

Top of the News

Campus

AGGIE PARENTS OF THE YEAR applications are available in the Student Programs Office, MSC 216, and are being accepted now through March 25.

PHI DELTA GAMMA national graduate honor society is accepting nominations for its Outstanding Young Woman of Brazos County Award. Nominees should be aged 21-35 and recommended on the basis of community service, occupational achievements or other outstanding accomplishments. Nominees should be forwarded with a resume to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M by April 1.

THE JERRY LEWIS Muscular Dystrophy Bowl-A-Thon for the Bryan-College Station area will be held April 2 and 3 at the MSC bowling lanes. Registration is from March 21 to March 30. The registration center location will be posted around the campus during these two weeks.

There will be a \$1.50 registration fee. Bowling begins at 2 p.m. Saturday and will continue all night until 6 a.m. Sunday.

This year's Bowl-A-Thon is sponsored by the Texas A&M University chapter of Alpha Phi Omega. For more information contact James Carson, 845-4388, Doug Boom, 845-1358, or Greg Krause, 845-7756. Information is also available at the APO cubicle in the Student Programs Office.

Texas

NO ACTION will be taken by the House Education Committee on any legislation until it disposes of a complex \$656.7 million school bill, according to the committee's chairman. At the first negotiating session, the committee approved an amendment designed to reduce the amount of money the bill channels into a property tax relief program. That money, \$17 million, would be allocated to reduce the pupil-teacher ratios in kindergarten through third grade levels.

WHEAT STRAW is a feasible energy source for power plants in wheat-growing areas, according to a study conducted by Kansas State University engineers. Based on a field study at the Pratt, Kan., municipal power plant, the engineers are recommending that Pratt switch its fuel source from natural gas to a combination of 80 per cent coal and 20 per cent wheat straw.

National

A POSSIBLE PLOT to plant a fake gold bar in White Sands, N.M. area being searched for the fabled Victoria Peak gold treasure was reported today by the FBI. Officials said the bar, thought to be made of lead with a gold colored cover, had not been located. They said, however, the information provided them was of a specific nature, linking two men to the alleged effort to halt the search on the White Sands Missile Range.

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Bill to help juries set punishment

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Senate tentatively has endorsed a bill to let juries know exactly how much time a convict would spend in jail.

The bill, introduced by Sen. Bill Meier, D-Eules, and endorsed by Gov. Dolph Briscoe, would require judges to explain the parole and "good time" credit systems that may reduce convicts' sentences.

"It requires the judge to give an instruction so the jury will know what amount of time the person will likely spend in the penitentiary," Meier said. "The jury could act without what is currently a blindfold on the jury."

That bill and another measure introduced by Meier tentatively were approved yesterday. The second bill would require more supervision of ex-convicts after their release. Meier said he expected both bills to be given final approval today.

Present laws prohibit attorneys and judges from telling juries a convicted criminal becomes eligible for parole after serving one-third of his sentence or 20 years, whichever is less.

It also may not be mentioned that the convict may shorten his prison time still further — and cut the one third in half — by earning good time credits.

Meier said the bill was a significant step toward letting juries realistically determine punishments.

Meier's other bill prohibits judges and juries from releasing some criminals on probation, requires harsher sentences for persons convicted of crimes involving a gun and creates a system of mandatory supervision for ex-convicts.

The bill would also encourage some suspects — in cases involving murder, aggravated kidnaping,

rape, sexual abuse and robbery — to plead guilty.

Any criminal convicted of using a gun or other deadly weapon in such a crime would have to serve one-third of the calendar time of his sentence before he could be considered for parole.

Mandatory supervision provisions of the bill would give the State Board of Pardons and Paroles continuing authority over convicts who earn early release from prison for good conduct.

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Engineers set course

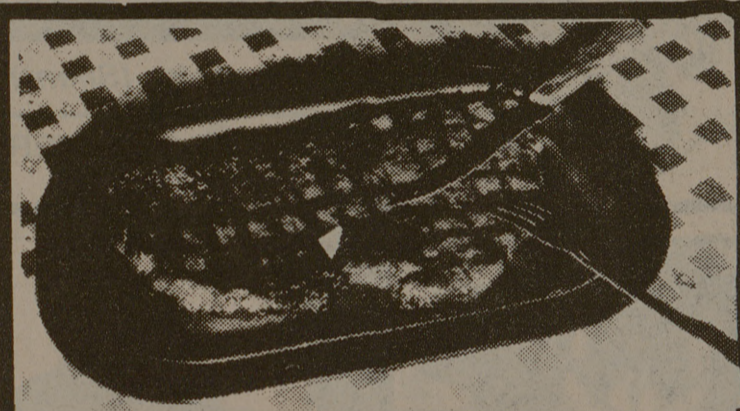
Texas A&M University plans to host two marine conferences and a dredging shortcourse this year—the 25th Annual American Society of Civil Engineers Hydraulics Specialty Conference, the Second International Symposium on Dredging Technology and the Fifth Dredging Shortcourse.

The specialty conference, "Hydraulics of the Coastal Zone," co-sponsored by A&M's civil engineering department and the Hydraulics Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers, is scheduled for Aug. 10-12.

Robert E. Schiller, Jr., conference chairman and professor of civil engineering at A&M, said sessions will include presentations on hydraulics, groundwater, hydromechanics and hydraulic structures.

The Second Symposium on Dredging Technology, co-sponsored by the Center for Dredging Studies, A&M and the British Hydromechanics Research Association at Cranfield, England, will be held Nov. 2-4.

The Fifth Dredging Shortcourse, sponsored by the Center for Dredging Studies, will be held Nov. 7-11.

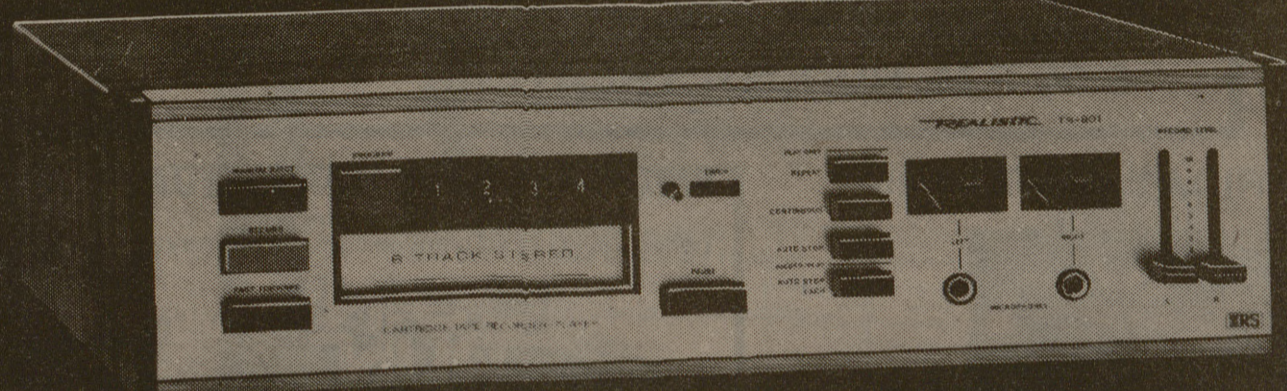


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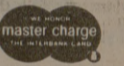


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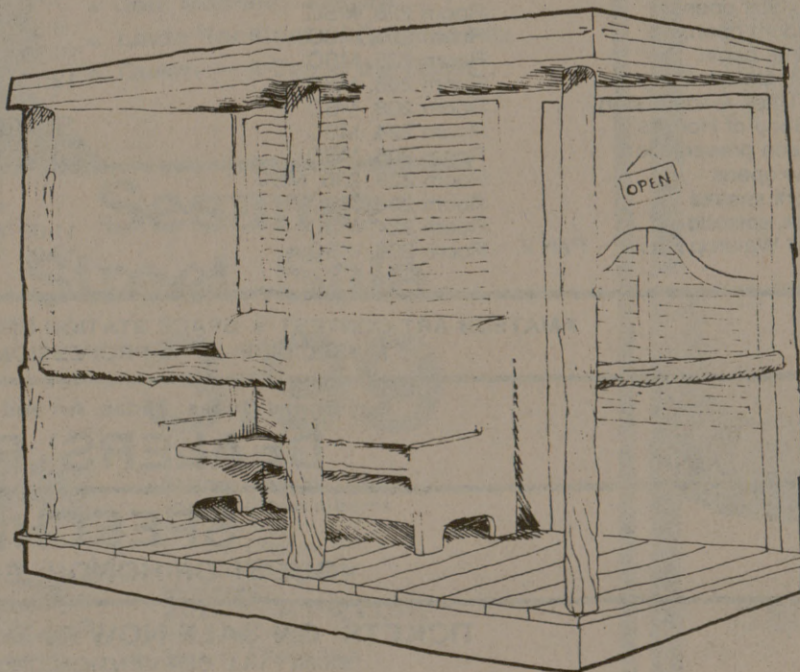
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