

**WEATHER**

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:  
Partly cloudy  
HIGH: 68      LOW: 40s

## Mass media

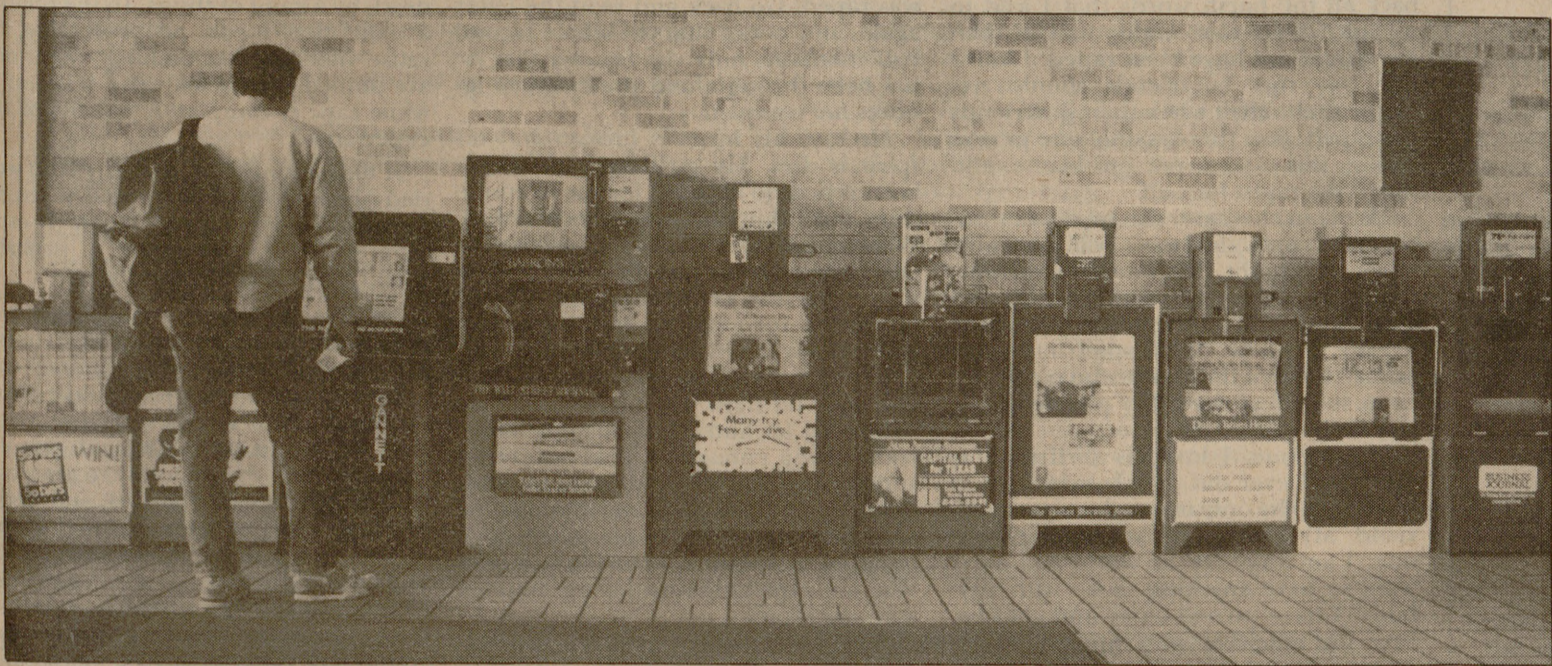


Photo by Jay Janner

Bo Bradbury, a senior marketing major from Sugarland, singles out USA Today from 10 other publications at the MSC Thursday for a quick glance. Bradbury passes time between classes by reading a copy of USA Today.

## Colombian jet crashes in NY amid fog, rain

COVE NECK, N.Y. (AP) — A Colombian Boeing 707 jetliner with more than 140 people aboard crashed in fog and rain Thursday night while on approach to Kennedy International Airport, authorities said. Numerous injuries were reported.

Avianca Flight 52 en route from Bogota crashed at about 9:45 p.m. in a sparsely populated area of northern Long Island, a Kennedy airport official said.

Numerous ambulances and helicopters were at the scene, but there was no immediate report of the number of injuries, nor of any deaths. CBS-TV reported that doctors on the scene said at least 80 survivors were being cared for there.

The jet broke into four pieces upon impact, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Jeff Crawley. There was less than half a mile of visibility and it was raining at the time of the crash, according to the National Weather Service.

The tower at Kennedy lost contact with Flight 52 at 9:34 p.m. when the Boeing 707 was about 15 miles northeast of the airport after a five-hour flight, said Port Authority Police Officer Phil Montouri.

"It was coming in from Bogota and was supposed to land at eight o'clock," Montouri said. "There was no radio communication at all to the tower. It just went down."

The airliner went down in the town of Cove Neck, located at about the same place where the tower lost contact, Officer Peter Franzone of the Nassau County police said. The plane carried 142 passengers and a crew of seven, authorities said.

Crawley said several cutters and boats were en route to the area just in case some debris or victims were in the water.

"We have reports that the crash is

on land and that it's in four major pieces," Crawley said.

Control tower officials said the plane may have lost one of its four engines.

Peter Whitelaw, who lives down a hill from the crash site, said he could see a small portion of the downed plane through the trees. He said there were few homes in the area.

"I heard a rumbling, a very loud rumbling," Whitelaw said. "It sounded as if your car was gearing back and you were stripping the gears, and the typical rumble you get from a jet plane going over."

"Normally in bad weather they circle out here but this was louder than normal," he said. "Then we heard the crash."

He said the road leading to the crash site was clogged with emergency vehicles.

According to Radio Colombiana, Flight 52 left Bogota with a stopover in Medellin, the city known for its notorious cocaine cartel, en route to New York.

"I happened to see a plane going very low," said another witness, David Johnson. "At the altitude it was at, I really could not hear any engines. So I am assuming the engines had conked out but there really was no fire or anything."

The area of the crash is near Oyster Bay Harbor on the north shore of Long Island, just south of the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, home of President Theodore Roosevelt. It is a isolated, wooded area of expensive homes.

The New York City Emergency Medical Service, asked for help by Nassau County police, sent five ambulances and a Mobile Emergency Room Vehicle to the crash scene, an EMS spokesman said.

## Board tentatively approves merger

By JULIE MYERS  
Of The Battalion Staff

The West Texas State University union with the Texas A&M University System was tentatively approved Thursday by the Higher Education Coordinating Board in Austin following three hours of debate.

The 10-7 committee decision will be considered today by the full Coordinating Board.

Proponents of the merger cited the increased educational opportunities, stimulation of West Texas economic development and a reduction in WTSU administrative costs as reasons for adopting the measure.

Rep. John Smith, who sponsored the bill to merge the two systems, also pointed out the geographic benefits of having a TAMUS-affiliated university in West Texas. There is no such affiliation in the Texas Panhandle or within 200 miles of the Panhandle.

The TAMUS Board of Regents Chairman

William A. McKenzie said the merger is a further extension of the mandate issued by the creators of the land grant system of higher education.

Last year, the merger was unanimously approved by the Texas Senate and approved with only one dissenting vote by the House. Following studies by both administrations, the merger also was approved by the WTSU Board of Regents and the TAMUS Board of Regents. Governor Bill Clements then approved the merger, subject to HECB approval.

Those opposed to the merger said they felt politically compelled to rule favorably.

Referring to a letter from Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby urging support of the merger, HECB board member Jack Trotter of Houston asked how far the conspiracy to pass the measure went.

Furthermore, he said the political jockeying gave him the impression that, "if we don't vote right we won't get confirmed."

Several new board members still face Senate confirmation hearings.

"This has been a stormy period," Board Vice Chairman Cipriano Guerra said. "This board was created to take politics out of the education system."

TAMUS Chancellor Perry Adkisson said the A&M System was only responding to a legislatively initiated proposal.

Last week, a HECB staff memorandum recommended the merger be disapproved saying that it was the board's responsibility to weigh considerations other than those of a purely regional interest.

In addition, the board's report said it would make more geographic sense to consider merging WTSU and Texas Tech.

But, Texas Tech President Robert Lawless said Texas Tech does not have the financial resources to support another campus.

In addition, he asked the board for more money to make future mergers possible for Texas Tech.

## Senate upholds Bush veto of Chinese students' stay

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Thursday narrowly upheld President Bush's veto of a bill protecting Chinese students from deportation, leaving his China policy intact and giving him a victory in the year's first test of strength with the Democratic-controlled Congress.

Senators voted 62 to 37 to override Bush's veto, four short of the two-thirds necessary.

The action came a day after the House had voted overwhelmingly to reject Bush's veto, and followed an intense White House lobbying blitz that included telephone calls from Bush and former President Richard Nixon.

Before the Senate roll call, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said that while Bush has voiced support for democratic reform in Eastern Europe, "this veto sends a contrary message to the millions of students and workers in China who are struggling for democracy in their country."

But Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., the Minority Leader, said the congressional showdown was the equivalent of "throwing out the first ball" of the 1990 election season and was being used by Democrats to force GOP senators to cast "a tough political vote" to support the president.

"It's not China policy, it's American politics," Dole said.

Just before the vote, Bush had publicly renewed his promise that the 40,000 Chinese students in the United States would be fully protected even without the legislation. "No student, as long as I'm president, will be sent back," he said.

And in a televised appearance just after the vote, Bush added, "We will continue to urge China to respect the human rights of its citizens." He hailed the vote as "reaffirming our commitment to Chinese students in this country as well

as the goal of improving relations with China."

The 390-25 House vote on Wednesday prompted immediate criticism from the Chinese foreign ministry in Beijing. A spokesman there said the House was "fully revealing its anti-China position" and was risking damage to relations between the two countries.

But Sen. William Armstrong of Colorado, a Republican who opposed Bush, said, "The House put itself squarely on record in support of human freedom... and made it clear it is not willing to be accomplices" to repression of dissent, Armstrong said.

## Looking for a few good men

Sperm donor bank opens in Bryan

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
Of The Battalion Staff

The phones practically ring non-stop and appointment books are filled daily at one of Bryan's newest businesses.

But this isn't a travel agency or dentist's office. It's a sperm bank.

The Fairfax Cryobank, a sperm preservation laboratory in Bryan, has received dozens of inquiries — mostly from Texas A&M students — since it opened during Christmas break.

"The need right now is far greater than what we can provide," Guy Stone, the sperm bank's laboratory supervisor, said.

The Fairfax Cryobank, a division of a medical company in Fairfax, Va., opened the Bryan office to take advantage of the large male population in Bryan-College Station.

"College-aged men are usually the most interested in this kind of program," Dr. Edward Fugger, Class of '65 who works in Fairfax, said. "Men out of college really don't have the time, so our com

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## AIDS committee suggests condom machines on campus

By TODD L. CONNELLEY  
Of The Battalion Staff

Condom machines will be installed in buildings on the Texas A&M campus if the recommendations in A&M's Committee on AIDS Report are approved by President William H. Mobley.

The committee submitted to Mobley in December its report that contains policies and procedures for coping with the complexities of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome at A&M.

If the recommendations in the report are approved, condom machines would be placed in buildings throughout campus that have high student and employee traffic.

In residence halls, condom machines would be placed in one men's and one women's restroom.

The report stated that since AIDS cannot be transmitted by casual contact, A&M will not discriminate against students or faculty who have or may have been exposed to the disease.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, associate provost for academic affairs, said non-discrimination was the underlying philosophy of the report.

"It would appear that if a student has AIDS there would be controversy and concern, but their legal rights will be protected," Gaston said.

Gaston said members of the committee studied AIDS policies from universities around the country.

"Texas A&M's report on AIDS compares exactly with the schools'

(reports) we looked at," he said.

Accordingly, some changes had to be made in the University's Rules and Regulations under the section dealing with discrimination.

Now the passage warns against discrimination based on sexual orientation in addition to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin and educationally unrelated handicaps.

The report also outlines a broad proposal for an AIDS Education Program.

The main goal of the education program is a more realistic goal of promoting "safer sex", rather than promoting abstinence from sexual activity.

Under the proposed program, pamphlets containing information regarding AIDS and the legal rights of persons infected with the fatal disease would be distributed to students in high-traffic areas. Presentations and workshops, featuring major University speakers, would be provided for students and employees.

Finally, the Committee asked the Health and Physical Education Department to develop a new one-hour course on social diseases. The department created HLTH 489, Special Topics in Social Diseases of the 20th century.

The course is an introduction to the psychological and ethical aspects of sexually transmitted diseases that have proliferated in the latter half of the 20th century.

If approved, the course will have no prerequisites and be open to students in the Fall.

## Texas A&M formally dedicates Cray Y-MP2/116 Supercomputer

By TODD L. CONNELLEY  
Of The Battalion Staff

There's only four in the world, and we've got one.

Texas A&M formally dedicated its new Cray Y-MP2/116 Supercomputer Thursday in the Zachry Engineering Center.

"This is a major step forward in technology and availability for the 40,000 plus students of Texas A&M," President William H. Mobley said in a short speech dedicating the supercomputer.

A&M acquired the one-and-a-half ton supercomputer last July. It has been fully operational since Sept. 1.

"The supercomputer doesn't really do a whole lot more than a normal computer does in terms of the types of operations," Bahram Nassersharif, director of the supercomputer program, said. "The biggest advantage is speed."

"For example, say you are trying to design a new wing for an airplane, and you're using a personal computer. In order to get the right parameters you may spend ten years working out the calculations. On the Cray, those very same calculations may take on the order of one week."

William H. McKenzie, chairman of the Board of Regents, expressed his enthusiasm over the five-and-a-half million dollar machine.

"It's a marvelous addition to teaching and research programs," McKenzie said.

"I was in Washington, D.C.,



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Senior Bud Farnham and graduate student Mohindu Bajwa test a program that was linked up to TAMU's new CRAY Supercomputer during the ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday.

last week and had the honor to visit with President Bush," he said. "I told him how we (The Regents) had gotten the Cray Supercomputer for Texas A&M. He was amazed and truly impressed."

Bob Ewald, executive vice president of the software division of Cray Research Inc., said that the new supercomputer would push A&M to the cutting edge of research and development.

"It can be whatever you want it to be," Ewald said. "It can be a tornado, hurricane, the ocean, a space shuttle or even two cars

crashing. The possibilities are limitless."

Congressman Joe Barton, who arrived a little late due to airline delays, thanked the regents for the hard work it took to capture the much-desired research tool.

"The funding for this machine came entirely from the Board of Regents," Barton said. "There was no federal funding involved."

"This machine is capable of 333 million calculations per second," he said. "They've finally found something that moves faster than the federal government can spend money."