

NATO opens doors



Leaders accept President Bush's proposal to invite Warsaw Pact members to visit a meeting of the military alliance.

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A&M officials agree, finalize plans to use Points Plus cards on campus

By KATHY COX
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M finalized plans Thursday to accept Points Plus cards on campus.

Robert Smith, vice president of finance and administration, made a verbal agreement with Points Plus President Jody Read to enact the debit card system on campus later this month.

Points Plus cardholders use their card, instead of cash, to make purchases. Cardholders start an account by buying "points." Points are then deducted from cardholders' accounts for each purchase.

Points Plus operates like the University's Aggie Bucks program, but Read said his company will install its own equipment, keeping it separate from A&M's food services program.

Read said cardholders first will be able to use their Points Plus cards at Pie Are Square, the Ag Cafe, the MSC, the Copy Center, the Underground Market and the golf course and golf course snack shop.

Read expects to have the system in operation sometime after July 16.

After the system is "up and running" in these places, Read said the agreement will allow them to expand across campus.

"It's our anticipation to have virtually all the places on campus (on the system) going into the spring semester," he said. "Any place a student can spend money, I'd like to have it so they can use their Points Plus card."

Read said he does not believe Points Plus is in direct competition with Aggie Bucks.

"If a student is going to live on

campus and eat almost all their meals on campus, then getting a meal plan or getting Aggie Bucks is a good deal," he said.

But he said Points Plus offers more flexibility and value for off-campus students because they can use it both on and off campus. Also, students can use the card to pay bills and get cash.

Read said that from a business standpoint the Points Plus system will benefit the University as well as the students.

"Tests show that you'll have between 40 and 70 percent more transaction dollars spent through a plastic card than you will through cash or check," he said. "So the vendors should see an increase in business."

The University can increase sales while providing a service for students, Read said.

"One of the largest obstacles (students) have to their education here is financial management," he said.

Read said although Points Plus caters to students, anyone can get a card. He said 5 to 6 percent of the company's cardholders are not students.

Points Plus service is free to cardholders. The company, which took its first cardholders July 2, 1989, earns money by charging vendors a 3 percent transaction fee and collecting interest earned by cardholders' money.

"We've got an integrated system that is certainly ahead of its time," Read said. "It's an arrangement where everybody wins."

Robert Smith did not return phone calls to The Battalion Thursday regarding the matter.

Barton supports amendment for partial funding of bomber

Congressman makes speech in local church



Photo by Eric Roalson

Congressman Joe Barton

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

A local advisory committee to Congressman Joe Barton strongly recommended only partial funding of the B-2 Stealth bomber Thursday

in a meeting at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Bryan.

The meeting is probably the last one before Barton, R-Ennis, casts his vote in August.

If he were to base his vote only on the committee's opinion, Barton said he would have to support an alternative amendment to full funding. The bill would terminate production of new B-2's but permit completion of the 15 aircraft already authorized.

The bill would allow for completion of the B-2 test program including flight testing and B-2 technology maintenance in case the future national security situation warranted a reversal.

The alternative proposal announced by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney in April proposes 75 B-2's at an estimated cost of \$61.1 billion. The alternative amendment would be \$31 billion cheaper than the Cheney proposal.

The Stealth bomber is capable of penetrating enemy territory undetected and attacking targets at close range during a nuclear war.

Because of its design and the materials used to build the bombers, B-2's are very difficult for Soviet air defenses to detect. They absorb most of the radar frequencies used by Soviet radar stations.

Barton estimated the Soviets

would have to spend \$300-400 million to readjust existing radar frequencies to detect the B-2.

One bomber carries 100 times the destructive capacity of the bomb which leveled Hiroshima.

Barton said he voted against B-2 funding last year because he couldn't justify spending so much money for one weapons system.

This year, however, Barton said it is a different story and economics are playing a larger role in his decision.

The jobs of 1100 workers in an LTV Aerospace and Defense plant in Dallas (also in Barton's district) and the resulting economic impact to the area are at stake.

Committee members expressed concerns over the bomber's cost and necessity in light of a \$3 trillion national debt and highly advanced missile systems which, Barton said, could target and destroy the church in which they were meeting.

Barton said the B-2 could actually save money since the long range of the B-2 could make overseas bases obsolete at a time when some countries are no longer friendly to the idea of U.S. installations on their soil.

Barton said committee members are chosen based on their positions in the community.

Cause of crash at Easterwood still unknown

Plane engine fails

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

No cause has been determined yet in the crash of a twin-engine Cessna plane at Easterwood Airport Tuesday night.

Federal Aviation Administration officials visited the site of the plane crash Wednesday to investigate why the right engine on the 1970 Cessna 310 apparently failed as the pilot approached Runway 16 at Easterwood at approximately 9 p.m. Tuesday.

The pilot, Ronnie Lynn Huddleston, 40, from The Woodlands, and Susan Kern Crouch, 36, from Conroe, suffered minor injuries in the crash.

Huddleston and Crouch were treated and released Tuesday from Humana Hospital.

Harry Raiser, director of aviation at Texas A&M, said it could be a week to a month before the FAA or the National Safety Transportation Board releases an official cause of the accident.

Huddleston attempted to land the plane with just the left engine, but crashed almost 1,200 feet north of the runway, the Department of Public Safety reported.

The nose landing gear broke off during the crash, and the plane came to rest on its nose.

Huddleston and Crouch lease space at Easterwood and also operate the Aviation Flight Center, a flight training school.

Raiser said Huddleston's experience probably saved them from serious injuries and kept the plane from being totaled.

"He did a good job as far as I'm concerned, not knowing the cause of the accident," Raiser said. "He cleared all the obstacles, probably at a great risk to themselves."

It was the first major accident at Easterwood since a GTE Lear jet crashed in December 1986, killing two people.

Organizations schedule rallies, demonstrations for Economic Summit

HOUSTON (AP) — The International Economic Summit is attracting more than delegations from the world's seven most industrialized countries and thousands of journalists.

Organizations ranging from the AIDS advocacy group ACT UP to the Ku Klux Klan have scheduled rallies, parades and demonstrations in the Bayou City preceding and throughout the three-day summit that starts Monday.

At least five organizations have obtained parade permits — only one is allowed per day, according to city ordinance — while at least 17 groups have registered to have rallies in Houston parks.

"We know there'll be others that refuse to get permits, like the anti-abortion people who intend to get arrested," said Lou Garza, special events coordinator for the city parks and recreation department.

"We deal with it quite often, with every group imaginable — political, religious, social — and they want to use the parks for a public forum," Garza said. "I think of the parks as a place for the public to seek the quiet and have a chance to relax and not have someone shove a Hare Krishna pamphlet at you or hear the booming voice from a loudspeaker that if you don't repent, you'll go to hell."

Houston police have enlisted the help of the Harris County Sheriff's office and the Department of Public Safety to handle the crowds at the events and demonstrations, police spokesman Dan Turner said.

"This will be one of the largest events we've ever had to handle in Houston," he said. Officers will be working 12-hour shifts.

Several organizations have set up their own version of the summit to coincide with the event at Rice University.

The Other Economic Summit, or TOES, set up a similar three-day event preceding the official summit that features leaders representing "the seven poorest peoples" in the world and the "populist leaders summit" for the seventh year.

Former Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson will join other unsuccessful presidential candidates and "populist leaders" from Brazil, Mexico and Columbia in activities scheduled for Friday through Sunday.

Representatives from Bangladesh, Columbia, Guatemala, Haiti, Nigeria, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Native Americans from the United States also will attend TOES, which includes discussions of environmental concerns and workshops on economic self-reliance.

Environmental groups plan the Envirosummit starting Saturday with guided tours of Houston's environmental sites. Clean Water Action, one of the groups, plans a "Bush's Boston Harbor" tour of the Houston Ship Channel on Sunday, featuring the environmental hazards posed by refineries and other industrialists fronting the channel.

The Human RACE — Racial Acceptance Class Equality — planned its first annual "Human Summit" Saturday on the steps of the City Hall as a counter-demonstration to the KKK rally and parade.

The KKK plans to organize between 200 and 300 members, the skinheads and Carry A. Nation. The group will be bused Saturday from the suburb of Humble by the city of Houston for security reasons for the march and rally that culminates at a statue of Sam Houston in Hermann Park.

Exam schedule

The following is the final examination schedule for Summer I five-week classes.

Friday:
● 6 to 8 p.m. — Classes meeting 8 to 9:35 a.m.

Saturday:
● 8 to 10 a.m. — Classes meeting 10 to 11:35 a.m.

● 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Classes meeting noon to 1:35 p.m.

● 2 to 4 p.m. — Classes meeting 2 to 3:35 p.m.

Finals for classes meeting after these times are up to the instructor's discretion.

Experiment tests turtle theory

Species may depend on sense of smell



Photo by Eric H. Roalson

A Kemp's Ridley turtle swims in its home in the Biological Sciences Building. Researchers study its nesting habits.

Rolling along



Photo by Sondra N. Robbins

James Saxon, a graduate student in computer science from Van Nuys, CA., skates down Bizzell Street early Monday afternoon.

NABJ at A&M publishes Unity to recognize blacks

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

Citing the need for a newspaper in touch with the local African-American community, the National Association of Black Journalists at Texas A&M is publishing Unity.

The newspaper is scheduled for its first publication today.

Tante Bluiett, A&M senior and organizer of the newspaper, said Unity was designed to bring the African-American community in touch with itself through positive media recognition.

"I think the local media does not cover the black community adequately — period," Bluiett said.

She said the media frequently covers the African-American community only when someone has committed a crime.

"It is rare when you see a black person in the newspapers who has done something good," Bluiett said. "I want to show the black community as well as the white community that black people are good," she said. "All of us are not stereotypically thieves or dope dealers."

The students of NABJ are not trying to segregate themselves from

other races, she said. The association wants to recognize blacks who have made great accomplishments not covered in the local media.

NABJ also wants to entice the black community to read.

"If blacks start reading more about themselves, they're going to get interested in reading about other people too," she said.

Bluiett also said if readers see other black people making a positive difference, they might be motivated to do the same.

The weekly Bryan Press is allowing the all-student association to use its facilities and distribution services for the first issue of Unity. In the future, the newspaper will be published once a semester.

The students are responsible for the complete production of the non-profit paper. The six-member organization writes, edits and publishes Unity on their own, Bluiett said.

The first issue will feature a report on the local volunteer Adult Literacy Program and a "drug page" which recognizes African-American individuals' efforts in the fight against the local drug problem.

Those who are interested in NABJ and/or Unity can call 823-2088.

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