

WEATHER

FORECAST for TUESDAY:
Partly cloudy and continued cool.
Temperatures will be 10 to 15 degrees below normal.

HIGH:65

LOW:52

A&M researchers confirm fusion experiment

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M University researchers have confirmed a controversial University of Utah experiment that reportedly achieved nuclear fusion using a relatively simple process, Ed Walraven, a spokesman for A&M, said Sunday.

Dr. Charles Martin, a chemistry professor at A&M, and Bruce Gammon and Kenneth Marsh with the Texas Engineering Experiment Station will hold a news conference at 9 a.m. today to announce they have achieved the same kind of cold fusion, one of the most sought-after scientific breakthroughs.

"Other labs around the country have been trying to duplicate this, but nobody else has been able to get satisfactory results," Walraven said. "Our people are convinced that they've got it, so as a gesture to the researchers in Utah we wanted to announce it as soon as possible."

Dr. Kenneth Hall, deputy director of TEES and associate dean of engineering, said the researchers had confirmed an energy increase with their experiments.

"We have a unique group of people here at Texas A&M and that's why we were able to confirm this before anyone else in the world," Hall said.

"We happen to have all the right kind of

people here and Texas A&M is in a good position to take advantage of the scientific and engineering aspects of this."

Scientists have long sought the secrets of nuclear fusion, considered a possible replacement for conventional energy sources, because it would be clean, inexpensive and virtually inexhaustible.

Researchers in Utah announced March 23 they had achieved nuclear fusion at room temperature. Their claim has been met with widespread skepticism among colleagues.

Other researchers have complained that they tried to replicate the experiment of Stanley Pons of the University of Utah and

his British colleague, Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton, but without success.

Pons has said he wasn't surprised at his colleagues' difficulties because the experiment is more complicated than press reports have made it out to be, and only recently have the technical details reached the scientific community.

Steven Jones of Brigham Young University in Utah said recently that he had achieved fusion in a similar experiment, but obtained far less energy than Pons and Fleischmann said they obtained.

As of Sunday night, A&M officials could not confirm the amount of energy gener-

ated in the A&M experiment.

Fusion, the energy source that powers the sun and hydrogen bombs, is achieved by joining atoms, usually through the application of millions of degrees of heat. Fission, the energy source for nuclear power plants, comes from splitting atoms. Fusion generates far less waste than fission.

Pons and Fleischmann said they produced fusion energy in a 6-inch glass jar at room temperature and normal pressure. They said the experiment generated four times as much energy as it used.

The Utah Legislature on Friday approved \$5 million for further fusion research.

Life Flight
helicopter crash
injures crew

HOUSTON (AP) — A Life Flight helicopter crashed on takeoff from a hospital parking lot Sunday, plunging an estimated 100 feet and seriously injuring a three-person crew after a possible mechanical failure in swirling winds, officials said.

At least one witness reported a loud crash before seeing the helicopter spinning to the ground, and a police officer said he saw the craft drifting backward toward an eight-story parking garage at Hermann Hospital, prompting speculation the tail rotor may have smashed into the structure.

However, a Life Flight official said the pilot told him after the 6:50 a.m. crash that the German-made helicopter malfunctioned on takeoff and a structural engineer who examined the garage said there was no sign of damage.

It was the second crash this year in Texas of a BK-117 helicopter involving a medical crew.

Three people were killed on Valentine's Day when a helicopter crashed in a wooded area while attempting to return to Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler during foggy weather.

The victims of Sunday's crash were identified as Jeffrey Gardner, 40, a 20-year veteran pilot and instructor who previously worked for the helicopter's manufacturer, MBB Helicopter Corp.; flight nurse Roseann Windel, 42; and paramedic Patricia Crain, 26.

All of the victims were listed in serious and guarded condition after suffering spinal damage and were being examined for further internal injuries, Dr. Kenneth Wells said. The pilot also suffered facial injuries after striking the controls on impact.

The bright red and white helicopter fell flat on its belly in the parking lot about 150 feet from a landing pad that was unused due to renovation. Hospital officials said the parking lot, which was blocked from traffic, was a routine alternate landing site.

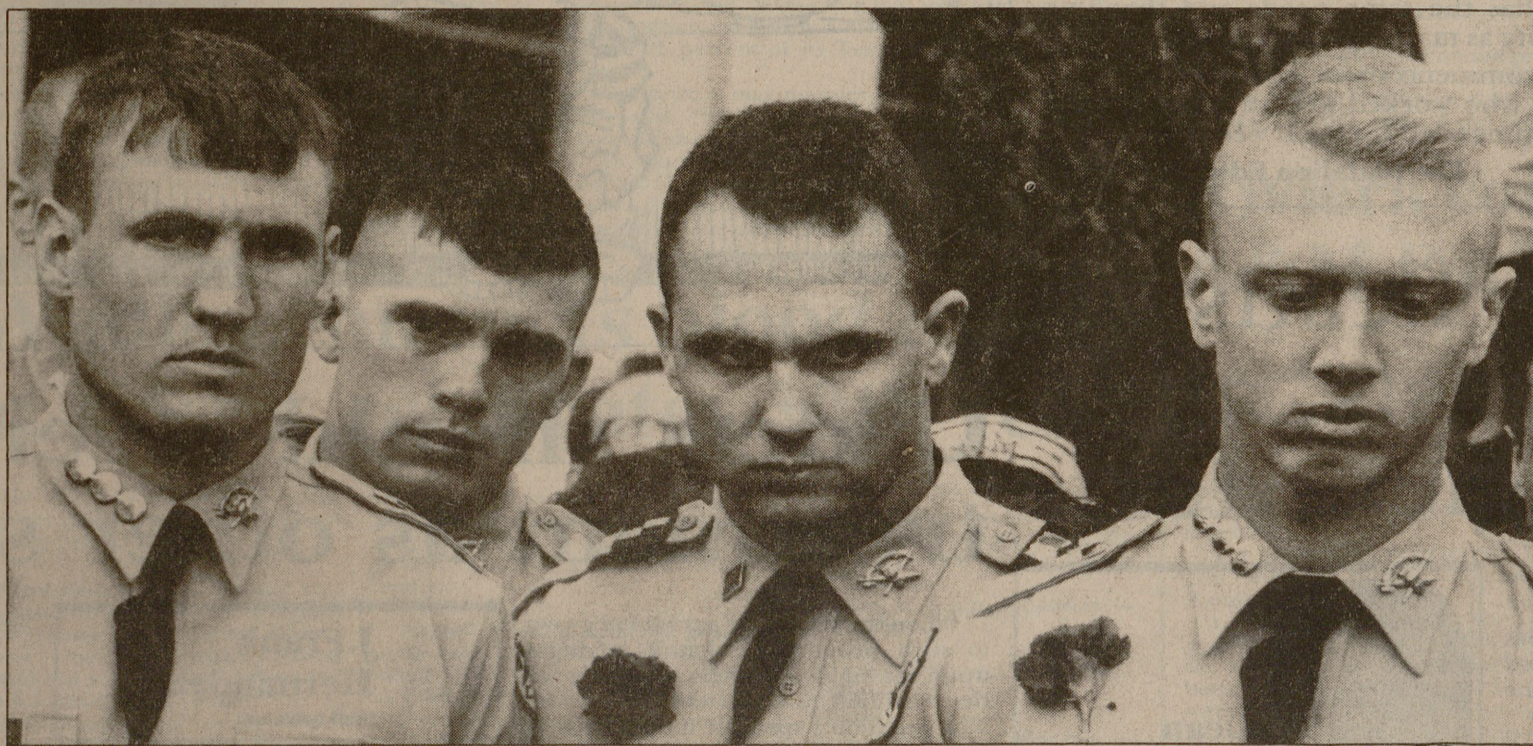


Photo by Jay Janner

Senior members of Company E-2 (l to r) Pat Sartor, a business analysis major from Baytown; James Counts, an industrial distribution major from Gladewater; Ty Snear, an industrial distribution major from Spring and Eric Rauscher, an architecture major

from Dallas, watch as Reveille IV is buried at the north end of Kyle Field Sunday. The former mascot was 14 years old and died during eye surgery from complications related to old age. Thousands of parents and students attended the service.

Thousands pay respects at funeral
of former A&M mascot Reveille IV

By Andrea Warrenburg

REPORTER

Thousands of parents and students paid their respects at the funeral of retired Texas A&M mascot Reveille IV Sunday afternoon on Kyle Field.

Reveille IV, mascot from 1975 to 1984, died March 29 from complications of surgery to correct problems of old age. She would have been 15 years old May 31.

Planned by Company E-2, the

unit that cares for the mascots, the funeral included a brief history of the Reveille tradition and Reveille IV, a prayer and the recitation of a poem, "In Honor of the Passing of Reveille IV," written by senior Hilary Haynie.

"Taps" was played as the Corps of Cadets and attending military officials saluted her memory.

The funeral concluded with the crowd singing "Auld Lang Syne" and E-2 marching to the north end of Kyle Field to bury Reveille IV beside her predecessors.

Paige Brooks, a sophomore English major from Houston, said since Reveille IV was the highest ranking member of the Corps, her funeral was only befitting.

"I hope my funeral is this nice," Brooks said.

The Reveille tradition began 31 years ago when three A&M students struck a stray dog with their car and brought her back with them to keep at A&M, hiding her in their dorm room. The next morning when the dog bar-

ked at the bugle call, she received the name Reveille and the tradition was born. She adopted A&M as her home and became a symbol of the "undying spirit of Aggieland." Every mascot upon her death is buried at the north end of Kyle field.

Reveille IV was donated by Thomas Godwin of Deer Park, Class of '67. Upon her retirement in 1984 she was cared for by Dr. and Mrs. Lee Phillips of Bryan. Dr. Phillips is a former Corps member, Class of '53.

Astronaut presents
University with flag
from space mission

By Andrea Warrenburg

REPORTER

A flag representing Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets made especially for the recent space shuttle Discovery mission was presented to University officials Sunday by mission specialist Col. Robert C. Springer.

Col. Springer, father of Company C-2 freshman Chad Springer, presented the flag that accompanied him on his first shuttle mission to A&M President William Mobley, Corps Commandant Thomas Darling, Corps Commander Todd Reichert and Deputy Corps Commander Jay Kregel.

Each astronaut was allowed to carry a limited number of personal items on the mission and Col. Springer chose an Aggie memento to accompany him on his first mission to space.

"I have always been impressed by A&M," Col. Springer said. "It was an honor to take up something to represent the school and the Corps."

The 30-by-48 inch flag has a maroon shield on a field of white with "Texas A&M Corps of Ca-

dets" emblazoned around the shield.

Since no official Corps flag existed, the design was conceived by Corps Commandant Thomas Darling and Assistant Commandant Donald "Buck" Henderson and rushed to Houston seamstress Reba Ray.

Ray, who has made other flags for the Corps, was told the flag had to be at NASA headquarters in five days to be packed for the mission then scheduled for February.

Springer, who was present at the March 13 launch of the Discovery, said, "It didn't dawn on me that my father was on board until right before it went up."

Springer said he was not afraid for his father.

"I know that NASA takes every precaution," he said. "Any glitch at all and they would have stopped the countdown."

Discovery was launched March 13 on a five day mission to deploy a \$100 million tracking and data relay system satellite.

"I was happy Chad chose A&M," Col. Springer said. "There are lots of Aggies at NASA also, so we had lots of people cheering us on."

Group plants hope at Bryan shelter

By Melissa Naumann

REPORTER

They planted more than tomatoes and zucchini when the Students Together Opposing Poverty dug up the empty lot beside the Emmanuel Baptist Church Shelter; they planted hope.

STOP is a non-profit organization that links Texas A&M students and high school students with opportunities to help others in the community. J. Craig Headley, director of STOP, said.

"We connect people who want to help with people who need help," Headley said.

The group of 20, composed mainly of students from A&M's United Campus Ministry and First Presbyterian Church, planted the garden to help the women who come into the shelter.

"What we're hoping to do is help them help themselves," Headley said. "We wanted to get the bend-over, hard work out of the way and then they can pick the fruits of our labors."

Because the shelter is connected with a religious group, it doesn't qualify for many programs that provide aid to other shelters, Headley said.

"They're doing a great job against horrible odds," he said. "There's just not a great deal of funding or volunteers."

Headley said most of the plants and tools were donated by Furrow Building Materials.

The women in the shelter will maintain the garden, which consists of okra, tomatoes, watermelon, zucchini, beans, cucumbers and green peppers.

"The tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini were our first choice to plant because they can be picked the soonest and that's what's important here," Headley said.

The Rev. Jerry Nugent, director of the shelter and the adjoining food pantry, said the shelter, located on the corner of East 24th and Houston streets, is the only shelter in Bryan-College Station for women who haven't been abused and their children.

"A woman's got to have a busted mouth or a broken nose to get into Phoebe's Home (a home for battered women)," Nugent said. "We don't require that here."

The shelter houses an average of four women and from two to 12 children at a time. It is a four bedroom house with one bathroom, a small kitchen and a small living area.

Nugent said the goal of the shelter is to help women improve their situations.

"Our target is to have a redemptive community," he said. "We want to have people leave here better off than they came."

The garden for the shelter is not STOP's first project. The group, with the help of the Residence Hall Association, organized a Christmas drive for toys, food and clothes. They began the project later than other groups so they could help people who weren't already being helped, Headley said.



Photo by Ronnie Montgomery

Sarah Lents, a junior management major from Houston and a member of Students Together Opposing Poverty, prepares a garden to benefit the Emmanuel Baptist Women's Shelter.

Abortion-rights
activists march
on Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — With cries of "choice" and symbolic coat hangers hanging from their clothing, about 300,000 abortion rights activists marched Sunday on the nation's Capitol hoping to avert a return to the days of back-alley abortions.

"We're scared," said Ellen Davidson, a Yale University junior from Hewlett, N.Y. Scared, she said, because "we're coming to the realization that the thing we've taken for granted can be taken away."

The Supreme Court will hear arguments April 26 in a Missouri case that pro-choice and anti-abortion forces agree could significantly alter the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that gave women the right to an abortion.

"I'm thrilled to have my baby," said Kristin McNamara of College Park, Md., as she wheeled 4-week-old Kathryn in a stroller during the march from the Washington Monument to the Capitol. "But I think a woman must have a choice to decide whether and when to have a child."

"The message is: Don't let this right go," actress Whoopie Goldberg said in an interview as the marchers gathered in a brisk wind in intermittent sunshine.

The women's rights advocates — men and women, Democrats and Republicans, dozens of members of Congress and a host of celebrities — assembled on the Mall at the Monument for the march to the Capitol.

Marchers traded taunts with about 200-300 anti-abortion protesters who stood along Constitution Avenue. Police, some on horseback, kept the opposing forces apart.

The anti-abortion activists set up a symbolic "Cemetery of the Innocents" on the Washington Mall containing 4,400 white wooden crosses and Stars of David. That, organizers said, is the number of unborn children killed daily since the Supreme Court legalized abortion.

Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, vowed to "raise a political army" to ensure that abortion rights are protected. "If they (politicians) don't get the message, we will replace them with pro-choice."