

WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY:
Sunny and hot, with mild temps in the evening.
HIGH: 90s LOW: 70s

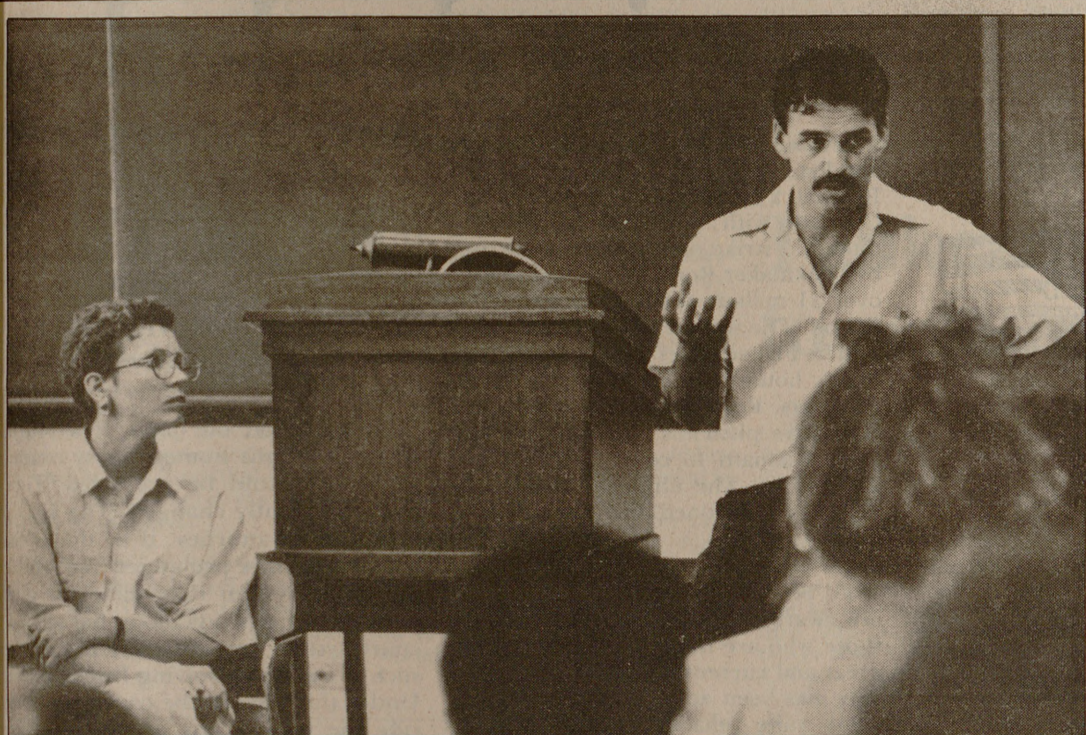


Photo by Kathy Haveman

Tony Rodriguez, right, and his wife Jody talk about teaching children to deal with AIDS to an audience of about 50 in Rudder

Tower Tuesday night. The Rodriguezes both were diagnosed two years ago as having the disease.

Infected couple use experiences to teach about AIDS education

By Kelly S. Brown

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Jody and Tony Rodriguez were the average American couple. When they married, it's likely they had dreams about their lives together. But it's unlikely that either expected their dreams to fade so quickly or to be fighting AIDS for the rest of their lives.

But since discovering two years ago they had the fatal disease, Tony and Jody have faced it head on.

They have accepted the reality of AIDS to the point where now

they can help others understand and even fight the disease.

They are both volunteers with the AIDS Foundation in Houston and were brought to Texas A&M Tuesday by the Texas Students Education Association. With them they carried a part of the solution to AIDS.

"Education, and application of that education, is still the most important factor when dealing with the disease," Tony said. "Ninety-two thousand people have been diagnosed with the disease in America alone; by next year this figure will double. People have to start listening sometime."

Tony said that people of all ages and races are uneducated about AIDS, but that parents especially are not listening.

"Educating the children is a slow process," Tony said. "We first have to educate the parents. Too often we can't even get into the classrooms to educate the kids on AIDS because there are actually parents out there who don't want their children to learn about the disease. They're afraid."

Tony said he sometimes has to work around the parents.

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Legislature may consider proposal for A&M-West Texas State merger

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Lawmakers may consider a proposal to merge West Texas State University with the Texas A&M System during the special session, a spokesman for the governor said Tuesday.

No final decision has been made, the spokesman said, but the proposal may be introduced later this week.

There have been ongoing discussions between the boards of regents at A&M and WTSU, and both schools are doing research on the possible merger. The A&M Board

approved a feasibility study in May.

Sen. Tell Bivins, an Amarillo Republican whose district encompasses WTSU in Canyon, said a merger would benefit both parties.

The Panhandle area is one of the centers of agriculture production in the state, he said, and A&M is one of the best agriculture schools.

He said the trend in Texas is for universities to join a major system in the future, and WTSU would rather choose a system now than be forced into one 10 years from now.

Another reason WTSU wants to join the A&M System, Bivins said, is that the system looks out for its interests full-time in the capitol. A medium-sized school like WTSU can't

compete as well for state funds, he said.

A spokesman for Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, said he has not heard enough about the bill to be able to support it at this time.

Nobody was available at the A&M System chancellor's office for comment Tuesday.

If the bill is introduced and passes, the merger still must be approved by both universities' regents and by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

A merger with WTSU would bring the number of schools in the A&M System to eight. Three South Texas universities were added to the system earlier this year.

Magazine ranks A&M among 'elite' schools

By Richard Tijerina

STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M is ranked ninth nationally among schools in the area of industry support, according to a special issue this week of Business Week magazine.

The magazine ranks A&M among the top 12 schools listed as industry-supported "academically elite" institutions and third nationally in the number of Ph.D.s conferred in science and engineering. A&M received \$13.4 million last year from industry sources, such as energy, medicine, agriculture and engineering.

The University's ranking reinforces the National Science Foundation's latest annual survey of A&M's research expenditures, the latest period for which NSF comparative figures are available. The NSF's figures showed A&M ranks eighth nationally among the country's top research universities with \$219 million in research expenditures.

University officials said A&M's 1988 research total was \$246 million.

Dr. R. Malcolm Richards, associate dean of the College of Business

Administration, said the magazine's ranking of A&M can only help the University be recognized as one of the top research institutions in the country.

"I'm sure (the ranking) gives a

"People who read the article in Business Week and who haven't taken us and what we do here seriously, will start to look more closely at what we're accomplishing."

— Malcolm Richards, assistant business dean

greater visibility to our program," Richards said. "People who read the article in Business Week and who haven't taken us and what we do here seriously, will start to look more closely at what we're accomplishing."

The magazine listed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology first nationally, with \$35 million of industry support for research. Other schools ranked in the top 12 by Business Week are Georgia Tech, Penn State, the University of Washington, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon, the Uni-

versity of Michigan, UCLA, Washington University in St. Louis, North Carolina State and the University of Arizona.

In Business Week's ranking of institutions by number of Ph.D.s conferred in science and engineering, A&M was third. A&M has 291 such Ph.D.s. Cornell, which ranked first, has with 365 and UCLA, which ranked second has 362.

Dr. William L. Perry, associate dean of the College of Science, said the College of Science places a lot of emphasis on the recruitment of Ph.D.s and graduates working toward their Ph.D.s.

"To further basic science, research has to occur," Perry said. "You have to be training new researchers for the next generation of science, and if you don't get graduate students to train them, then the next generation is going to be short of them."

Perry said the College of Science heavily recruits Ph.D.s by conducting recruiting trips and providing fellowships. He also said other universities are aware that A&M has an excellent graduate program, and that faculty across the country recommend that their graduate students and Ph.D.s attend A&M.

Bush calls for amendment to forbid flag desecration

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, declaring the American flag a "unique national symbol," Tuesday called for a constitutional amendment to set aside last week's Supreme Court decision and forbid flag desecration.

"As president, I will uphold our precious right to dissent, but burning the flag goes too far, and I want to see that matter remedied," he said at a news conference.

His announcement came as efforts already were advancing in Congress to condemn last week's decision extending First Amendment free speech rights to protesters who burn the flag.

The House was expected to act on a resolution later in the day denouncing the 5-4 ruling. The Senate has already voted "profound disappointment" with it.

Bush, who made patriotism, the flag and the pledge of allegiance a central theme in his 1988 presidential campaign, asserted, "I think respect for the flag transcends political party and I think what I've said here is American. It isn't Republican or Democrat, it isn't liberal or conservative."

He said adding an amendment to the Constitution would be the only foolproof way to set aside the Supreme Court ruling, which nullified flag-desecration laws in 48 states.

However, the process is a lengthy one — requiring two-thirds votes in both House and Senate and then ratification by no less than 38 state legislatures. In 200 years, thousands of constitutional amendments have been proposed but only 26 have been ratified.

Still, Bush said, "the importance of this issue compels me to call for a constitutional amendment."

"Support for the First Amendment need not extend to desecration of the American flag," he added. "Protection of the flag — a unique national symbol — will in no way limit the opportunity nor the breadth of protest available in the exercise of free speech rights."

Bush's comments were praised by conservatives but

denounced by civil-liberties groups.

"We think it violates the fundamental principle of this nation that every person has a right to express their views and express them in a way they choose, no matter how obnoxious the majority find those views," said Morton Halperin, Washington director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

David Cole, staff attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights, said, "The First Amendment has survived for 200 years without exceptions. It is outrageous for the president to urge that we deviate from the fundamental principles of toleration and freedom of expression."

Last week, the Senate by voice vote added language to child-care legislation that would make desecration of the flag punishable by a maximum \$1,000 fine and a year in prison.

However, this language would not be added to the Constitution and therefore could be overturned by the Supreme Court.

Senators also voted 97-3 for a resolution expressing "profound disappointment" in the court ruling and pledging to "seek ways to restore sanctions against such reprehensible conduct."

A number of proposed constitutional amendments on the subject have been introduced in both houses. No hearings have yet been scheduled.

House Republican Leader Bob Michel said he supported Bush's call even though he harbored an "instinctive conservative's dislike" of amending the Constitution.

The court decision "leaves me with no alternative," Michel said.

"Unfurl the flag, fly it, flaunt it, argue about it if you want to, but don't desecrate it — that's all we're asking," Michel said. Surely that view reflects the common sense of the American people."

Prof says spills may spur tough oil clean-up laws

By Melissa Naumann

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The recent oil spills in a Galveston Bay ship channel, the Delaware River and Rhode Island's Hull Cove could spark tougher state legislation on oil transportation and oil spill cleanups, a Texas A&M professor said.

Dr. Roy Hann, a professor in the environmental engineering program in the civil engineering department, said that although the Exxon oil spill in Valdez, Alaska, is no longer on the front pages of the newspapers, the three oil spills that occurred this past weekend will remind the public of the gravity of the problems they cause.

"This new set of spills resensitized the people to the issue," Hann said. "It is a big problem and can hit everywhere in the country. As a result, it's not just an Alaska problem or a Texas problem."

Previously, laws on oil transportation and oil spill cleanup have been "held hostage," Hann said, because petroleum companies and states have different interests.

"The states are the ones that are concerned about their own waters, more so than the federal govern-

ment," he said. "The companies want to deal only with the Coast Guard because they know that agency and they feel comfortable with that agency. They don't feel comfortable with 50 different states and their own administrations."

Consequently, petroleum companies have lobbied to block any legislation giving states more power, especially where states can tax to prepare for oil spill cleanup, Hann said. States with high environmental standards, however, such as California and Maine, are not willing to back down.

"A debate has been raging," he said. "The oil industries say they will allow better laws that call for better compensation if the states stay out of the business. Well, the states say, 'No way are you going to get us out of this business.'"

Any laws that would be created without direct state input would have a definite bias toward the oil industry, he said.

"For them to say the states should get out of the business of protecting their own coastlines is completely inappropriate," Hann said. "The battle line has been drawn and I think the continued spillages are going to help the states win their victory in getting an improved law without being pushed out of the business."



Photo by Kathy Haveman

Designing woman

Senior environmental design major Melissa Saul works on a model bridge for a design

class. The bridge, made of wood and pins, must be able to hold 31 pounds of lead.

Allison dumps heavy rains on Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — The remnants of Tropical Storm Allison moved into East Texas and western Louisiana Tuesday, continuing to dump heavy rain and triggering thunderstorms that left the Houston area inundated with more than 10 inches of rain.

Torrential downpours left homes and streets flooded, forcing at least 800 people into Red Cross shelters and prompting dozens of motorists stranded on impassable freeways to leave their cars.

At least one fatality — a traffic death in the Beaumont area — was blamed on Allison, which was downgraded to a tropical depression Tuesday morning.

Two major Houston freeways — Interstate 45 and U.S. 59 — were shut for more than 12 hours, blocked by high water, debris from bayous that swamped over freeway bridges and abandoned vehicles.

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"It's a helpless feeling," said stranded motorist Miles Nye. "There's nothing you can do. You just watch the water moving up."

At 11 a.m., the poorly defined center of the depression was near 30.8 north latitude and 94.7 west longitude, or about 30 miles south of Lufkin, moving slowly to the north-northeast.