



95
75

Today



95
75

Tomorrow

See extended forecast, Page 2.

NEWS BRIEFS

Department head receives award

Robert B. Armstrong, head of the Department of Health and Kinesiology, will receive the Citation Award from the American College of Sports Medicine. Armstrong was given the award for research on the adaptation of skeletal muscle to exercise and the mechanism of exercise-induced muscle injury.

Anchor to speak on newsroom activities

Laura Cornett, a KBTX-TV news anchor, will give the presentation "A Day in the Newsroom with Laura Cornett" at 10:30 a.m. today in Rm. 707 Rudder Tower. The Texas A&M Association of Professional Support Staff is sponsoring the presentation, which is about an average day in the KBTX newsroom.

Resurfacing work start on Hwy 21

More than seven miles of pavement on Texas Hwy 21 in Bryan will be resurfaced beginning July 9. A hot mix overlay will be applied on the surface, road edges will be repaired and pavement markings will be placed on two sections of the road. One section extends from Texas 47 to FM 158, and the other section starts at Texas Avenue and ends five miles east at Wallis Road.

City begins repair work on fire station

Repair work on the new College Station fire station at 304 Hollen Drive began Monday. The repairs on the drainage problems and cracking in the concrete on the front and back drive surfaces will be completed in 30-40 days. The department is at 1207 Texas but will move to the new location in Hollen when the repairs are completed.

Texans to receive federal flood relief

AUSTIN (AP) — Nine Central Texas counties hit hard by recent flooding were designated to receive federal aid Monday after President Clinton issued a major disaster declaration. Texas Gov. George W. Bush had asked for federal relief for 12 counties in the wake of flooding that began June 21. James Witt, director of Federal Emergency Management Agency, said more counties may be designated later based on results of damage assessments. Counties designated by Witt for federal aid Monday are Bandera, Burnet, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kinney, Medina, Real and Uvalde. He also sought aid for Kimble, Mason and Mason counties.

TODAY IN BATTALION

LIFESTYLES

Win' it up in Luckenbach: Students party Willie-style Fourth of July picnic.

See Page 3.

OPINION

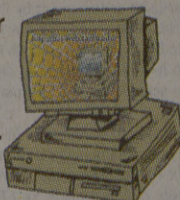
Look for other columns on the Roswell incident and investigation.

See Page 5.

ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Look for other Hopwood stories from the Battalion.



Theft rate on campus declines

BY ROBERT SMITH
THE BATTALION

The number of reported thefts at Texas A&M is the lowest it has been in the last four years.

Theft is now the second most common crime committed at A&M, with liquor violations being the most reported.

The University Police Department said misdemeanor thefts decreased from 537 in 1995 to 446 in 1996. Felony thefts decreased from 17 to 15 during the same period.

Reported vehicle burglaries also decreased, going from 131 in 1995 to 48 in 1996. Vehicle burglaries had steadily increased from 1992 to 1995.

Elmer Schneider, associate director of UPD, said a Texas law change triggered the increase in vehicle burglaries.

"A couple of years ago, the state changed the punishment (vehicle burglary) from a felony to a Class A misdemeanor," Schneider said.

A Class A misdemeanor in Texas is punishable by a fine of up to \$4,000, a jail sentence of up to one year or both.

Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, supervisor of the Crime Preven-

tion Unit at UPD, said most thefts are "opportunity thefts."

"Leaving stuff lying around, not locking doors, not rolling up windows are all examples of opportunity theft," Kretzschmar said.

Kretzschmar said students often leave their backpacks unattended, which gives others a chance for theft.

"The average backpack is worth about \$300," Kretzschmar said. "Students carry books, calculators and research in their backpacks, and they may not realize how valuable that stuff is."

Kretzschmar said students should personalize their valuables so they can be identified if stolen.

"With things like stereos and computers, you should write down the serial number," Kretzschmar said. "With expensive books, go though and write your name inside on some of the pages."

Kretzschmar said photos are also used to identify stolen objects.

"Obviously, you can't write your name on jewelry," Kretzschmar said, "but if you take a picture of something it really helps detectives identify it. Engraving a distinctive mark is also a good way to identify something."

Please see THEFT on Page 6.

Crime at A&M



September - August

	1993	1994	1995	1996
Drug Offenses	9	10	21	21
Harassment	86	76	81	57
Vehicle Burglary	48	79	131	48
Misc. Theft	513	554	573	446
Felony Theft	27	29	17	15
Liquor Violations	445	642	452	589

Source: UPD

GRAPHIC: Tim Moog

Americans seek answers in observance of historic 50th anniversary



The time is midnight. There is a cool breeze blowing through the trees and the soft sounds of nature can be heard echoing in the nighttime silence. Two ordinary people lay under the stars watching the moon's chalky glow illuminate the sky.

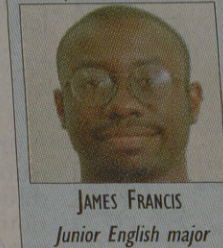
Suddenly, a shadow stretches its dark hand across the pinpoints of light and turns star constellations into a blanket of black haze. The unsuspecting individuals, whose eyes are now fixed to the heavens in wonder, blink to make certain they are not imagining this amazing spectacle. But when they open their eyes, the unidentifiable object has disappeared. These people must now question their sanity, but they are not alone.

America's fascination with the

1947 "occurrence" in Roswell, New Mexico, has reached great heights in its 50th anniversary celebrated on this historic day. Exactly 50 years ago today, the supposed UFO crash in Roswell was denied by area officials investigating the incident. With this half-century, high-profile case coming to pass, the citizens of Roswell and people of the United States must be informed on what really happened those five decades ago.

Please see ROSWELL on Page 5.

Opinion editor



JAMES FRANCIS
Junior English major

GRAPHIC: Stew Milne and Brad Graeber

Judges have unlawfully terminated probation for DWI offenders

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas judges have given hundreds of drunken drivers early breaks from probation despite a state law that forbids the practice, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday.

A legal revision in 1993 was intended to prohibit judges from terminating probation on driving-while-intoxicated cases, according to lawmakers and prosecutors.

But Williamson County First Assistant District Attorney John Bradley, who lectures probation officers throughout Texas about changes in state law, said that judges statewide continue to give early breaks.

"Sometimes the early terminations of DWIs are given because the judges are unaware of changes in the law," Bradley said. "Other times, the probation officers say, the judges do it despite the law."

State District Judge George Godwin, administrative judge for state criminal courts in Harris County, said judges should "follow the law whether we like it or not."

But he added: "A lot of our judges would like to have early termination to use as a carrot" with DWI offenders.

"Sometimes the early terminations of DWIs are given because the judges are unaware of changes in the law."

John Bradley
First Assistant District Attorney
Williamson County

Probation records examined by the Chronicle show that Harris County felony courts alone granted early termination to nearly 50 defendants convicted of felony DWI after the effective date of the law.

Drunken drivers can be charged with a felony for a third intoxication-related offense.

Some DWI defendants served two years or less on three- to five-year probation sentences, according to the records from the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

In misdemeanor courts, hundreds of DWI defendants got early termination, some serving only months of one- to two-year probation sentences, the records show.

"It's pretty specific that termination of community supervision is not to occur for DWIs, and yet it appears in every court we have looked at," said Harris County First Assistant District Attorney Don Stricklin.

Prosecutors plan to study the early termination cases and possibly file motions to require defendants to serve the remainder of their probation, Stricklin said.

Judges said some early terminations were prompted by a defendant's death, disability, deportation or imprisonment on other charges.

University sanctions for drunken drivers stand until completed

BY JENARA KOCKS
THE BATTALION

Students arrested for driving while intoxicated on campus can face disciplinary sanctions for breaking Texas A&M University rules in addition to penalties for misdemeanor or felony charges by the state.

Although at the state level, according to Monday's Houston Chronicle story, some Texas judges have been terminating the probation of offenders early, A&M students are not released early from such University disciplinary sanctions as expulsion, conduct probation and educational requirements put on them by the University.

Ann Goodman, assistant director in the Department of Student Life at A&M, said the University's system does not parallel the Texas court system. She said that once a student is given a sanction, the punishment must be completed.

Please see SANCTIONS on Page 6.

Minority enrollment at UT law school decreases in wake of Hopwood decision

DALLAS (AP) — Ron Kirk has no problem looking past race. As Dallas' first black mayor, he routinely notes that he represents all ethnic groups in city affairs.

Race, however, has become a big deal for Kirk and others who are finding it difficult to accept a court ruling that apparently will leave the University of Texas law school with its smallest minority enrollment since the 1970s.

"I find it incomprehensible that in less than 40 years, we would go from the state of Texas saying that you cannot come to our law school for the sole reason of the color of your skin ... from that type of sanctioned discrimination to saying we won't even take into account race to address that evil and legally sanctioned practice of apartheid and segregation in the South," said Kirk, who attended the Texas law school from 1976 to 1979.

The slap that shook Kirk was delivered by

a federal appeals court ruling that abolished the use of race as a factor in deciding who should get into school.

In the case named after lead plaintiff Cheryl Hopwood, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the University of Texas School of Law's admissions policy, which was meant to boost enrollment of blacks and Mexican-Americans.

The appeals court said the policy discriminated against whites, and the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the ruling.

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales issued an opinion after the ruling stating that no Texas college or university can use race in admissions and financial aid decisions unless the Legislature determines that there are remaining effects of past discrimination.

In the first year since the Hopwood decision,

state schools, particularly professional schools, have seen a decline in minority applicants and acceptances.

At first, it looked like Malcolm Lavergne of Houston would be the only black student enrolling in law school at Texas this fall. Lavergne changed his mind in May when he learned no other blacks had been accepted, and decided to attend Cornell University Law School.

Since then, three blacks and 20 Hispanics have put down deposits at UT law, consistently ranked as one of the top schools in the nation.

Traditionally, however, about 30 to 40 blacks and 50 to 65 Hispanics have been in the class of about 500 new students at the school each fall.

In contrast is the picture at the University of Houston law school, where the admissions

committee went through a painstaking new process to pick its fall class.

The school, which once accepted most students based largely on an index score combining their grade point averages and scores on the Law School Admission Test, overhauled the system to consider factors such as hardships potential students had to overcome and leadership qualities.

As in some state graduate programs, the undergraduate student body entering state schools this fall will be made up of fewer blacks and Hispanics than usual.

At Texas A&M, 745 blacks were offered admission, down from 793 in the fall of 1996, a 6 percent decline. The school accepted 1,846 Hispanics, down from 2,215 in 1996, a 17 percent falloff. Meanwhile, 11,231 whites were admitted, down from 12,776 — a 12 percent decline.