

Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Brian Moeller, a senior aerospace engineering major, demonstrates a flight simulator in the basement of the H.R. Bright Building. The simulator is a recent addition to the aerospace engineering department and will aid in research and testing.

Marchers demand tougher crime laws

► State

AUSTIN (AP) — A crowd of nearly 5,000 marched to the Capitol on Sunday to demand stronger laws against hate crimes

The marchers urged state legislators to approve a bill by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, that would raise penalties for people convicted of hate crimes and add more specific definitions of the victims of hate crimes to the current law

More than 1,600 hate crimes were reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety between 1992 and 1995

The new law would define hate crimes as those committed because of bias against the "race, color, disability, religion, national origin or ancestry or sexual orientation of the person against whom the crime was committed."

It is patterned after Wisconsin law that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1993.

"The bill closes the door to any constitutional challenge," said Rick Svatora, an aide to Ellis.

Senate votes to repeal motorcycle helmet law

AUSTIN (AP) - A repeal of the state's mandatory helmet law for motorcyclists who are at least 21 and carry insurance was approved by the Texas Senate on Monday.

Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, the sponsor of the bill, praised the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association for working diligently to help pass the measure, which will now go to the House for consideration.

The bill was approved on a voice vote after receiving vocal opposition from Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount

Ratliff was successful la in amending the bill, premetless riders who suffe juries in wrecks from get rehabilitation fund money their recovery.

An estimated 500 few clists were injured in the first ter the helmet law was 1989, Ratliff said.

► Nation

Windows upgra might face dela

SEATTLE (AP) - Micros stock dropped as much as 7 Monday on news that the ne ation of its Windows 95 system may not be on their til next year.

A delay until next year wil crosoft's competitors such as l Sun, IBM and Oracle more tin mote a Java-based platform t

threaten Windows hegemony "If Microsoft could have si next generation by midyear would have generated a lot of and kept a lot of people in the camp," said Dwight Davis, e rector of the "Windows newsletter in Redmond.

A test version of the Mic grade, code-named Memoh ready in July, but the date for release will depend on feed how long it takes to make the the software

Last month, Microsoft be personal-computer makers: Compaq, Dell and Gateway new software would not be preloading into machines be Christmas shopping season.

The Windows upgrade will improvements that would le see files in the same formata Wide Web pages, Roberts said also include a browser upgrad

► This day in history

Today is Tuesday, March 25, the 84th day of 1997. There are 281 days left in the year.

On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 marchers to the state capitol in Montgomery, Ala., to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks. In 1634, Maryland was founded by English colonists

sent by the second Lord Baltimore. In 1911, 146 immigrant workers were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York. In 1918, French composer Claude Debussy died in Paris. In 1957, the Treaty of Rome established the European

Economic Community In 1990, 87 people, most of them Honduran and Dominican immigrants, were killed when fire raced through an illegal social club in New York City.

Ten years ago: The Supreme Court ruled employers may sometimes favor women and members of minority groups over men and whites in hiring and promoting in order to achieve better balance in the work force.

Five years ago, Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi backed away from an offer to turn over two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 to the Arab League.

One year ago, Braveheart won Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director Mel Gibson; Nicolas Cage won Best Actor for Leaving Las Vegas, Susan Sarandon Best Actress for Dead Man Walking. The redesigned \$100 bill went into circulation.

► Today's birthdays

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Jim Lovell is 69. Feminist author Gloria Steinem is 63. Singer Anita Bryant is 57. Singer Aretha Franklin is 55. Actor Paul Michael Glaser is 54. Singer Elton John is 50. Actor James Mc-Daniel is 39. Actress Sarah Jessica Parker is 32. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Debi Thomas is 30.

► Weather

Today



A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Winds shifting from the north at 15-20 mph.

Tonight



Cloudy and cool with a chance of heavy rainfall.

Tomorrow



Possible early showers becoming partly cloudy. Light north winds.

Highs & Lows

Today's Expected I 68°F Tonight's Expected

46°F Tomorrow's Expe

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in the '97-98 All-University Calendar

General Meeting Wednesday, March 26 7:00 p.m. • Rudder 502

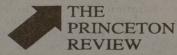
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MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness Fellows Program presents:

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and Baroque Wednesday, March 26th, 7:00pm MSC Room 223]

For more information call 845-8770 or e-mail: ji-fellows@msc.tamu.edu

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THE BATTALION

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