

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Deceased student to be honored at Silver Taps

Debashis Biswas, 25, will be honored at Silver Taps on Sept. 5. Biswas, a Texas A&M geography graduate student, passed away on Aug. 11. Services were held at Southpark Cemetery in Houston on Aug. 14. He is survived by his parents, Dayal and Bhawani Biswas.

### Jury selection to begin in trial of Regents secretary

Jury selection in the trial of Vickie Running, the Texas A&M Board of Regents secretary, on charges of tampering with government documents will begin Oct. 16.

Running is charged with altering government documents in an attempt to disguise the purchase of alcohol as food, drink, ice and cups purchases.

The trial, originally scheduled to begin Aug. 15, was given a continuance for two months.

The case will be heard by District Court Judge J.D. Langley in the 85th District Court at the Brazos County Courthouse in Bryan.

### New eatery replaces snack bar on West Campus

The Critical Care Cafe, a new dining facility in the Interdisciplinary Building on West Campus, opened Aug. 14.

The cafe offers specialty sandwiches not served anywhere else on campus. The cafe replaced the Vet Med Snack Bar, and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The new restaurant will be dedicated at a special ceremony Sept. 1, recognizing those who funded the cafe's construction.

### Sippial named as new VP of A&M Physical Plant

Charles Sippial has been named as Texas A&M's assistant vice president for the Physical Plant.

Sippial, Physical Plant director at San Diego State University, was appointed by Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president for finance administration, and he will assume the position Monday, Aug. 28.

Prior to his six years at SDSU, Sippial worked for the U.S. Air Force in Europe and the United States.

He holds a bachelor's degree in construction science from Tuskegee University and a master's degree in systems management from the University of Southern California.

### Engineering department receives new head

Dr. Rayford G. Anthony was named head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M by Dr. C. Roland Haden, Dean of the College of Engineering.

Anthony, a senior fellow in the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, has taught at A&M since 1966.

He is also head of the chemical engineering department's Kinetics, Catalysis and Reaction Engineering Laboratory.

Anthony will assume his new position Sept. 1.

### Conjoined twins face slim survival chances

(AP) — The medical staff seeking to surgically separate twin baby girls joined at the head said survival chances were slim for one if not both of the infants.

Michelle and Nichelle Tejada were to become only the sixth set of twins to undergo separation surgery worldwide since 1991 when neurosurgeons Gordon White and Lee Berland initiate the daylong procedure today.

The Tejada twins have been critically ill since they were born 13 weeks premature at St. David's Hospital on May 15.

Doctors do not expect Nichelle to survive separation because a herpes virus inherited in the womb has destroyed part or all of her intestines, stomach, bladder, kidneys, liver and brain.

Only her connection to Michelle is keeping Nichelle alive.

As of Sunday, the total charges for the conjoined infants was approximately \$525,000.

A small portion of those charges will be paid for by Medicaid, the remainder will become part of the charity care St. David's provides to the Austin community, officials said.

### AIDS patient to receive baboon's bone marrow

(AP) — A baboon from a San Antonio research facility is being prepared for a controversial operation that would transplant the animal's bone marrow into an AIDS patient in hopes of fighting the deadly disease.

The San Antonio Express-News reported today that officials of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research are scheduled to take the baboon this week to the University of Pittsburgh.

A school spokeswoman says the operation could occur as soon as late September to try extending the life of 38-year-old Jeff Getty.

The procedure would be the second of its kind.

In 1992, the Pittsburgh group infused baboon marrow into a 56-year-old man with advanced AIDS.

The graft failed to grow, and the patient died a few weeks later.

Foundation officials say the 62-pound Olive baboon to be used is about 7 years old and has been found through a battery of expensive tests to harbor fewer natural baboon viruses than most of the foundation's 3,065 baboons.

## 1995 Texas SAT scores remain low

(AP) — Texas students scored higher this year on the Scholastic Assessment Test but remained behind the national average on both sections of the college entrance exam, according to new figures.

The College Board figures released Wednesday showed that Texas' average score on the verbal test was 419, a seven-point increase over 1994, while the math score remained unchanged at 474.

The state's combined score of 893 was a seven-point increase over last year's combined score of 886, but it was still 17 points behind the nation's average combined score of 910.

The national average on the verbal test increased from 423 in 1994 to 428 in 1995, while math scores rose from 479 to 482.

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Moses attributed the higher scores to the number of students enrolled in honors curriculum.

"These results clearly show that taking rigorous courses in high school is a prerequisite for success in college," Moses said. "For those students who want to attend college after high school, taking challenging courses is not a luxury but a necessity."

"The figures showed that Texas students who completed 20 or more course units in six honors classes recorded an average verbal score of 473 and an average math score of 533. Those with fewer than 15 advanced course units scored an average 355 on the verbal section and 408 on math."

Both white and minority students recorded higher verbal scores this year, with the biggest jump among black students, whose scores increased nine points.

Mexican-American students' scores rose six points, while Asian and white students' scores increased five points.

Females showed bigger improvements on the test than males. Females increased their average verbal score by seven points and their average math score by two points from 1994 to 1995.

Overall, the number of Texas students taking the SAT increased this year by 1,653 students to 85,616.

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