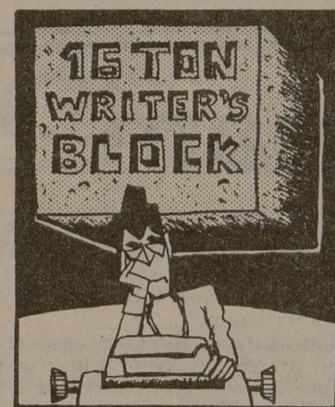


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Students view medical field

By Velia Velez Reporter

Fourteen minority college students interested in the medical field received a dose of the world of medicine this summer.

The students were participants in the Bridge to Medicine Program, which provides orientation, encouragement and support to minority and disadvantaged students interested in a medical career.

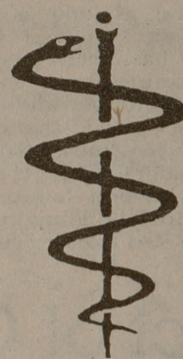
Filomeno G. Maldonado, director of the Health Career Opportunities Program, said the Bridge to Medicine Program is designed to aid students in making the transition to medical school.

"We are trying to facilitate students' entry into medical school by familiarizing them with all aspects of the admission process and by providing classes that allow them to better their knowledge in certain courses," Maldonado said.

Courses are offered in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, reading and writing. Texas A&M faculty members teach the courses.

The students participate in sessions to review medical college admission tests and learn test-taking skills. They also are introduced to professors and medical students.

The program was established in 1986 and is funded by the Department of Health and Human Resources. Fifteen students per year are accepted through an application process based on an overall grade-point ratio of 3.0 or greater and completion of at least 60 credit



hours including courses in biology, chemistry, physics and organic chemistry.

Housing, meals, class materials and resources are provided for the students.

The six-week program ended July 22.

Maldonado credits the program as one of the reasons for the increase of minority students applying to medical school.

"Although there has been only a small increase, it is a significant increase," he said. "I think the increase is a direct result of programs of this type being conducted."

More than 70 percent of the students participating in the program have entered into medical school or health professions.

Building purchase bilks health group

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County's mental health authority, under fire for buying a building for \$1.2 million more than it had been sold for earlier the same day, paid \$420,000 more for the building than its own appraisal showed it to be worth.

Richard H. Basden, president of Parkway Realty Research, which did the appraisal, said he was "puzzled at how they could have bought it (the building) for \$3.3 million," since he had appraised it at \$2.88 million.

The county Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority also plans to spend another \$500,000 to remodel the office building into an outpatient clinic for adult mental health clients.

The questionable transaction involved the president of a company whose dealings prompted the recently disclosed investigation by the district attorney's office.

Investigators revealed last week they were probing the purchase of the \$3.3 million office building. Investigators allege John P. Chambers and his brother, Dunbar Chambers Jr., defrauded their business partners by buying the property from them for \$2.1 million March 29 and then selling it to the county the same day at a \$1.2 million profit.

An appraisal obtained by the authority to the purchase valued the building and land at \$2.9 million.

State District Judge Mary Bacon found there was probably cause to believe theft had occurred.

Experiment challenges law of gravity

DALLAS (AP) — Sir Isaac Newton's 300-year-old law of gravity being challenged by an experiment indicating the force of attraction between two objects is a little less than Newton predicted.

The strength might be attributed to another, yet unstudied, force, nature, said the team of scientists that included investigators from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Confirmation of the force "could dramatically impact a science" by leading to the reevaluation of the masses of the planets, stars, as well as the universe, and estimated age, the scientists Monday.

The experiment is probably the most precise measurement ever made of the strength of gravity, the scientists said.

Scientists from five institutions spent two months analyzing data in gravitational force measurements down a mile-deep bore hole.

Results indicate the new force is about 50 times weaker than gravity and that the force enhances gravity over a short range, providing attraction.

If it withstands further analysis the finding would overthrow the inverse square law, which says force acting on a body decreases as it gets farther from the center of Earth: If a body is twice as far, the gravitational force will be one-fourth as great.

Personal and group counseling, coping and interviewing techniques are offered to prepare and encourage students to stay in medical school once they are accepted.

"Courses are offered on coping techniques to prepare the students for the stress and demands both academically and professionally of medical school," Maldonado said.

The program has had a positive effect on the students' decision to continue their education, he said. Two students who attended last summer's program will begin classes at A&M's medical program this year.

World briefs

Bulgarian airliner disaster kills 23

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — A Balkan Bulgarian airlines jet crashed shortly after taking off from Sofia on Tuesday, killing 23 people and injuring 14, the official Bulgarian news agency said.

Bulgarian airport officials reached by telephone from Vienna confirmed the crash, but refused to give details.

The Yak-40, a Soviet-built plane with three engines, crashed at 5:29 p.m. (10:29 a.m. EDT) the start of a 280-mile scheduled flight from the Bulgarian capital to Varna on the Black Sea coast.

The plane carried 33 passengers and four crew members, news agency said. It did not say whether any foreigners were aboard.

It said 14 people were hospitalized "for emergency treatment." The rest were killed in the crash.

It said the investigation into the crash is still ongoing.

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Secretary sees secret Soviet bomber

KUBINKA AIR FORCE BASE, U.S.S.R. (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci boarded the Kremlin's new secret bomber and watched war games on Tuesday of two bases that had been off-limits to Westerners.

The visits to Kubinka, including the bomber NATO calls the Blackjack, and to an army artillery division were unprecedented for an American official, Carlucci said later, but did not permit him that the Soviets had moved from an offensive to a defensive military posture.

"We, for example, have seen no change in force structure or resources going into the Soviet military establishment," he said at a news conference in Moscow.

During his visit to the air base, Carlucci spent about 10 minutes in the cockpit of the long-range Blackjack bomber.

Iranian president says peace 'doubtful'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — President Ali Khamenei of Iran said Tuesday his government won't agree to the direct peace negotiations Iraq demands and an end to the 8-year-old war appears "extremely doubtful."

A spokesman for Javier de Cuellar said the U.N. secretary-general would not declare a cease-fire unilaterally, which appeared previously to be the intention. Iraq said it would not accept the "fait accompli" of a lateral declaration.

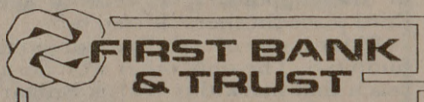
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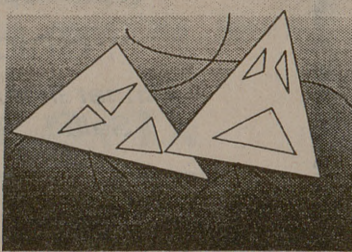


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Table listing medical studies: URINARY TRACT INFECTION STUDY, HEARTBURN STUDY, IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME STUDY. Each study includes a brief description and a list of incentives for participants.

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