

State & Local

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The Battalion

Departments receive funds for special research projects

By Mack Harrison
The Battalion

Two Texas A&M departments have received federal grants for programs in alternative vehicles and special education.

A&M's Department of Educational Psychology in the College of Education received \$86,503 from the U.S. Department of Education for its Extended Generic Special Education Training Program, an experimental curriculum that instructs graduate students in special education.

Dr. Michael Ash, head of the educational psychology depart-

ment, said 90 percent of the funds will be used to pay students for their work in the program. Students will receive money for working with handicapped students as part of their education.

"Almost all the money is for stipends for students completing the graduate phase of the program," Ash said. "That's a good amount of money to get students to come here and study."

The program will run for six years. Ash said the grant is renewable, which means the department can reapply for the money each year.

"We don't have a guarantee, but there's a good chance (the

grant will be renewed)," he said.

The federal government is looking into research as well as education. The U.S. Department of Energy awarded A&M's Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) \$102,250 for its work on electric and hybrid vehicles.

The Center for Electrochemical Systems and Hydrogen research has two electric-powered vehicles already, said Dr. Lee Peddicord, an assistant director with TEES. In addition, engineers at the center are working on vehicles powered by hydrogen and natural gas.

"(The researchers) are looking at other things to power vehicles besides gasoline," Peddicord said.

KAMU to expand broadcast area

by Greg Mt.Joy
The Battalion

Texas A&M's radio station, KAMU-FM, will double its audience it can reach with a \$68,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, a KAMU official said.

KAMU manager Larry Jackson said the grant, which includes money for a new antenna and transmitter, was desperately needed.

"We're using 20 year old technology, and equipment so old we can't buy parts for it," Jackson said. "To reach the area the government wants us to, we have to have the new equipment."

Jackson said the grant was given to KAMU by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration within the Department of Commerce for the sole purpose of expanding its broadcast area to include areas that do not receive public radio.

"The new antenna will give us a power upgrade that will allow us to reach unserved areas to the north and east, including Huntsville," he said. "Our signal will be increased all the way around, though. It doesn't take much driving around, especially in

College Station, to find weak spots in our signal."

Jackson said the grant will also be used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment including compact disc players and Digital Audio Tape (DAT) recorders.

"This equipment will make KAMU a station without peer outside major metropolitan areas like Austin and Houston," Jackson said. "This will put KAMU into the 90's, and take us out of the 70's, where our equipment is now."

Public radio usually leads the way in new audio technology, where top-quality equipment is conducive to the types of programming it offers, Jackson said.

"We were using CD players years ago, when other stations were still playing cartridges and LP's," he said. "The new DAT players and equipment will enable us to do the things public radio does best — things like news and classical and jazz music. Public radio involves more production than other stations; we don't just play the same records over and over."

The grant will enable station officials to concentrate on smaller problems, Jackson said.

"When we want to go on the air, we'll know we can go on the air," Jackson said.



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Lofty aspirations

Greg Lovelace holds a board while Kevin Mayo drills holes outside Law Hall Tuesday afternoon. The two were building a loft for their dorm.

Teenage girl receives eight-year prison sentence for 1989 slaying of man

HONDO (AP) — A 17-year-old described as a pompon girl with "ice water in her veins" was sentenced to eight years in prison for her part in a 1989 slaying, officials said.

Angelique "Angel" Spurlin of San Antonio will be transferred

from a Brownwood juvenile detention facility to a women's prison in Gatesville when she turns 18 on Sept. 26, Medina County Attorney Maida Modgling said.

Spurlin is believed to be the first juvenile sent to prison under

the state's determinant sentencing law for juveniles, Modgling told the San Antonio Express-News on Tuesday. The law allows juveniles to receive prison terms of up to 30 years.

Spurlin was sentenced last year to nine years, 11 months and

three weeks of confinement after pleading guilty. The juvenile hearing to determine whether she would go to prison was Friday.

Spurlin was accused of taking part in the slaying of Steven Holst, 19, of Castle Hills. He was shot four times in the chest in De-

ember 1989 after being abducted, beaten and forced to withdraw several hundred dollars from his bank account through an automatic teller machine.

His body was discovered in a brushy area near Medina Lake Dam.

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