00	1700.00
1.27	335.00	750.00

SQUARE

	Our Price	compare at
.46	$920.00	1700.00
.28	385.00	675.00
.25	325.00	600.00

MARQUISE

	Our Price	compare at
2.78	$12,950.00	23,000.00
2.14	4988.00	8600.00
1.10	3250.00	6500.00
1.01	1275.00	2300.00
.71	2795.00	5800.00
.55	995.00	1800.00
.64	1295.00	2400.00
.62	795.00	1500.00
.47	625.00	1250.00
.39	695.00	1400.00
.35	425.00	850.00

MARQUARE

	Our Price	compare at
.31	425.00	850.00
.27	325.00	650.00
.25	250.00	500.00
.18	195.00	390.00
.14	145.00	290.00
.11	110.00	225.00

EMERALD

	Our Price	compare at
1.40	$7250.00	14,000.00
1.02	2295.00	4000.00
1.01	2095.00	3800.00
.50	685.00	1300.00
.33	385.00	750.00

OVAL

	Our Price	compare at
1.15	$2495.00	4600.00
1.04	1495.00	2700.00
.89	1695.00	3100.00
.83	1350.00	2600.00
.81	1160.00	2100.00
.78	1495.00	2800.00
.71	1375.00	2700.00
.46	375.00	650.00
.44	490.00	750.00
.28	315.00	600.00
.27	285.00	550.00

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