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Bryan substance abuse clinic will aid research, official says

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

Texas A&M faculty and students will have a multitude of research opportunities in studying drug and alcohol abuse at a substance abuse treatment center for prisoners to be built in Bryan.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice announced last Friday that it will construct the 1,000-bed drug and alcohol abuse treatment facility in Bryan.

The center will not only provide jobs for the community, it will also provide opportunities for research and internships

within the College of Medicine and the University's Center for Drug Prevention and Education.

Dr. Dennis Reardon, director of the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at A&M, said the proposed treatment center's first and foremost function will be to benefit society.

"Eighty percent of the violators who are sent to prison have a drug problem," Reardon said. "If they are unable to get help, they may commit the crime again."

Reardon said if society could interrupt the cycle, then recidivism could be reduced. Recidivism occurs when someone is convicted of a crime, sent to prison, re-

leased and then commits another crime.

"I believe that throughout the state, these new facilities will go a long way," he said.

Alcohol and drug abuse is a disease of the body, mind and spirit, Reardon said. By eliminating the disease, prisoners can re-enter society, he said.

Reardon said Bryan was probably selected as the facility's site because of Texas A&M. He said the state facility will give the University's Center for Drug Prevention and Education a number of academic and research opportunities.

"We're already involved with many things in the community," he said. "This

will give us a wonderful opportunity to see close-up how a program of this kind functions."

Graduate students in various departments may receive internships at the facility.

The treatment center will also provide the basic curriculum for A&M students to become licensed chemical dependency counselors.

Dr. Richard DeVaul, dean of the College of Medicine and executive director of the Texas A&M Health Science Center, said the facility will be a tremendous resource to the University.

"We have an interest in this area from

a teaching and research standpoint," DeVaul said. "This is an area with broad research and we hope to do many studies there."

DeVaul said he will soon be working with other A&M administrators to plan research and educational programs at the facility.

Services to be offered at the drug and alcohol abuse facility will include assessment of suicidal and psychotic tendencies, crisis intervention and hospitalization screening. Stress management programs, instruction in parenting and group therapy will be provided to the inmates as well.

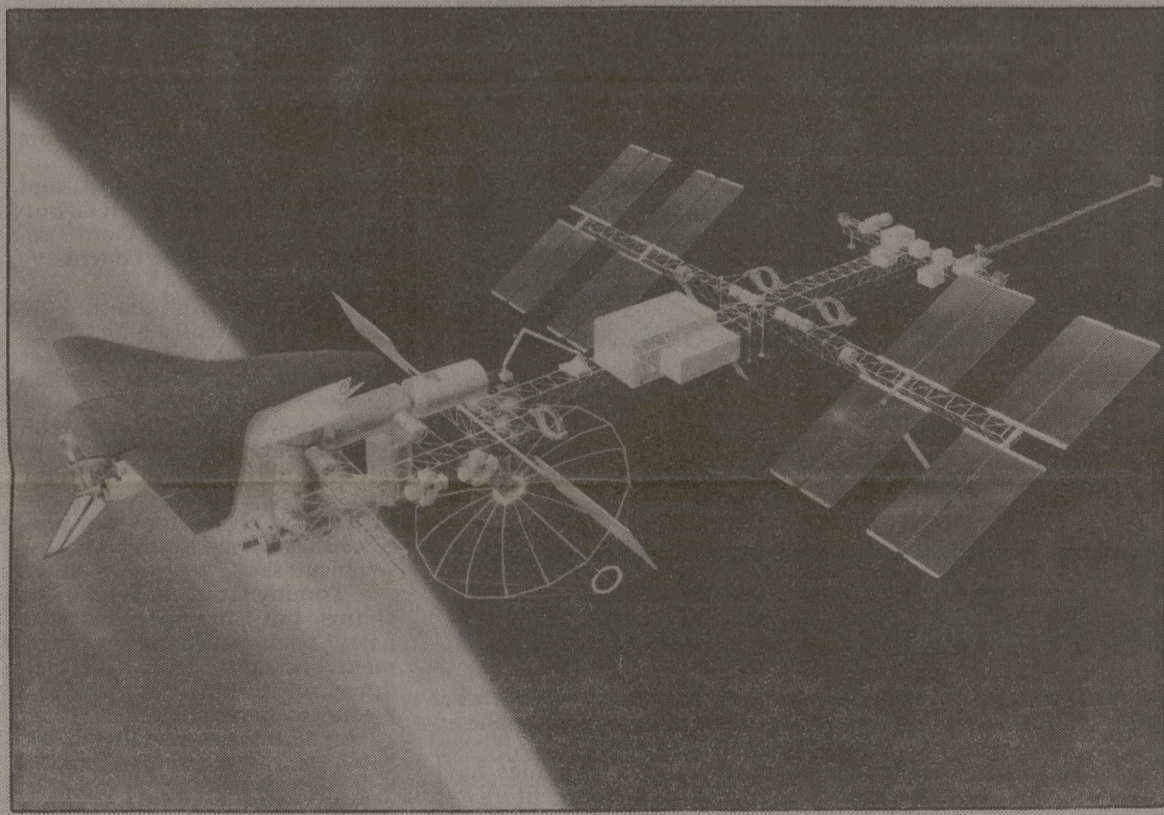
BUILDING A FUTURE — IN SPACE

A&M tests Freedom's escape pod for NASA

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

R2-D2 and C-3PO used one to escape from Darth Vader at the beginning of Star Wars, and now researchers at Texas A&M University are busy testing one for NASA.

At the Offshore Technology Research Center at Texas A&M, NASA is in the final stages of preparation for the testing of the Assured Crew Recovery Vehicle, a type of escape pod for the proposed Freedom space station.



A&M researchers are designing an escape system for the proposed space station Freedom.

When the Freedom space station is completed by NASA in the late 1990s, it will be the United States' first permanently-manned space station.

Since a space shuttle will not be able to stay with the station at all times, it is essential a system for the safe return of astronauts to Earth be included in case of emergencies, said Jim Cioni, assistant director for the escape pod project.

The recent stranding of a cosmonaut in orbit aboard the space station Mir for six months because of turmoil in the former Soviet Union further underscores that point.

"In the old days, American spacecraft always landed in the water," Cioni said. "When NASA began the shuttle, we got away from that, because the shuttle lands like a plane on a runway. Now, with the ACRV, we're going back, and relearning what it's like to land in water."

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Program upholds grant criteria, official says

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

For the more than two years Texas A&M has been a space grant university, it has worked to increase its leadership in space-oriented science.

Even though there is a space grant university in nearly every state, strict qualifications ensure the designation's prestige, said Sallie Sheppard, director of the space grant program at Texas A&M University.

A school, to qualify as a space grant university, must have spent a minimum of \$2 million a year for the past three years on space-oriented research, and

continue at that level to maintain space grant status.

"Space grant is oriented to educational programs," Sheppard said. "There is a strong outreach

"Space grant is intended to enhance education with space applications, with education as the focus," — Oran Nicks, head of the Space Research Center at A&M.

component which works with public schools, encouraging students to stay interested in math and science, which is essential

for the broad definition aerospace career.

"The funding for space grant comes from NASA, and is a federal grant," she said. "Since it's federal, we're required to put up matching funds, but NASA is essentially funding the operation."

The real impact of the space grant designation is yet to be seen, said Oran Nicks, head of the Space Research Center at A&M.

Since the program has only been established for several years, it is too early for any long term effects to manifest themselves, Nicks said.

"Space grant is intended to

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Afghan rebels seize power

Communist regime crumbles

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — President Najibullah tried to flee the country early Thursday as rebels advanced toward the capital, but he was stopped and then stripped of power, a senior government official said.

There were unconfirmed reports that he had been arrested and another that he had escaped the country. It was not immediately clear who was running the government. It appeared some generals and at least one rebel leader might be in charge, but officials provided conflicting details on the size and composition of the leadership coalition.

The toppling of the Soviet-installed dictator had appeared increasingly likely in recent days. It also raised fears that Afghanistan could collapse in chaos and a bloodbath unprecedented in the 13-year-old civil war. Pakistan called for an immediate cease-fire by the numerous and often antagonistic Muslim guerrilla groups. The United States and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali also urged restraint, and

said the rebels should work to implement a U.N. peace plan.

"Fighting is violence, fighting is death," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler.

Some rebel groups declared the U.N. plan dead, and one radical organization vowed to continue fighting the government and rivals unless a strict Islamic fundamentalist government was installed.

If Najibullah's fall provokes fighting among the guerrilla factions, Iran could find an opening to try to spread its brand of fundamentalism in Afghanistan. A few of the smaller guerrilla groups have ties to Iran, but the largest factions do not. Kabul was calm despite several days of rumors that Najibullah had fled or tried to flee. State-run Kabul Radio did not report the change in power until Thursday night.

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said Najibullah tried to escape with a brother and a close aide but

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CS utility workers hit, break natural gas line

Workers digging a hole for a telephone and power pole accidentally hit a natural gas line Thursday afternoon, forcing authorities to close streets and evacuate residents.

Crews from College Station Utilities and GTE were digging a hole for a utility pole in the parking lot of a grocery store in the 800 block of Wellborn Road.

At 2:46 p.m. they struck a four-inch natural gas line owned by Lone Star Gas Co.

The College Station Fire Department responded, sending four vehicles to the scene. Firefighters evacuated people from the store and two nearby homes, then supervised as workers shut off power at a nearby apartment complex.

Police diverted traffic from the area for an hour and a half, until a repair crew arrived to fix the leak.

Although some nearby residents suffered ill effects from the gas, a fire department official said no one was hospitalized.

Ethics committee lists 303 bad-check writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House ethics committee on Thursday listed 303 current and former lawmakers who wrote bad checks at their members' bank, capping a politically explosive probe likely to produce fallout at the ballot box in November.

Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, D-Calif., topped the list with 851 overdrafts on his account. Rep. Gerry Sikorski, D-Minn., was second with 697. Third was Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, with 551.

Stokes is chairman of the ethics committee but removed himself from the panel's bank investigation because of his bad checks.

The list cut across party lines, and included veteran lawmakers and relative newcomers from every region of the country.

It included five senators and

four members of President Bush's Cabinet.

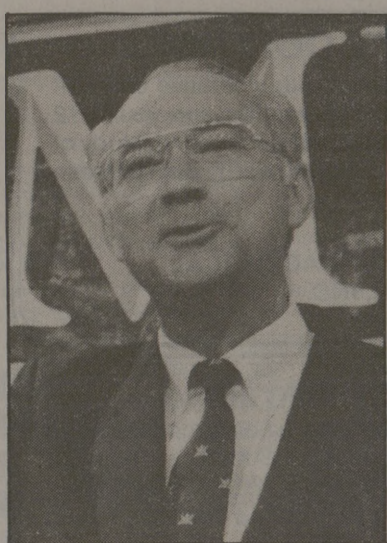
Of the 303, 33 had only one overdraft at the now-closed bank that has become a symbol for the perks that members of Congress bestowed on themselves. Dozens more had none and thus were not on the list.

It was the second list released by the committee in less than a month in the scandal that has virtually consumed Congress.

The earlier one, naming 22 "abusers" of the now closed bank, sent individual House members scrambling in efforts to minimize damage to themselves and the political parties looking for advantage in the fall elections.

Scrambling continued among

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Sen. Phil Gramm announced Thursday the appointment of Don Bowman to a post in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sen. Gramm presents Bryan man with appointment to state office

By K. Lee Davis
The Battalion

Republican Sen. Phil Gramm "came home" Thursday to address workers at the offices of the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in College Station.

Gramm was in town to announce the appointment of Donnie Bowman to the post of State Executive Director for the ASCS, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bowman, a 26-year Bryan resident, is the current assistant executive director for the ASCS.

Gramm said within the terms

of the federal government, the ASCS post was a political appointment. But he stressed that Bowman was imminently qualified for the position.

"This post has normally gone to someone as a political appointment, but in this case we have a career employee who wants to be executive director," Gramm said.

"We have an employee who has worked with ASCS for 40 years, and I figure after 40 years he has about gotten it right, and has earned the right to have the top spot."

One of Bowman's first acts to be taken as director is the disbursement of \$144 million in disaster relief aid to Texas farmers

who have lost money and crops to heavy floods that have hit Texas in the last twelve months.

The ASCS employs over 1,500 people in 230 offices across the state to aid farmers involved in ASCS programs with an annual administrative budget of \$44 million.

"I travel to a lot of places around our country and sometimes around the world," Gramm said.

"There is only one place that when I go there, people say, 'Welcome home,' and that is Bryan-College Station. I never forget that I am a farm-state senator."