



PHOTOGRAPH: Rony Angkriwan

Speed Racers Jim Samuel, a professor at Texas A&M Medical School, and his sons, Ryan and Nicholas, roll around campus Sunday morning.

VAN

Continued from Page 1

Barbara J. Quiram, director of administrative services for the Rural Health Initiative at the A&M Health Science Center, gave tours of the van and said the van is made up of three basic components: a general screening room, a patient education room and a dental screening room.

"The van is geared toward prevention and education," Quiram said.

The education room has visual aids on topics of interest for young people and families, Quiram said.

Pamphlets on smokeless tobacco and immunization hang on the walls. The van also features a puppet show video on immunization that can be shown on the television in the room.

But Quiram said what really makes the van unique is its state-

of-the-art dental equipment. The dental screening room has a Gendex Panoramic, an x-ray machine that digitizes images instead of using film. The images can be transmitted from of the van to the Baylor School of Dentistry, where students can examine them.

The van also is equipped with a cellular phone, another phone that can reach the driver and a bathroom.

Other features of the van include a refrigerator and freezer, water, a microwave, a sound system and an air system that changes the air in the van every three minutes. The van also is fully handicap-accessible.

Quiram said volunteers and medical, nursing and dentistry students will work in the van. She also said services will be administered with no charge to the patients.

Dr. Michael L. Friedland, vice president for health affairs and dean of medicine, said the van is a natural extension of the health

education and rural outreach program at A&M.

"How do you get to communities that don't have a place for health education?" Friedland said.

Friedland said A&M is the only university in the nation that has a School of Rural Public Health.

He also said other medical vans similar to this one service Texas, but they are not dedicated to serving rural areas like this one. He said the van is a cooperative effort by the A&M School of Rural Public Health, College of Medicine, Agriculture Extension Service and Baylor School of Dentistry. Friedland said the schools of nursing in the A&M University System also will be involved eventually.

Quiram said 203 out of 254 counties in Texas are designated as rural counties. She said the van will start serving rural counties in the Temple area after another dedication ceremony in Temple July 14.

Shell plant explosion rocks Houston's 'chemical corridor'

DEER PARK (AP) — An explosion and fire ripped through a Shell Chemical Co. plant in this Houston suburb on Sunday. No serious injuries were reported, but nearby residents were urged to stay indoors as the fire fed by toxic chemicals and gasoline raged on.

The explosion at the Shell Oil Co. subsidiary plant occurred about 10 a.m. in an olefins unit that manufactures propylene, ethylene and benzene, said Shell spokesman Darren Martin. The three light hydrocarbons are the building blocks for a variety of chemical products from plastics to pharmaceuticals.

Authorities said they didn't know what caused the explosion or fire, which was expected to burn into Monday.

"We're allowing the fire to burn out," Martin said.

Shell reported the incident to both Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The two agencies will conduct separate investigations.

Trails of the black chemical smoke — which also included fumes from burning gasoline — could be seen from miles away. Shell officials said the burning mixture

posed no health risk to area residents.

"At this time I don't know quantities or amounts that were released," said Martin. "Based on our monitoring data, we have not found high levels of benzene downwind so we've assumed it's being burned up in the fire."

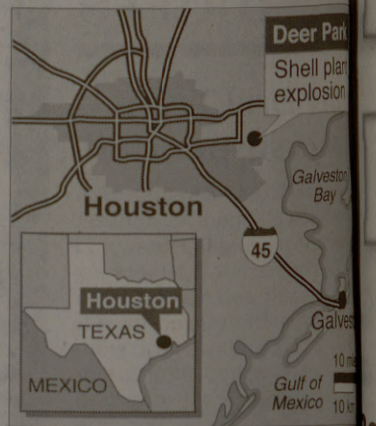
Shell Chemical will continue to monitor the air surrounding the complex to determine if the chemicals present a health hazard, officials said.

About 50 Shell Chemical Co. and contract employees were on duty in the unit at the time of the blast. All were accounted for. One worker was treated at a hospital for chest pains.

Power went out at the plant about eight hours before the explosion, but Martin said investigators didn't believe the two events were linked. The outage ended and all units were back on line by 7 a.m.

Benzene, a known carcinogen, and its vapors can be severely toxic when inhaled. It can cause dizziness, headaches and drowsiness.

But Martin, the plant's health and safety manager, said the burning amount of benzene was well below the EPA-imposed limit of one part per million over an eight-



hour period. "We have quantities way lower than that," Martin said. Nevertheless, police advised residents within a mile of the plant to stay indoors. State Highway 225 near the plant was temporarily closed to keep traffic away from the area. The toll bridge leading into Deer Park — and directly in line with the chemical smoke plumes — was closed

Summit partners embrace Russia

DENVER (AP) — World leaders squabbled over global warming but ducked a tough stand Sunday as they concluded an historic summit with Russia's full participation for the first time. They prodded Middle East nations to resume peace negotiations and denounced human cloning.

"We have actually made real progress on problems that matter to our people," President Clinton said at a wrap-up news conference, hailing cooperation on everything from economic problems to security threats.

French President Jacques Chirac, unhappy with Clinton's resistance to targets for reducing greenhouse gases, grumbled that the United States was "one of the world's largest polluters." The president of the 15-nation European Commission said he was "frankly disappointed" by the outcome.

The leaders vowed to reinject momentum into the collapsed Middle East peace process but did not specify any action. "I'm willing to do anything I can to keep this peace process from go-

ing awry," said Clinton. He said the leaders of Israel and the states need "to bear down."

Flanked by the leaders of Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Britain, Italy and Japan, Clinton presented the Summit of Eight communique at a closing ceremony at the Denver Public Library. He said "hard work and a spirit of cooperation" prevailed at the three-day meeting.

"We are stronger because we now have Russia as a partner," Clinton said. "The G-8 has become a reality," Boris Yeltsin said.

Commenting on discussions with Chirac, Yeltsin said, "On international relations, we have absolutely the same view. When I speak, it's like I was speaking."

Just nine days before China's takeover of Hong Kong, the leaders urged Beijing to maintain the former British colony's "fundamental freedoms" and to conduct free elections for a new legislature soon.

In his news conference, Clinton said "we do not want to sume the bad faith of the Chinese." He said he expected Beijing would live up to its agreements. He called on Congress to prove "most favored" trade status with China.

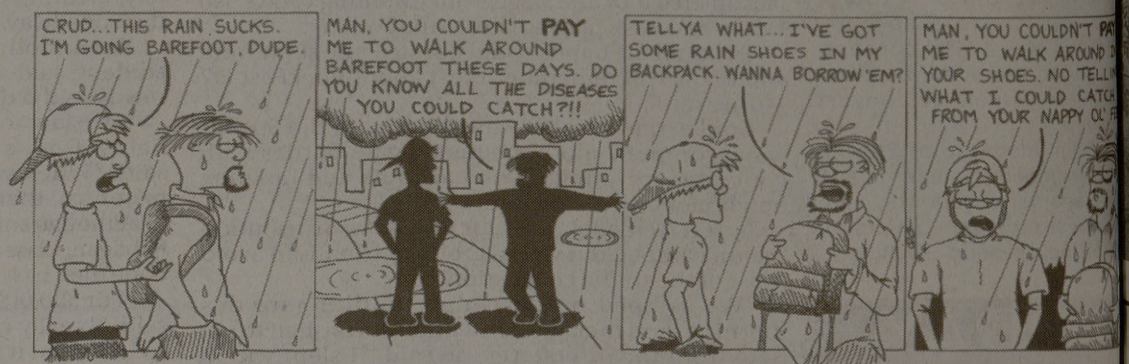


Clinton

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Thunderstorms High: 95° Low: 75°	Thunderstorms High: 94° Low: 75°	Thunderstorms High: 93° Low: 74°

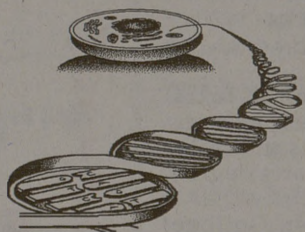
Sketch



By Quattrone

MSC Great Issues presents...

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Presenting Dr. Jim Wild

Head of the Genetics and Biochemistry Departments

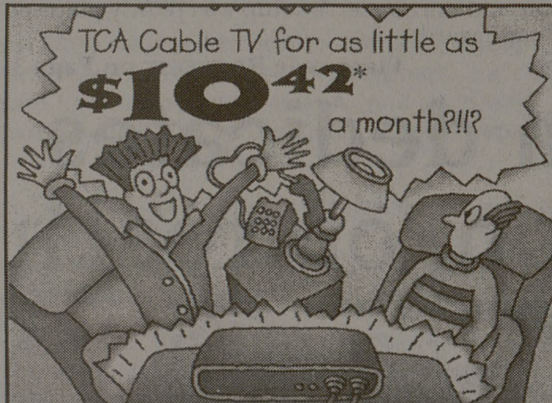
Wednesday, June 25th

4 p.m.

MSC 206

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