

Campus

The A&M Career Center offers students the opportunity to plan for their future.

Opinion

MICHAEL LANDAUER: Date rape is not just a girl's problem. Guys need to help prevent it, too.

Sports

The Lady Aggie volleyball team prepares to face the University of Texas Lady Longhorns tonight.

THE BATTALION

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NEWS BRIEFS

Dislike still main reason of dropouts

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a quarter of the girls who drop out of high school cite pregnancy as the reason — and nearly 8 percent of male dropouts say it's because they've become parents.

The most common reason for dropping out still is a plain dislike of school, the Education Department said Tuesday.

In its annual dropout report, the department said 381,000 high school students aged 15 to 24 quit school last year. All told, 3.4 million people aged 16 to 24 — 11 percent of the age group — are high school dropouts.

Although the 11 percent dropout rate was unchanged from 1992, it has declined since the 1970s, when it ranged from 14 percent to 14.5 percent.

"Students who were black or Hispanic, living in families with low income, or living in the South or West were less likely to complete high school," the report said.

Shuttle's robot does work and then some

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Discovery's Mr. Rumps, the first U.S. robot in space, zipped through its manufacturing work with semiconductors aboard the shuttle Monday and even completed extra chores.

The robot master was impressed. "We're pleased, keeping our fingers crossed, knocking on wood," NASA project manager Lloyd Purves said from the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

Rumps, short for Robot Operated Materials Processing System, heated 29 semiconductor crystals in furnaces as Discovery's six astronauts slept. The plan called for 26 samples to be removed from storage racks and placed in the furnaces one at a time, the robot worked faster than expected.

It was the second workout for Rumps, which is making its orbital debut. The first on Saturday was just a warm-up.

State policy may ban cigarettes for inmates

HOUSTON (AP) — A uniform smoking policy for the state's correctional institutions could mean no cigs for cell mates, but it will be weeks before anyone knows for sure.

A committee is studying the inconsistent policies regulating smoking among both inmates and correctional staff for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Concerns for health and hygiene among staff and inmates, coupled with the taxpayer bills for inmate medical care spurred the review by an in-house committee.

Although Carol Vance, the non-smoking chairman of the TDCJ board, wouldn't mind a total ban on smoking, he said Tuesday he's not actively pushing the issue.

"I'm going to support the findings of the study," Vance said.

Mother takes stand at gang rape trial

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman whose daughter was raped and killed by gang members last summer took the witness stand Tuesday, tearfully recalling her last encounter with her only child.

Sandra Ertman described the baggy blue jeans, purple tennis shoes and the favorite rings and necklaces her daughter, Jennifer, was wearing that day.

And as the prosecutor asked her to identify the girl's jewelry, Mrs. Ertman sometimes gazed fondly at the trinkets as she held them in her hands.

Jennifer Ertman, 14, and Elizabeth Pena, 16, were murdered June 24, 1993, when they stumbled onto a group of gang members drinking beer in the woods. The girls had spent the evening with friends and were on their way home when they took a shortcut through the woods.

Medical exam easier for men, study shows

Test measures technical skills, not capability

By Stephanie Dube
THE BATTALION

A recent study indicates white men generally perform better than women on a section of the National Board of Medical Examiners test, but some A&M faculty say the test is no indication of future performance.

Billy Rankin, associate dean for student affairs and admissions for the College of Medicine, said these standardized tests do not indicate who would be a more competent physician.

"At this point, it is impossible to mea-

sure what constitutes a successful physician," Rankin said. "It is hard to measure and standardize a physician's performance. How do you assess it?"

Rankin said the standardized tests are successful at indicating who has mastered certain technical skills regardless of their sex.

"The licenser test shows who has mastered the technical skills necessary to be a competent physician," he said. "But they do not test interpersonal skills or how a person cares about the patients."

"Whether men or women make better physicians, this test has nothing to do with that," he said.

Rankin said this test has recently been replaced by the more updated United States Medical Licenser Exam. Part one of the test is usually administered during a medical student's second year of study.

Rankin said the findings for the Med-

ical Examiners test should be similar to any findings discovered in the future on the USMLE.

Part one of the Medical Examiners test covers basic science skills students learn in their first two years of medical school.

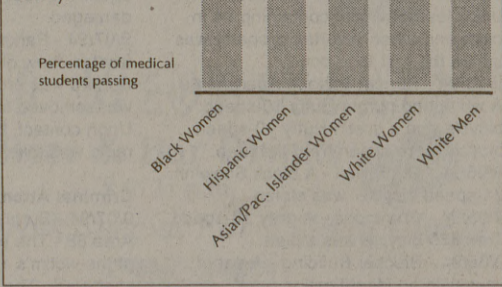
Dr. Karen Wilson-Sadberry, assistant professor of sociology, said boys in their early elementary school years used to receive more encouragement and exposure to the math and sciences than girls.

Wilson-Sadberry said that in the past, when girls did not receive the encouragement boys received in their early elementary school years, girls often became discouraged in the fields of math and science causing problems in their future educational performance.

"It appears there are greater opportunities for math and science exploration

Medical gender bias?

A study has recently shown that men perform better on a section of the National Board of Medical Examiners test. However, A&M officials say that the standardized tests do not indicate a doctor's potential ability.



Collider project leads to increased knowledge

Scrapped super collider project leaves prospect of future technology advances

By Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

The superconducting super collider project may be dead, but the technologies involved and prospects for future developments are not, some A&M officials involved with the project said.

Dr. Peter McIntyre, professor of physics, was involved in the project, and feels that the spinoffs from the technology are endless.

"The flaw in our lawmakers is that they think if you pump enough money into one project, you will eventually get the results you want," McIntyre said. "Science is an incredibly matrixed thing. The connections that can be made are endless."

The super collider was an \$11 billion project designed to uncover the fundamental components of matter. Specifically, scientists were interested in discovering the smallest particles in atoms.

"The SSC would have extended the study of the fundamental particles of nature," McIntyre said. "We would have found the clues to the unification of forces of nature."

Several A&M professors were involved in designing components of the SSC. One such design was for detectors to determine where protons in a high intensity beam were located. These detectors have led to advances in other areas, McIntyre said.

"The technology involved in mammography is currently very poor for the intricate detail needed to detect a mass of dead cells," McIntyre said. "We have redesigned the detectors we developed for the super collider to improve x-ray techniques specifically used for mammography."

"This type of technology would have been years in the

future had it not initially designed for the SSC," he said.

A&M physicists have also improved magnet technology since the super collider's demise. High field magnets were needed to help accelerate proton particles around the super collider's 54-mile circumference.

McIntyre and his associates have been working to improve the strength of the magnets to use in future accelerator experiments.

Cathode developed for usage in the super collider have also had spinoffs. One component of the cathode, a silicon chip with narrow liquid chambers, has been redesigned to potentially be used in the Human Genome Project.

Strands of denatured DNA can be passed through the liquid trenches and aid in discovering individual coding of genes.

The actual site of the super collider in Waxahachie was partially completed before funding for the project was cut.

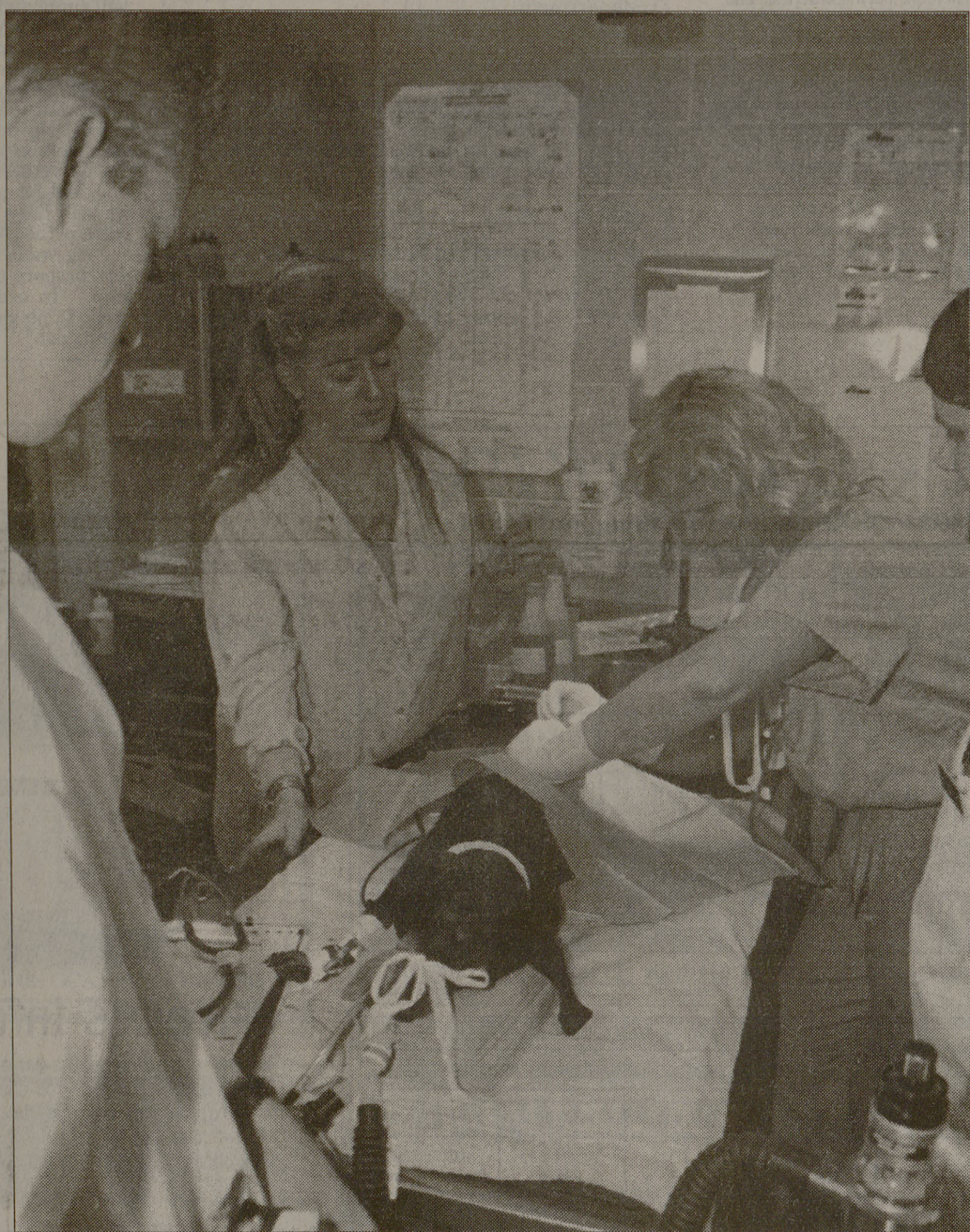
Scientists have proposed a lower energy, lower cost super collider to be built in place of the SSC.

Dr. James T. White, system professor of physics, said that the buildings, equipment, and the actual site will still be used.

"The computers will probably stay at the site and be used remotely by universities and laboratories," White said. "The cryogenics equipment will probably be moved to Fermilab, and there is a proposal to turn the land above the tunnel into a state park."

Scientists are optimistic about the use with technologies and how they may be used in the future.

"They may have taken away our Mazzerati, but we still have a Toyota that's not so bad," White said.



Tim Moog/THE BATTALION

What's wrong with that doggie in the window?

Four year old Dachshund, Mr. Pete, is about to undergo an operation to repair his hernia as fourth year graduate student Russell Welfare (left) looks on.

U.S. aircraft carrier departs for Haiti to protect interests

WASHINGTON (AP) — An aircraft carrier that could serve as a launching platform for invading Haiti headed to sea Tuesday, and President Clinton scheduled a Thursday night address to make his case that U.S. interests there are vital.

Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress complained they were being ignored by a White House bent on war.

Clinton is considering announcing a firm deadline for Haiti's military leaders to leave or sending an emissary to Port-au-Prince with one last demand that they surrender power, a senior administration official said.

The USS America sailed from Norfolk, Va., as another huge carrier, the USS Eisenhower, was taking on Army helicopters and soldiers there for a Wednesday departure to

the Caribbean. Defense Secretary William Perry was heading to Norfolk to talk with military leaders aboard the Eisenhower and the USS Whitney.

At the White House, chief of staff Leon Panetta threatened that if Haiti's military leaders don't give up power, "action is going to be taken against them very soon."

In Haiti, the army-installed government protested what it called the "scandalous and unacceptable behavior" of the United States but gave no indication of stepping aside.

"My view is that the cake has been baked," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., who was briefed Tuesday by Perry and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. John Shalikashvili.

Clinton signs \$30 billion crime bill

Anti-crime bill becomes law after 6 years of debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — After six years of talk and bitter congressional debate, the huge anti-crime bill became law Tuesday, banning many assault-style weapons, allowing the death penalty for dozens more federal crimes and providing billions of dollars to build prisons and hire police.

President Clinton signed the \$30 billion, six-year measure at an outdoor ceremony at the White House.

"Even this great law ... cannot do the job alone," he said. "By its own words it is still a law. It must be implemented by you. And it must be supplemented by you."

"Even when we put a new police officer on your block, the officer can't make you safe unless you come out of your home and help the officer do his or her job," said Clinton.

Clinton noted that "some people in this town

tried to keep this day from happening" despite a toll of violence that saw "half a million Americans ... killed by other Americans" in the last 25 years.

Clinton did not directly blame Republican leaders for the bill's close calls last month. He pointedly praised the relatively few GOP congressional members who were invited to the ceremony because they bucked their party leadership to keep the bill alive. They were among those "without whom we would not be here today," Clinton said.

The law: — Bans the manufacture, sale and possession of 19 specific types of assault-style weapons and scores of copycats and firearms with similar accoutrements. Manufacturing must stop immediately, but those in private hands or in stores are exempted.

— Allows the death penalty for 60 additional federal crimes, including drive-by shooting and carjacking deaths.

— Sends some third-time felons to prison for life. The law authorizes \$10.8 billion for state and local law enforcement including \$8.8 billion for subsidies to help hire up to 100,000 new officers.

The law also authorizes \$6.9 billion for crime-prevention programs; \$9.9 billion for prisons, including \$7.9 billion to help states build thousands of new cells, and \$2.6 billion for federal law enforcement.



Clinton

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