

Local

Texas A&M has ceased construction of Phase II of the Cogeneration plant. Page 2



Sports

Bucky Richardson trains to prepare for the upcoming season at the Oilers two-week training camp at Trinity University at San Antonio. Page 3

Not getting through

Rwandan refugees are still suffering due to shortage of people able to unload relief supplies. Page 6

THE BATTALION

TUESDAY

July 26, 1994 Vol. 93, No. 179 (6 pages) "Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

NEWS BRIEFS

Statistics reveal Houston safer city

HOUSTON (AP) — Statistics show Houston is a safer place to live than it was three years ago, but opinions differ about what has caused the drop in crime. Mayor Bob Lanier and Houston Police Chief Sam Nuchia said at least half the decline is because of the addition of more than 650 officers to the department. Lanier wants a tax increase to hire 550 more officers. Since early 1991, when Lanier took office and shifted resources to the city's police department, a person's chances of becoming a crime victim in Houston have dropped more than 24 percent.

'Lion King' believed to be sexist, racist

Sexist. Racist. Homophobic. Violent. A Snoop Doggy Dog video? An Andrew Dice Clay concert? Would you believe "The Lion King," Disney's G-rated, coming-of-age saga that's well on its way toward becoming the highest-grossing animated film in history? Believe it. Some parents, psychologists and pundits read between the lions and see not family fun but shocking violence and offensive stereotypes: subservient lionesses, a jive-talking hyena, a swishy Uncle Scar, a hyena's murder. "The movie is full of stereotypes," Harvard psychologist Carolyn Newberger complained in an op-ed piece for The Boston Globe. "The good-for-nothing hyena are urban blacks; the arch-villain's postures are effeminate, and he speaks in supposed gay clichés."

Exxon agrees to pay \$20 million lawsuit

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Exxon agreed Monday to pay \$20 million to settle a federal lawsuit by 500 Alaska Natives who claimed losses from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. The agreement was announced as an Anchorage jury entered its third week of deliberations over a separate \$100 million claim by Alaska commercial fishermen over lost harvest and depressed fish prices. Claims by the Alaska Natives that the spill destroyed such traditional food sources as seals, kelp and fish had been scheduled to be heard by the same jury after deliberations over the fishermen's claims were complete.

House to examine CIA hiring practices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Intelligence Committee will hold hearings in September to examine the track records of the CIA and other intelligence agencies in hiring and promoting women, Hispanics and other minorities. The hearings come at the suggestion of Rep. Ron Coleman, D-Paso, who chairs the Intelligence Committee's legislative subcommittee. The Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency "have done a very good job in terms of recruitment and promotion practices, but we need to find out why that is and what we can do to correct that," Coleman said. Coleman said more than 100 CIA women employees are considering filing a class-action lawsuit against the agency, charging discrimination in promotions and assignments.

Simpson Update

LOS ANGELES — In a ruling about-face, a judge said today that O.J. Simpson's defense team could perform its own DNA tests. Simpson changed his mind when the prosecutor warned: "You are taking evidence out of our hands forever." Superior Court Judge Lance Ito gave the prosecution permission to do the DNA testing of blood samples Thursday. Ito said a defense expert could set aside 10 percent of the blood samples for possible independent testing later. DNA analysis of blood may be the most important evidence in the case. Prosecutors hope the tests will link the 47-year-old Simpson to the June slayings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. If convicted, Simpson could face the death penalty. During the hearing, Simpson wrote on a yellow pad and often conferred with attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr., the first black lawyer to the high-powered defense team.

Israel, Jordan find peace after 46 years

A&M political science professor believes treaty benefits both countries and U.S.

By Amanda Fowle THE BATTALION

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a peace declaration Monday, ending 46 years of hostility in the Middle East.

"Millions of eyes all over the world are watching us with great relief and great joy," Rabin said. "Another nightmare of war may be over."

Hussein promised to work to ensure that the peace will continue.

"We will meet as often as we are able and as required to shepherd this process," he said.

The declaration allows for border crossings between the two countries at Aqaba in Jordan and Eilat in Israel, direct telephone links, connection of the two nations' electricity grids and a commitment to peace between Israel and its neighbors.

The sharing of limited water resources and the settlement of the border of the two countries is still under negotiation.

The agreement also recognized Jordan's holy sites in Jerusalem.

President Clinton mediated the declaration signing at the White House Rose Garden and warned the leaders of the times ahead.

"As we go forward, we must guard against illusion," he said. "Dark forces of hatred and violence will stalk your lands. We must not let them succeed."

The refugee situation will be dealt with later. Nearly two million Palestinians living in Jordan claim Israel as their homes and want the right to return.

Negotiations between Israel, Syria and Lebanon are in process.

After the declaration-signing ceremony, Clinton told Syrian President Hafez Assad that the United States will try to broker a peace treaty between that nation and Israel, but he cautioned against

Israel and Jordan ended 46 years of hostility Monday with a pact that paves the way for economic, political and cultural cooperation.

Some key points

- A "state of belligerency" has ended.
- The nations will cooperate on trade, banking and finance.
- Police from both countries will work against crime, especially drug smuggling.
- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein will broker a formal peace plan.



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Lyme disease cases decrease in B-CS

By Ellie Hudson THE BATTALION

The number of cases of Lyme disease, a non-fatal illness that damages joints and tissue, is decreasing in the Brazos Valley, Texas A&M researchers say.

The disease is carried by deer ticks that feed on infected white-foot mice. These ticks transmit the disease to people when the insects bite them.

Dr. Colin Young, a public health scientist in the College of Veterinary Medicine, said Texas does not have as high a rate of the disease as states on the East Coast, where the disease was discovered.

"There are many more cases on the East Coast and West Coast as compared to Texas," Young said.

Ticks can most likely be found in woody, moist areas, Young said, which explains the higher incidence of Lyme disease along the coastal regions.

Julie Rawlings, a specialist with the Texas Department of

Health, said Texas hit its peak of Lyme disease in 1992 with 113 cases. In 1993, only 50 cases were reported. Most of the cases reported occurred in north-east Texas.

Rawlings attributed the change to the "negative hype" the disease received last year. Most of the publicity focused on the high incidence of misdiagnosis, she said.

"It's such a hard disease to diagnose, I can see why they'd back off," she said. "Nearly 1,500 possible cases have been reported in Texas since 1986. Of these, 409 have met the case criteria of the national Centers for Disease Control's definition of the illness."

A patient believed to have Lyme disease is officially diagnosed with the disease when a five-centimeter lesion resembling a bull's eye appears.

Rawlings said the cases are reported by county of residence, so a person could contract the disease elsewhere.

TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

A&M greets graduates, older students

By Angela St. John Parker THE BATTALION

Plans are currently being finalized for the second year of Transitions, a specialized summer orientation program for A&M graduate students and Aggies over the age of 24.

The optional program was formed last year when the Off-Campus Center joined with the Office for Graduate Students and the Office of Student Affairs to combine their orientation programs.

Ann Goodman, coordinator for the Off-Campus Center and Transitions, said the program incorporates traditional and non-traditional orientation presentations to provide a general introduction to Texas A&M and the Bryan-College Station community.

"Transitions also provides a wonderful opportunity for graduate students and non-traditional age Aggies to become acquainted with their peers, staff, University administration and traditions at A&M," she said. "It has really helped a lot of students feel welcome and get acclimated with their new surroundings."

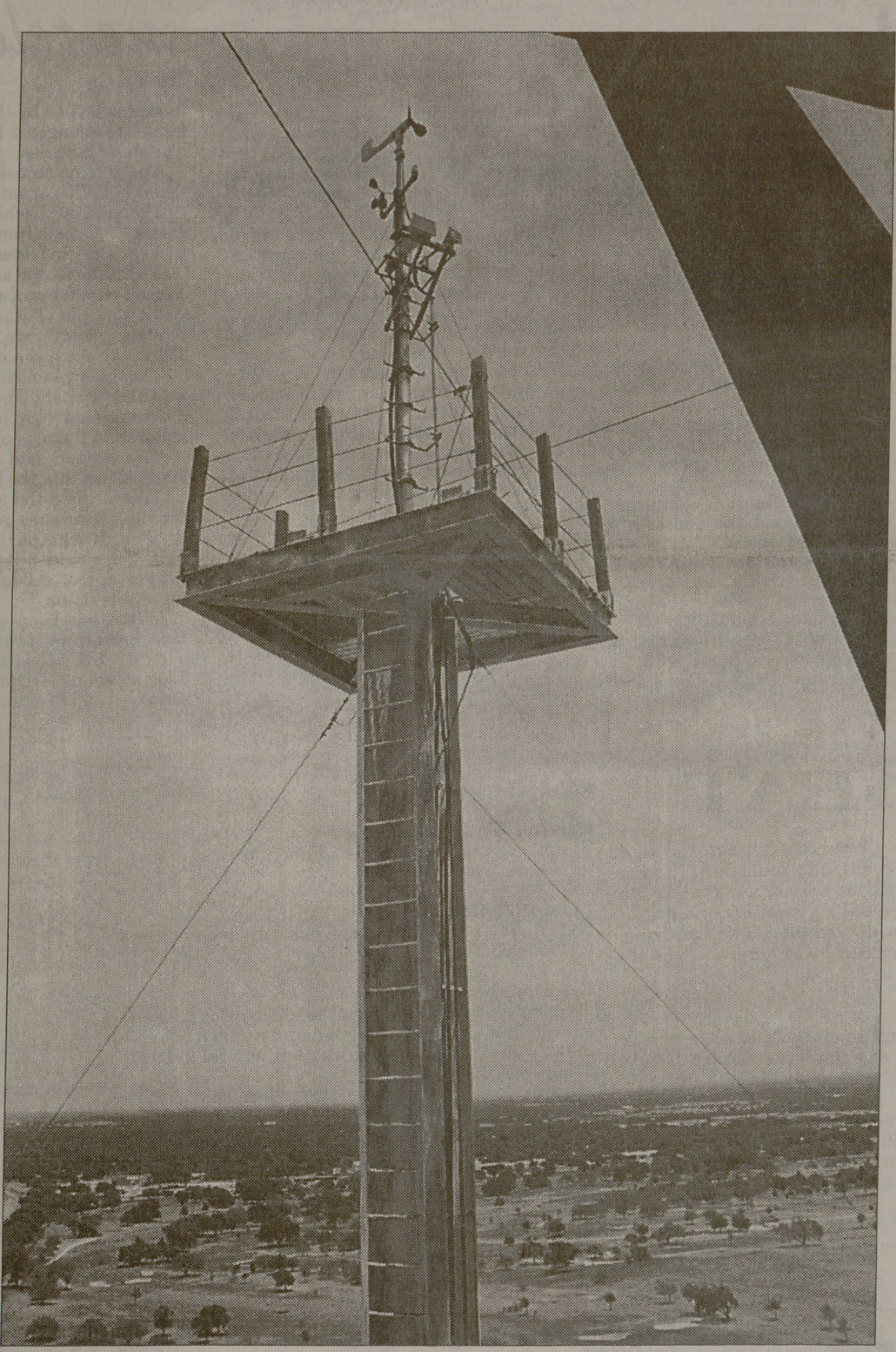
Sharon Payne, a graduate student and committee chairwoman for the Transitions orientation leaders, said this is the first year Transitions has used orientation leaders.

"We have a good diversity of graduate students from all walks of life that have helped us by volunteering their time and ideas," she said. "The incoming graduate students and Aggies with special circumstances will really be able to relate to them, because they are basically peers in similar situations."

The program focuses less on social activities and more on structured information, by giving presentations on special circumstances like spousal support, child care for single parents, off-campus housing tips and networking information within departments. Allison Smith, a graduate student and committee chairwoman for Transitions registration, said the program expands each year due to evaluations from the year before and efforts to target the students' needs. "We have new students with different needs each year," she said. "They come back to us after the orientation and tell us what they got out of it. It really helps us prepare for the next year." "We are also very fortunate to have the continuing and increasing support and cooperation from the university departments and from Dr. J. Malon Southerland, the student affairs vice president," Smith said. The two-day program is scheduled to begin Aug. 25. "We expect anywhere from 500 to 700 students to participate this year, which is twice that of last year," Goodman said.

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Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

How's the weather up there?

Weather instruments on the top of the O&M building measure temperature, humidity, wind speed & direction and barometric pressure. The observation deck, located on the 15th floor, is open to the public. From the observation deck, the entire campus can be seen.

Administrators worry over tuition rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — The financial squeeze has eased a bit for the nation's colleges and universities, but many administrators are still worried that students won't be able to afford the high tuition, according to a survey.

"Affordability is a looming concern," says a study released Monday by the American Council on Education.

The survey by the Washington-based group says that one of every three university administrators rated their school's student financial aid program only "fair" or "poor" and not adequate to meet needs. Only about one in five administrators considered their financial assistance "excellent" or "very good."

With college costs routinely outpacing inflation, financial aid worries have been commonplace for years, especially at private universities.

But this year, concern about meeting costs has grown significantly at public colleges and universities as well, according to the latest survey entitled "Campus Trends, 1994."

Twenty-one percent of administrators at public institutions said their financial aid programs were excellent or very good, while 30 percent described them as fair or poor, according to the council. At private schools, 19 percent gave high marks to their aid programs, and 37 percent gave them low marks.

The study's conclusions were based on responses from senior administrators at 406 two-year and four-year public and private institutions of higher education surveyed this spring. Responses were adjusted statistically to make them representative of all schools offering general undergraduate programs.