

State and Local

Federal grant will enable KAMU-TV to acquire new technical equipment

By Alan Sembera
Staff Writer

KAMU-FM



Texas A&M's Educational Broadcast Services, which includes public television station KAMU, soon will be able to upgrade its equipment with the awarding of a \$238,000 federal grant.

A&M will match the funds given by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which provides funding to enable non-commercial broadcasters to buy technical equipment.

The money will be used to buy

three new television cameras, two videotape machines, new routing switches and monitors, Dr. Rod Zent, director of the broadcast service, said.

The new equipment will be used for teaching educational technology and journalism classes, producing University projects and programs, and broadcasting locally on KAMU-TV, Zent said.

The new equipment will not expand EBS's capabilities, but will upgrade old equipment.

"All of the equipment that we now have in there is about 15 years old," he said, "and this . . . makes our pictures as good as anybody else's."

The grant and matching funds, which total \$476,000, represent a significant benefit for EBS because extra money for new equipment rarely is available, Zent said.

KAMU-TV's annual budget is about \$950,000.

A&M last received a similar grant in 1970, when the station first went on the air, he said.

EBS competed against several hundred other non-commercial television stations across the state for the federal funds, Zent said. A total of 125 stations received grants.

Zent said he submitted the request for funding in January. United States Rep. Joe Barton and Sen. Phil Gramm supported the spending project, he said.

4 Dallas teens held for murder

From Associated Press

Four teen-agers were being held in connection with the slaying of a 23-year-old restaurant manager who was working to earn money for nursing school, police said.

The four, who identified themselves as students at Dallas Spruce High School, were arrested on investigative charges of capital murder in the death of Steve Morgan of DeSoto, who was shot to death Friday night during a robbery at a Captain D's seafood restaurant.

Police say one of the four shot Morgan without provocation.

Family members said Morgan had been managing the restaurant to help support his wife, Fran, and 6-year-old son, Chris.

Morgan's father, Leonard, and brother Michael are physicians and Morgan had been planning to continue the family's involvement in medicine by studying nursing at the University of Texas at Arlington, family members said.

"He wanted to be independent, he felt that everyone alive should work," Morgan's mother Ruth said.

The parents said they brought up Steve and their other three children to believe that no one

has the right to hurt another person.

"Steven never hurt anybody, not even with words," Morgan said. "He never felt he had a right to take anything from anybody. He was just too good for this world."

The victim's father, a professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School who directs a residency program at Methodist Medical Center, says his faith in God has kept him from being bitter toward the man who shot his son.

"That man who shot Steven, I have prayed for him," Morgan said. "He took my son's life, but there is no way I can tell you his life should be taken."

"You don't deal with evil through retribution, you deal with it through empathy," the father said.

The teen-agers were arrested following another robbery of a Pizza Inn restaurant and are suspected of being involved in at least two other fast food establishment robberies during the weekend, police said.

All four have previously been arrested on charges involving robbery, Dallas County sheriff's department spokesman Jim Ewell said.

Study will gauge minority recruiting

By Richard Tijerina
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M sociology professor will direct a nationwide study designed to determine why some major universities across the nation enroll more minority students in graduate programs than others.

Dr. Gail E. Thomas received a \$50,900 grant last May from the Graduate Record Examination Board to evaluate several institutions across the country in the area of recruiting and retaining black and Hispanic graduate students.

cent work shows clear patterns of regression in higher education in minority recruitment and retention.

"The work I've done shows that the clock is slowly turning backwards in terms of black and Hispanic enrollment and retention, particularly in the graduate level," she said. "That is what we're finding and we're not seeing any real changes in these patterns. Institutions are increasing their own standards."

The two-year project will examine

each school individually, emphasizing its environment as well as the policies and practices that aid or inhibit minority recruitment at the graduate level.

Such policies and practices include financial aid requirements, admissions policies, and programs concerning recruitment and retention.

At the end of the study, the final report will be submitted to the Graduate Record Examination Board and distributed to the participating

schools and other interested institutions.

The results of the study will have extensive practical use, Thomas said. "What we're doing should be of interest to educational policymakers at the state and federal levels," she said. "Employers who are constantly seeking 'talented' minorities with higher education credentials should also be interested."

Thomas said she anticipates an even larger amount of similar future research.

FBI agents search for missing 7-year-old

STAMFORD (AP) — FBI agents have joined the search for a 7-year-old Stamford girl who was last seen Friday night buying a soda at a convenience store less than a block from her home.

"We have no reason to believe she would have run away," Jones County Sheriff Mike Middleton said of Courtney Lynn Clayton.

After searching house by house and from the air, authorities said they suspect the child was taken from the Stamford area.

The girl's father, Stan Clayton, said he also believes someone probably abducted the girl.

"She's an extremely friendly child, and she could hold a conversation with someone, but she would not have gotten into a vehicle with someone else or gone with someone else," Clayton said Sunday afternoon. "That's why I feel that someone has taken her against her will."

He said his daughter often walked to the M System store near her house, and the cashier

has confirmed she was in the store Friday night.

"That night she didn't even have enough money to pay for the soda, and the cashier was going to let her bring the money back the next day," he said.

A passing motorist from Lueders also saw the child leaving the store going north, in the direction of the Clayton house.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents from Abilene, south of Stamford, also have been called in to assist the local police and

sheriff's departments.

The girl is about 4 feet tall with shoulder-length blond hair and brown eyes. Authorities say she was last seen wearing a white T-shirt with a print on the front, maroon terry cloth shorts and blue tennis shoes with white laces. She has freckles, a scar on her right index finger and pierced ears.

Clayton said he and his wife, Candy, are relying on their faith and the support of the community during their ordeal.

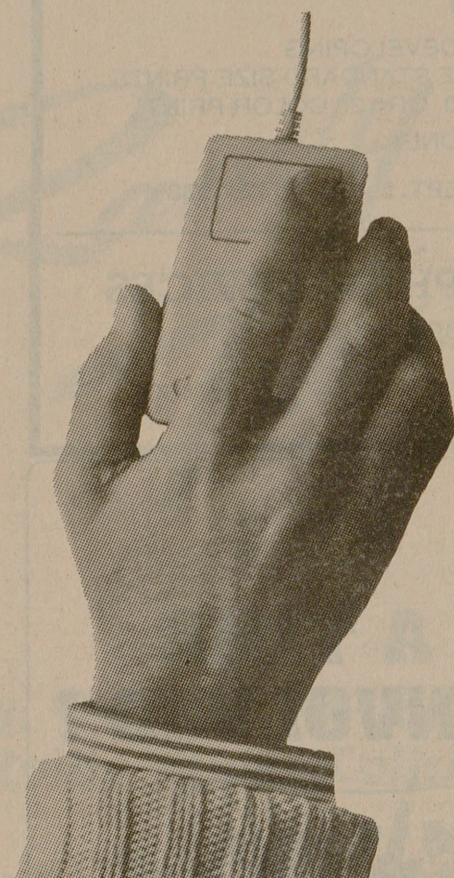
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