

Military aid urged in crash search

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Washington's top anti-drug official pushed for increased military aid yesterday to counter rebels in Colombia, where rescuers tried to reach what might be the wreckage of a U.S. spy plane lost on an anti-narcotics mission.

Barry McCaffrey said peace talks to end the nation's 35-year conflict would only work if Colombia's security forces were strengthened against the threat of "narcoguerrillas."

"The United States has paid in-

adequate attention to a serious and growing emergency," he told reporters after meeting with President Andres Pastrana. McCaffrey also asked for more U.S. battle helicopters and training for Colombian military and police units.

The missing de Havilland RC-7 plane, packed with sophisticated radar and eavesdropping equipment, apparently slammed into an uncharted mountain in bad weather, likely killing the five American soldiers and two Colombian air force officers on

board, McCaffrey said. It was reported missing Friday.

Yesterday, officials at the El Paso Army base Fort Bliss, where the missing Americans have been stationed, told the Associated Press they knew the soldiers' names but had been told by the Pentagon not to release them.

The base set up a crisis center in a conference room to help the missing soldiers' families, keeping them updated on the search and providing counseling services, base spokesperson Jean Offutt said.

News in Brief

Grad student given entomology award

Jarrad Prasifka was awarded the Perry L. Adkisson graduate assistantship in integrated pest management (IPM) at Texas A&M University.

The assistantship sponsors graduate training in support of IPM principles. Candidates must have a record of outstanding scholarship within the Department of Entomology and are expected to teach as teaching assistants in the department.

Prasifka, a doctoral student within the department, is currently researching biological control programs in cotton.

Volunteers sought for residence life

The Department of Residence Life is seeking volunteers to help staff "headquarters tents" on the north and south sides of campus during freshman check-in day, Aug. 25.

The tents will serve as the first volunteer check-in point and as a location for general assistance or questions about the check-in volunteer effort.

The department will have a tent on the north side of campus, facing the lawn in front of Sbis, and another tent on the south side, facing the Quadrangle area, operating from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Contact the director of Residence Life by Friday if interested.

Judge admits tapes in Cisneros lawsuit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Henry Cisneros' own words may be used against him at his upcoming conspiracy trial, a federal judge said yesterday in a ruling that permits prosecutors to use 22 tape recordings secretly made by the former Housing secretary's ex-mistress.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin rejected the defense's full-court press to throw out the recordings, which captured conversations where Cisneros and Linda Jones discussed his "hush money" payments to her.

Sporkin's ruling had been expected, presaged by comments he made during a 13-day hearing on the tapes' admissibility.

"Based on its assessment of the tapes, transcripts and the entire record made in this case, the court finds that the vast majority of the tapes contain reliable and accurate representations of the conversations that occurred between [Jones] and Cisneros between April 1990 and December 1993," the judge wrote, settling the last major issue remaining before Cisneros' September trial on conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges.



CISNEROS

Independent counsel David Barrett's prosecutors did not get all they were asking for, however.

While Sporkin is allowing the use of 22 tapes in their entirety, he is permitting the government to use only snippets of four other tapes that prosecutors were pressing to enter into evidence, saying the four bear signs suggesting some passages were heavily edited.

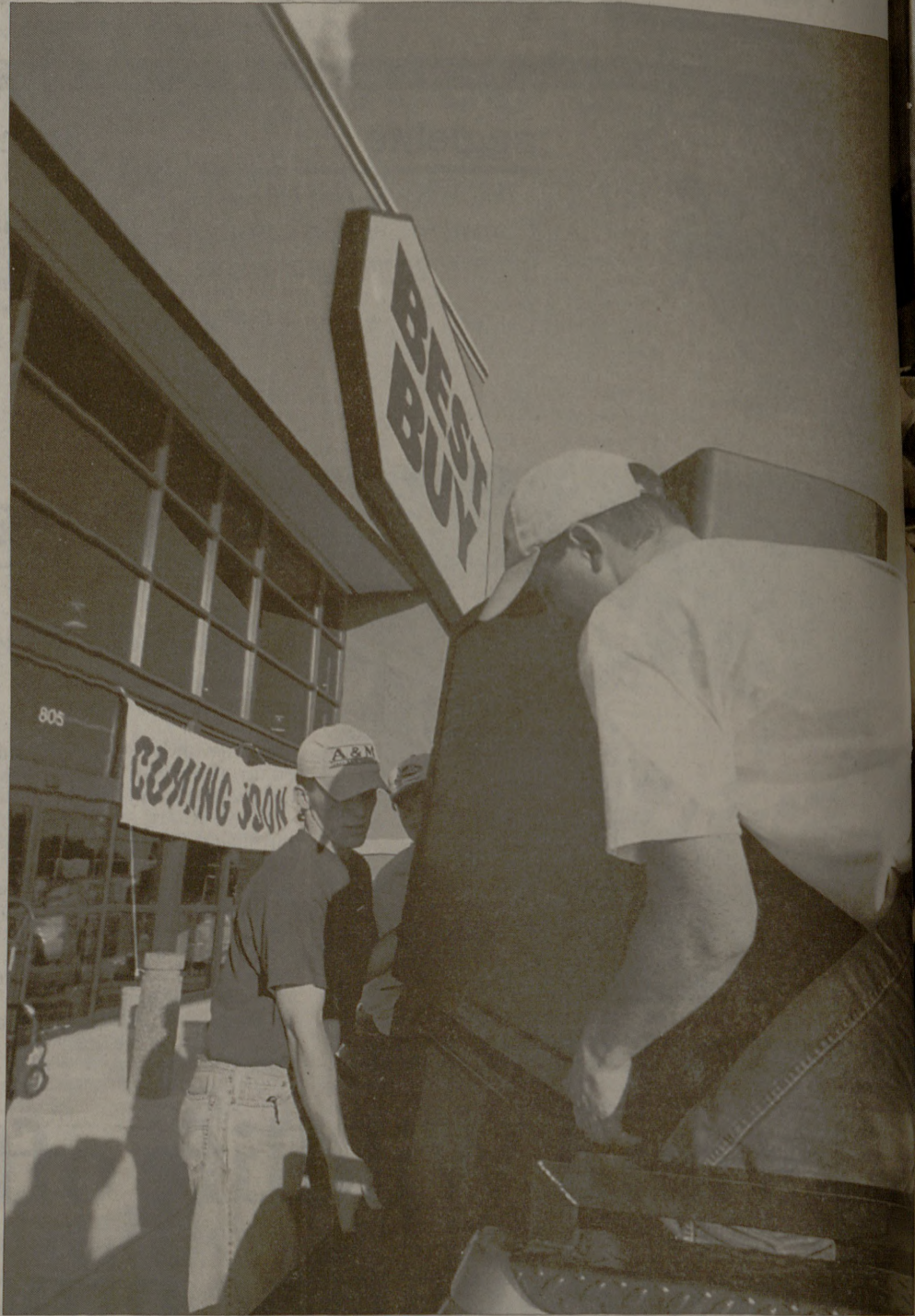
"Certain portions of these tapes contain noticeable breaks in the recording and flow of the conversation that indicate obvious alteration," Sporkin wrote.

During four days on the witness stand, Jones testified that she may have edited as many as 10 of the 88 tapes she recorded of her phone conversations with Cisneros and later turned over to federal investigators.

She said she feared legal repercussions if she did not scrub the recordings to delete passages where she threatened to expose her financial arrangement with Cisneros if the money flow stopped. She also said she removed some sexually suggestive passages and those dealing with uninvolved parties.

There was no immediate reaction on the judge's ruling from Barrett's office or Cisneros' team, both of which refrained from public comment during the pre-trial hearing.

Screen savers



Best Buy employees Jeff Keith (from left), Bric Milliom and Joel Scott unload a big-screen television at the new Best Buy location on Texas Avenue Monday. The store will open its doors early this fall.

DIVERSITY

Continued from Page 1

She said much of the misunderstanding came from underserved bad press about the department after incidents involving the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference.

"The program is currently working with many people and organizations on campus such as Student Body President Will Hurd, the Office of Admissions Counsel-

ing and the Association of Former Students in hopes of developing a stronger link than ever before between the department and the student body this upcoming fall," she said.

Sandra Medina, communications coordinator for the Department of Multicultural Services and faculty sponsor for the Multicultural Ambassadors program, said the program welcomes anyone who wants to find out more about diversity issues and wants to help facilitate diversity on campus.

"The program offers the students the unique opportunity to develop public speaking skills and contacts that will benefit them later in life," Medina said.

Cyrus said the program has offered many students involved the opportunity to meet many influential people and to actually make a difference on campus.

"You hear a lot of people complaining that there is not enough diversity on campus," she said. "This lets you actually do something about it."

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