Computers

Continued from Page 1

John Rauser, project director for operations for Computing and Information Services, said the lab will be equipped with state-of-the-art computers.

"The equipment will be cycled out every three years so it should stay state-of-the-art," Rauser said.

The new computing and group study facility will be funded by the computer access fee. One dollar per credit hour of the computer access fee is dedicated to the project. The money generated pays for construction, equipment and the ongoing costs of operating the facility.

Dinkel said this fee will make it possible to maintain advanced equipment.

Bevers said although she is graduating, she is pleased about the new facility and its equipment.

"My brother is entering college before too long and I'd like him to have a facility like that," Bevers said.

The project is a result of student initiative, Dinkel said. Four or five years ago, a group of Student Government members wanted to improve access to computer resources. Those students planned the financing for the project.

Dinkel said the computing facility should be completed in late Fall 1996 or early Spring 1997.

Energy

Continued from Page 1

and the Eller O&M Building are being upgraded.

A loan from the Loan STAR (Safe Taxes and Resources) Program for about $3.3 million has been approved to upgrade the HVAC systems in the Langford Architecture Building, the Reed McDonald Building, Heldenfels Hall, and part of Sterling C. Evans Library. The loan also includes funds for efficiency improvements in the chill water control of approximately 70 buildings.

Texas A&M was the first agency involved in the Loan STAR program, which began in 1989.

Since 1992, the University has received $2 million in five separate grants from the Institutional Conservation Program, which is administered by the Department of Energy.

Darnell said loans are paid back with the money saved on energy costs.

Turner said the Energy Systems Lab monitors hourly energy consumption and the chill water systems of university buildings throughout Texas, not just at A&M, and determine how much money has been saved. Then the Lab sends the savings reports to the buildings being monitored and to Loan STAR.

Turner said Loan STAR has saved Texas over $32 million in almost 100 Texas buildings.

Turner said the savings may not be apparent at first because they are still in the process of upgrading several buildings on campus.

"Our efforts to date are extremely encouraging," Turner said. "I think there is a potential for saving $2 million dollars in energy every year."

Gaston said it is important to get the faculty and students to think about the issue of energy conservation on campus.

"It is very difficult in a large organization to get people working together to reduce energy," Gaston said. "Every dollar we save is a dollar we don't have to charge students."

Research

Continued from Page 1

that digs on the moon is different than one that digs on Earth.

"Excavation on Earth is relatively easy," Boles said. "Tractors are just built to be big and powerful, but it costs several thousand dollars per pound to carry equipment to the moon, so the machines we design need to be rather light. We're talking about having 10 or 12 horsepower motors running these machines."

Boles said because of the KC-135 experiments, the unknown force obstacle could be cleared.

At a cost of $13,000, NASA donated the flight time in exchange for the research results.

John Connolly, a lunar and Mars mission designer for NASA, said there will be several benefits from the research.

"When we return to the moon, we need it to be affordable to live off the land," he said. "Oxygen is the main component in making rocket fuel. We need to gather the soil so we can extract the oxygen, and the only apparent way to do that is by excavating it."

Connally said student involvement in such projects benefits space exploration research.

"The folks doing this research are the only ones doing it in the world," he said. "We (NASA) like to have university involvement because there are many new and unique activities happening.

"By using student input, we're getting answers by using the cool ideas students have. I guess we're just a bunch of overeducated people who haven't let go of the feeling."

The experiments were beneficial to the students in several ways.

Alysha Roerden, a May graduate of aerospace engineering, said she hopes to make a career out of space exploration and the experience of zero-gravity was helpful in her decision.

"I wanted the opportunity to fly on the plane," she said. "One of these days we'll go back to the moon and our research will be used in the future."

Roerden and Scott will return to NASA for further experimentation on the aircraft, tentatively set for Aug. 27 and 28.

House for sale: Excellent views of ex-president, wife & Millie

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — A 1 1/2-story chalet next to George Bush's oceanside estate went on sale Tuesday, abandoned by the Secret Service and members of the press who rented it during Bush's four years as president.

BUSH

The house is surrounded by weeds, the basement covered with mildew and there are holes in the ceilings. But real estate broker Michael Jacobsen said it's a bargain at $265,000.

"It's a prestigious property. You can look directly across the street at President Bush's elegant compound," Jacobson said.

The house has expansive views of Sandy Cove, where Bush's boat is often anchored, and its front deck is aimed right at the Bush compound.

York County Republican chairman Robert Brandenstein said he could understand why someone would want to buy it: "Look at all the security around there."

R. Kelly misses concert because of brawl

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — R. Kelly is singing the blues, but not where he was supposed to be.

The rhythm and blues musician had $300,000 in band equipment confiscated by the Cajundome Commission.

Why? For failing to show up Sunday at a heavily promoted concert at the arena.

Turns out Kelly and his entourage were involved in a fight earlier in the day.

He was playing basketball at a health club, police said.

One man was treated at a hospital. Police are investigating Kelly's involvement.

Kelly is known for his multi-platinum album *12-Play*, which included the hits "Bump-n-Grind" and "Sex Me."

Imelda Marcos to get treatment in Boston

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Imelda Marcos is coming back to the United States with the approval of an anti-graft court.

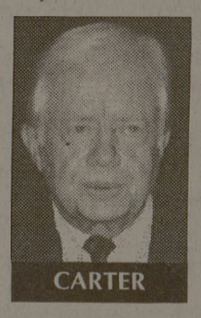
She of the many shoes is being allowed to go to Boston — and nowhere else — to receive treatment for glaucoma, the court ruled Tuesday. Her stay is limited to 60 days.

Marcos is free on bail pending an appeal of a 24-year sentence for corruption.

The trip was criticized by the anti-graft court that convicted Marcos of looting the country's treasury, but the Philippines legislature felt it was the right thing to do.

Marcos has not been in America since 1991, the year she returned to Manila to face charges following the 1989 death of her husband, former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos.

Carter awarded for his royal honesty


CARTER

VAC, Hungary (AP) — Jimmy Carter will receive a state award next month for returning to Hungary a national treasure, the Holy Crown of King St. Stephen.

Carter returned the crown in 1977.

GOENCZ

According to tradition, the crown was placed on the head of King St. Stephen on Christmas 1000.

The crown has come to symbolize Hungarian statehood.

Stolen by the Nazis in 1944, the crown ended up in American hands at the end of World War II and was kept for years at Fort Knox, Ky.

Hungarian President Arpad Goencz will present Carter with the award.

Notorious B.I.G. gets busted with dope

TEANECK, N.J. (AP) — Rap star Notorious B.I.G. was arrested on marijuana and gun possession charges after police went to his house to ask him to move a car.

The rapper, who is also known as Biggie Smalls and whose real name is Christopher Wallace, was arrested July 23, police said Tuesday.

A police officer said he smelled marijuana and in a search of the townhouse found a Tec-9 pistol with a 30-round clip, two guns fitted with infrared, laser-targeting devices, a revolver and about two ounces of marijuana.

The serial numbers had been scratched off the guns, police said.

Wallace and seven members of his rap group, the Junior M.A.F.I.A., were charged with marijuana possession. Wallace was also charged with possession of illegal weapons.

Wallace has made much of his past as a former crack dealer from one of the toughest neighborhoods in Brooklyn, Bedford-Stuyvesant.

In December, he was honored as rap artist of the year at the Billboard Awards.

O.J. Simpson confused, frustrated over ex-wife

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson was "confused and frustrated" over his ex-wife's behavior in her final months, and appeared tired and quiet at a dance recital just hours before her murder, a Simpson friend testified in a deposition.

Dr. Ronald A. Fischman, an internist and Simpson neighbor, said Simpson "was not his normal effusive self" at the June 12, 1994, recital.

"I'd never seen him quite like that," said Fischman, testifying July 10 in a deposition for a wrongful death lawsuit against Simpson.

The mood at the recital was uncomfortable — "a certain coldness ... chilliness" — because of ongoing problems between both Simpson and his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and between Fischman and his then-wife, Fischman testified.

"(Simpson) appeared tired. He was quiet," said Fischman.

Simpson is being sued for wrongful death damages in the deaths of Nicole Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman, who were killed at her home following the recital.

The former football star was acquitted of their slayings in October 1995.

SIMPSON

Fischman, who refused to testify for weeks until threatened with arrest, said Simpson had been distressed for months about his relationship with his ex-wife.

"The last few months were, as I recall, very tumultuous, and I think by the time it ended, he was just very frustrated and confused about the way Nicole was behaving," Fischman testified, according to a transcript obtained by The Associated Press.

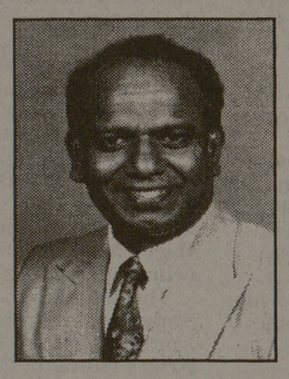
Nicole Simpson left quickly at the end of the recital, which featured dances by the daughters of Simpson and Fischman, and left Simpson behind.

Simpson then asked Fischman to have dinner, but he said he declined because of other plans.

The testimony is the latest to describe Simpson's increasing frustration with his ex-wife, and his downcast demeanor at the recital.

That view was countered at Simpson's trial by a videotape taken at the recital showing him laughing. Fischman said Simpson was laughing at a remark made by him.

"He had asked me something about dinner, and I said, 'I'm going out to dinner with the wife.' And he said, 'Good luck,' because he knew we were having (marital) problems," Fischman said.



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