

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

Wednesday • September 25, 1996



Rachel Redington, THE BATTALION

Double Bounce

Twins **Shelly Dyer**, a senior industrial distribution major, and **Kelly Dyer**, a senior finance major, from Katy jump on their trampoline Tuesday afternoon.

Campus

Computer science professor honored

Dr. Laxmi Bhuyan, a Texas A&M computer science professor, has been named a Texas Engineering Experiment Station Senior Fellow in recognition of his research achievements.

To be named a TEES Senior Fellow, a faculty member must earn the designation of TEES Fellow for three consecutive years.

Bhuyan received a commemorative plaque and \$5,000 to support his research activities.

State

NASA searches for insulation answers

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — NASA wants to know why an unusual amount of insulation in one of space shuttle Atlantis' booster rockets burned off during last week's launch.

The nozzles at the base of the solid-fuel boosters are insulated with 1 1/2 inches to 3 1/2 inches of carbon material to protect against the tremendous heat and exhaust of a launch. Some of the material is expected to burn away. But the material on the right

booster nozzle was reduced to as low as an inch in some spots, an inspection found.

Atlantis' six astronauts were in no added danger during the Sept. 16 liftoff on a flight to the Russian space station Mir, NASA mission operations director Lee Briscoe said Tuesday. Additional protection is provided by a layer of glass and metal insulation.

If all the insulation had worn through, the shuttle could have veered off course.

The insulation problem arose in the same booster where a wrench was found rattling around following the retrieval of both boosters from the Atlantic Ocean, where the rockets are dropped during the shuttle's ascent. The wrench did not appear to have caused any damage during the launch.

NASA has been extra-sensitive about booster problems ever since a booster leak caused space shuttle Challenger to explode shortly after liftoff in 1986, killing all seven astronauts on board.

New application process proposed

AUSTIN (AP) — Would-be college students could find one-stop shopping at university systems under an idea floated by new Senate Education Chairman Teel Bivins.

Under the idea he's considering, students would apply to the University of Texas System rather than UT-Austin, for example.

Bivins, R-Amarillo, said Tuesday he's looking at it as a potential way to make the admissions process more efficient and student-friendly.

"If a student applies only to UT-Austin today and is rejected, they have no knowledge of whether they might be able to attend school at (UT) Pan American or UT-Dallas," he said.

Currently, students who wanted to apply to all the UT System schools would have to send an individual application to each one, Bivins said.

"One of the things I'd like to do is try to put the focus on the student and assist the student not only in getting into a higher education institution but also matriculating through that institution," he said.

UT System spokesman Monty Jones said UT-Austin refers the names and addresses of applicants who aren't admitted at that campus to other system institutions.

"In the real world, it's likely that for a lot of students, their first choice might be UT-Austin and their second choice might be (Texas) A&M, and the other way around. ... They are roughly comparable in stature and they have similar admissions standards and similar programs," Jones said.

Nation

Boy suspended for sexual harassment

LEXINGTON, N.C. (AP) — days, a kiss isn't just a kiss even in the first grade.

A 6-year-old boy who kissed a girl on the cheek was suspended last week on the grounds of sexual harassment.

Jackie Prevette said the girl overreacted to an innocent kiss on the cheek by banishing the boy to a room apart from his classmates. Johnathan said the girl asked him to kiss her and he was expressing his feelings according to his mother.

"Can't you just imagine skipping down the hall with your hands? Isn't that Normal, well America?" Prevette said.

District spokeswoman Janet tin said the policy is clear: "No old kissing another 6-year-old appropriate behavior. Unwelcome at any age."

The rules are outlined in a student handbook given to each at the start of the school year. Parents are asked to sign a form affirming that they explained do's and don'ts, Martin said.

A teacher who saw the student reported it to the principal who decided the first grader should be punished.

This day in history

(AP) — Today is Wednesday, Sept. 25, the 269th day of 1996. There are 97 days left in the year.

On this date: In 1789, the first U.S. Congress, meeting in New York, adopted 12 Amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. (Ten of the Amendments became the Bill of Rights.)

In 1493, Christopher Columbus set sail from Cadiz, Spain, with a flotilla of 17 ships on his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1690, one of the earliest American newspapers, Public Occurrences, published its first — and last — edition in Boston.

In 1890, Mormon president Wilford Woodruff issued a manifesto formally renouncing the practice of polygamy.

In 1919, President Wilson collapsed after a speech in Pueblo, Colo., during a national speaking tour in support of the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1957, with 300 U.S. Army troops standing guard, nine black children who had been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., because of unruly white crowds, were escorted to class.

In 1978, 144 people were killed when a Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 and a Cessna private plane collided over San Diego, Calif.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Five years ago: A national commission faulted the government for a lack of leadership in the fight against AIDS.

Today's birthdays

ABC News correspondent Barbara Walters is 65. Actor-producer Michael Douglas is 52. Actor Christopher Reeve is 44. Actress Heather Locklear is 35. Basketball player Scottie Pippen is 31. Actor Will Smith is 28.

Weather

Today



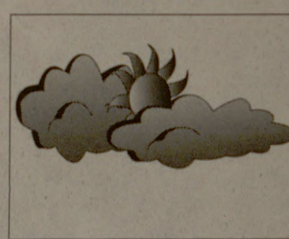
Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain.

Tonight



Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain.

Tomorrow



Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain.

Highs & Lows

Yesterday's High

84°F

Yesterday's Low

70°F

Today's Expected High

88°F

Today's Expected Low

71°F

Information courtesy of the TAMU Student Chapter of the

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Sept. 26, MSC
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Representatives from various study abroad programs will be in the MSC from 10:00 - 2:00. Sponsored by Study Abroad Programs 161 Bizzell Hall West (845-0544)

WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES 1996-97
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Who's Who applications are now being accepted for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
Student Programs Office (2nd Floor MSC)
Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building)
Sterling C. Evans Library
Office of Graduate Studies (125 Teague)
Office of the Dean of each College
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th Floor Rudder)

Completed applications must be received by the Student Activities Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 27, 1996. They may be hand-carried to the Student Activities Office, sent through Campus Mail, or sent through U.S. Mail. (See the application for addresses.)

DIS
Denmarks International Study Program
(Courses taught in English)

Come to
Overseas Day
September 26, MSC
Main Hall 10:00-2:00

or
visit with a representative in
Room 510 Rudder
from 3:30 - 4:30pm

Study Abroad Programs Office
161 Bizzell Hall West
845-0544

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