Airline holds up New York Times; Clouds not completely responsible

BY DOUG McNEAL
Thresher Reporter

Why doesn’t the New York Times arrive in Houston on the day of publication? According to Eddie Cloud, the head of Cloud Distributing Company, which supplies the Campus Store, there are “lots of causes.”

Although, ten years ago, the paper used to arrive in Houston at 4 am every morning, now it arrives any time between 5 am in the morning and 8 pm at night.

The newspaper is flown to Houston from New York every day by Eastern Airlines. During the winter, the weather may affect the departure of the plane; year-round there is the chance that a mechanical flaw will delay the plane.

In addition, there is the load factor: passengers, mail, and baggage have priority over freight, so the newspapers “are about fourth or fifth in line.” Even if it gets out of New York on time, the paper may be “bumped” at the stop-over in Atlanta.

Finally, there is the problem of labor; the truck drivers in New York may neglect their duty, or the paper may be dropped at the wrong place in Houston.

Other troubles are inherent in the constantly changing airline schedules; within the past four weeks, the schedule arrival time has been constantly changed. Even the airline people “never know how it’s going to be.”

Cloud pointed out that people from both NASA and a big steel company in town have tried to remedy the situation, but “they couldn’t move the ball.”