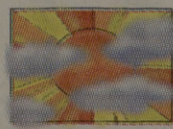


85  
66

Today



92  
67

Tomorrow

See extended forecast, Page 2.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dead student dies of heart attack

Gordon Czeschin, Jr., a 30-year-old agronomy graduate student, died of a heart attack June 1 in College Station. Czeschin will be honored at the Silver Taps. Details of the funeral services have not been announced.

Education student named state finalist

Anna Bairrington, a doctoral student in educational human resource development at Texas A&M University, was named a state finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching of Science.



Bairrington

Bairrington, a graduate student at Rockwell Elementary in College Station, was one of three finalists selected by a national committee of educators, scientists and former award winners. She is the recipient of the award, which was announced this fall, will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where she will receive a presidential citation, a grant to the awardee's school from private donors. Bairrington was selected for her work with students in the fields of education and science, including her recent project, a study in wetland conservation.

Villa Maria repairs begin this week

The Texas Department of Transportation will begin paving a section of FM 1179 (Villa Maria Road and West Drive) from Texas Avenue to 29th Street. The new pavement surface will be placed over damaged parts of the road that have been removed.

Williams, the Texas Department of Transportation Bryan engineer, said the work will be a complete reconstruction of the pavement but will make the road smoother.

The project, which begins this week, will be completed by June 20.

AM Med School holds graduation

Commencement observances at the Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine's graduating Class of 1997 will be held June 7 in College Station.

Observances will begin at 2 p.m. at the Rudder Theatre.

Lonnie R. Bristow, immediate president of the American Medical Association, will speak at the ceremony.

TODAY IN BATTALION

OPINION

League baseball enforces guidelines to guarantee safety standards for players.

See Page 5.

SPORTS

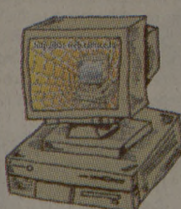
Columnist analyzes how far Ken Griffey Jr. can get from Roger Maris' record.

See Page 5.

ONLINE

bat-web.tamu.edu

for news of issues in the Batt.



## Texas Avenue repairs proceed as scheduled

By MATT WEBER  
THE BATTALION

As efforts to improve a mile-long stretch of Texas Avenue between University Drive and Dominik Street continue, some residents feel the construction work has taken too long. "I've seen other jobs around here done in six months or less," Jacob Quisenberry, a sophomore physics major, said. "It should be done by now."

However, College Station and state officials said the construction is proceeding on schedule and that the improvements made through the project will make up for any inconvenience the roadway may cause commuters.

Denise Fischer, public relations officer for the Texas Department of Transportation, said work on Texas Avenue was necessary because of the amount of traffic the street supports.

"Routine traffic [on Texas Avenue] for an average day, not counting special events, is about 45,000 cars," Fischer said. "It is easily the most heavily traveled road in Bryan-College Station."

The street is being expanded from four to six lanes, including wider curb lanes to accommodate more bicycle traffic.

Bicyclists using the street have complained that the lack of bicycle lanes going both directions make it difficult for drivers to see bicycles. People using the outside lanes as "buffer" lanes while entering or exiting University parking lots also have been a hazard to drivers and cyclists on Texas Avenue, Fischer said.

"The real motive for the changes is safety," Fischer said. "It was becoming dangerous."

As part of College Station's Streetscape program, a median also will be added to the road.

Ed Hard, head of planning and zoning for College Station, said the goal of Streetscape is to make such city improvements as the Texas Avenue expansion more attractive.

"The biggest part of Streetscape [in this project] involves dressing up or doing things within the median," he said. "We'll have trees and all other kinds of landscape vegetation growing there, as opposed to just asphalt medians."

The city also will be adding new street lights and improved sidewalks, Hard said.

Fischer said many drivers do not understand the complications involved in the construction work.

"The problem is the entire project has to be done while the road is in use," Fischer said. "That makes it very problematic getting as much done as quickly [as possible]."

Please see CONSTRUCTION on Page 6.



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog

When the Texas Avenue construction is completed, the new medians will be landscaped with trees and other vegetation.

## Search for fugitive continues

By JENARA KOCKS  
THE BATTALION

The television program "America's Most Wanted" will feature a story about Don Davis Jr. and his parents' plea for his return to Brazos County.

Don Davis Jr. disappeared in September 1996, days before he was to go to trial for two counts of aggravated sexual assault.

Don Davis Sr. and Linda Davis, Davis Jr.'s parents, were charged with helping Davis Jr. disappear. On May 27, Davis Sr. pleaded guilty in a Brazos County courthouse to a charge of hindering apprehension or prosecution of a felon. The same charge against his wife was dropped.

Brazos County Assistant District Attorney Margaret Lalk said Davis Sr. said he gave his son \$6,000 dollars and an automobile to leave Houston where the Davises live. Davis Sr. said his son did not tell him where he was going.

Davis Sr. was sentenced to five years probation and up to 6 months in jail beginning June 20.

Lalk said Davis Jr.'s parents were ordered by District Judge John Delaney to cooperate with the media in finding their son as part of Davis Sr.'s probation sentence.

This is the second time the case has been featured on "America's Most Wanted." The case was also featured on "Unsolved Mysteries" earlier this year.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said UPD received 130 to 140 leads following the shows, but none of the calls led police to Davis Jr.

J. Price Blalock of Houston, defense attorney for Don Davis Sr., said his client felt relieved after the taping of the show.

"He [Davis Sr.] felt it was a positive development in hopes that everyone involved can start a healthy healing process," he said, "and there can be closure to this incident."

The television show will appear on Fox Channel 28 TV and TCA cable channel 7 on Saturday at 8 p.m.

## University implements password access system

By ROBERT SMITH  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students and faculty now must have a CLAIM identification name and password to access the Internet and e-mail accounts on University computer systems.

Until this summer, people could log on to the University system on campus without an I.D. name or password. The Texas Department of Information and Resources now requires all state agencies, including universities, to restrict access of their computer systems to authorized users.

Tom Putnam, Director of Computing and Information Services, said the new logon system allows better service to users.

"We can now offer expanded services that we could not offer without identification of the person," Putnam said.

Students will be able to set up a home directory that will automatically set up e-mail and allow them to save e-mail on the system. Putnam said students will have a system

debit account they can use to pay for specialized services in campus computer labs.

"Students can use this for allocation of services like color printing and transparencies," he said. "If they use all of that, students will be able to add their own money to the system."

Putnam said the CLAIM password system will prevent users other than students and faculty from logging on to the University system.

"With all of these machines, you don't know who is using the computer," he said. "This invites people to send threatening messages to others. Now, we will know who is using each computer."

Students have voiced mixed reactions to the new logon process; many do not understand why it was changed.

Ben Nathan, a senior chemical engineering major, said the password system is annoying.

"It's easy to set up," Nathan said, "but it's a pain to have to log on each time you want to use the computer."

Students and faculty can pick up a form at the computer labs on campus explaining how to set up a new password.

Blaire Tully, a sophomore community health major, said setting up a new password was difficult.

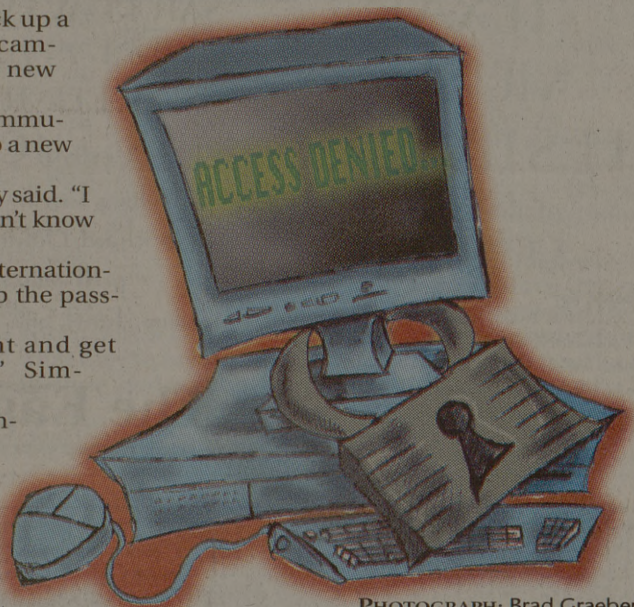
"I had to get help with it," Tully said. "I just got back into town and I don't know why they changed it."

Glenda Simmons, a senior international studies major, said setting up the password was a lengthy process.

"I had to go up to the front and get a sheet and it took a while," Simmons said.

However, Eric Watson, a freshman engineering major, saw the change as a step toward better computer service on campus.

"I don't see any problems with it," Watson said. "I think it's a good idea."



PHOTOGRAPH: Brad Graeber

## Prosecutors use emotional testimony in seeking death penalty for McVeigh

DENVER (AP) — With story after story of dead babies and loved ones violently taken away, prosecutors urged a tearful jury Wednesday to make Timothy McVeigh pay with his life for the Oklahoma City bombing.

Jurors started crying even before the first witness took the stand, when prosecutor Patrick Ryan simply and poignantly described the lives of some of the 168 victims — and the devastation to the families who were left to carry on.

"It would be easy for you as a jury to think of this as one mass murder. Don't. There are 168 people, all unique, all individual. ... All had families, all had friends, and they're different," Ryan said.

"We will ask you to return a verdict of death," he said, "the only verdict that justly fits this crime."

McVeigh sat slumped in his chair with the same stony expression he wore Monday when his murder and conspiracy conviction in the April 19, 1995, blast made him the worst terrorist killer in the nation's history.

Though his face never changed, at least five jurors who will decide his fate, including the foreman, wiped away tears as a stream of witnesses described how they will be haunted by the painful memories forever.

Policeman Alan Prokop, one of the first to respond to the bombing, described how he held a woman's hand rising from the rubble, only to feel the pulse stop.

"Her hand got very still and started to get cold," said Prokop, who said he tried to comfort the woman pinned under a 12-foot slab of concrete. "I checked her wrist for a pulse and found none."

He also described pulling babies' bodies out of what had been the second-floor day-care center. One of the few survivors was a baby boy.

"I cradled him in my arms and he ... appeared to have a brick sticking out of his forehead," Prokop said. He added the baby was "holding a little green block."

Even though the judge scaled back some of the most wrenching aspects of the prosecution's presentation — banning wedding photos, a poem and testimony about funeral arrangements — the case remained powerful.

David Klaus choked back tears as he testified that since his 29-year-old daughter's death, he has lost weight, suffered several physical ailments and dipped into a depression for which he is still being treated.

"I feel like I've aged 10 years in two years," he said. "I just physically look old and feel older."

Diane Leonard, who lost her husband, a veteran Secret Service agent, said: "I feel like I died, too, on April 19. I feel like my heart looks like the building. It has a big hole that can never be mended."



McVeigh

## Scientists find icy miniplanet

NEW YORK (AP) — Astronomers have found an icy miniplanet that orbits the sun well beyond Pluto, providing evidence that the solar system extends much farther than was once thought.

The little planet is about 300 miles across, which gives it a surface area comparable to Texas. It is the brightest solar system object to be found beyond Neptune since the discovery of Pluto's moon Charon in 1978.

At its most distant, it wanders three times farther from the sun than Pluto, tracing a looping, oblong path into an astronomical terra incognita.

"It's the first object in a sort of no man's land, an area we never thought we could get a glimpse of with our current technology," said Jane Luu, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass.

And it's probably not alone. Theoretical calculations suggest that there are millions of small, icy

solar system objects well beyond the outermost planets.

Astronomers consider their new discovery an extension of the Kuiper belt, a collection of small, icy bodies that circle the sun beyond the orbit of Neptune. About 40 Kuiper belt objects have been discovered since 1992.

Before then, the only known Kuiper belt objects were the planet Pluto, discovered in 1930, and Charon.

Luu discovered the new object, known as 1996TL66, with colleagues from Harvard, the University of Hawaii and the University of Arizona, as well as an amateur astronomer based in Cloudcroft, N.M. They describe the find in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

"I wouldn't call this a major planet," said Brian Marsden, a Harvard astronomer and contributor to the Nature paper. "But then I tend not to call Pluto a major planet."