

# what's up

Monday

**YELL LEADERS, ALL UNIVERSITY NIGHT:** Coach Wilson and the football team will be announced, followed by a yell practice at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

**THEATER ARTS TRYOUTS:** Tryouts for the first play of the year, "Happy Birthday, Wanda June," will be held in the Forum from 8 to 9 p.m.

**GRADUATING SENIORS:** Graduating seniors may order graduation announcements today through September 28 in Room 217, MSC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday

**DISCO ASSOCIATION OF A&M:** There will be a fall organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in Room 402, Rudder Tower.

**AGGIE CINEMA:** "Fiddler on the Roof," will be shown at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

**THEATER ARTS TRYOUTS:** Tryouts for the first play of the year, "Happy Birthday, Wanda June," will be held in the Forum from 7 to 8 p.m.

**SILVER TAPS:** Silver taps, to honor six Texas A&M University students who have died since Aggie Muster in April, will be held at 10:30 p.m. on the mall in front of the Academic Building.

Wednesday

**CAMPUS SCOUTS:** The Campus Scouts is an organization for all persons who believe in the scouting ideals and want to keep in touch with other scouts. There will be a meeting at 9 p.m. in Room 308, Rudder Tower for all members and interested prospects. There will be outings planned. For more information, call Vince at 845-5957.

**DEADLINE:** Today is the last day to enroll for fall classes.

**HILLEL CLUB:** There will be a Hillel picnic at the Hillel Foundation Building on Jersey St.

## Battlefield located by A&M scientists

Four cannonballs and dozens of smaller pieces of ammunition unearthed near Brownsville have convinced Texas A&M University scientists they have pinpointed artillery positions from the Battle of Palo Alto, first skirmish of the Mexican-American War.

If their calculations prove correct, Texas A&M researchers could save taxpayers thousands of dollars by enabling the National Parks Service to buy only the land it needs to establish the boundaries of the national historical site.

No previous study has located the battlefield so accurately, said research scientist Clell Bond of Texas A&M's interdisciplinary Cultural Resources Laboratory.

Bond believes the current cache of artifacts excavated from six inches of topsoil is probably the Mexican battle line, where field pieces from the 6,000-man Mexican army and 2,000-troop American force dueled in the hot sun on May 8, 1846, signaling the opening of two years of formal hostilities.

Bond said the field work near Los Fresnos northeast of Brownsville also uncovered part of what may be a cannon and a number of personal articles from the same time period, but it is not yet known if the buttons

and bottles are directly related to the battle.

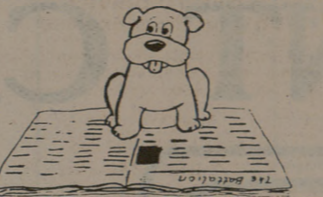
He explained that the excavation has shown that the site of the battle lines are not where they were previously thought to be, and that a 20th century monument commemorating the engagement is actually closer to the site than most people had believed.

The artifacts will be returned to the National Parks Service after analysis here.

The Cultural Resources Laboratory at Texas A&M is a service available to university scientists and to the off-campus sector.

Other researchers at the lab are working on a project to raise a 115-year-old Confederate ironclad from the harbor channel in Savannah, Ga.

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## New method to identify cancer

# Test animals can be spared with new testing techniques

Results from a Texas A&M University cancer study of several pesticides and other chemicals support the idea that cell cultures in petri dishes can be as effective in identifying carcinogens as lab animals.

Microbiologist Dr. John Quarles said the advantage of such an approach are speed (results in 10-21 days compared to months or years for animal tests) and the sparing of countless test animals for other research.

Quarles explained that of 13,000 cell cultures in a control group not exposed to suspected cancer-causing chemicals, not a single culture showed cell transformation regarded as a bellwether of cancerous activity.

But of over 37,000 cultures exposed variously to more than a dozen chemicals, all showed some transformation even at low levels. The results may have more significance than medical researchers had previously thought.

Findings from the 37,000 cultures also correlated well with results garnered from test animals exposed to the chemically treated cell cultures, noted Quarles. The study was carried out in cooperation with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the National Cancer Institute.

"Although the correlation was not 100 percent because this method is still experimental," he remarked, "the results showed that growth in agar (a medium for cell cultures) can be a useful aid in screening for transformation to cancer-causing activity."

Quarles also said that in such cell culture techniques, scientists

shouldn't discount low rates of cell transformation as insignificant.

"In this study, two known carcinogens yielded rates of less than 1 percent," he explained.

Of three nitroso pesticides tested — nitrosocarbaryl, nitrosomethyl and nitrosolandrin — all three were found to cause cell transformation that leads to cancer, but only one of the "parent" chemicals (those without nitroso compounds) indicated some transforming activity on its own. That was landrin, said Quarles.

Quarles expressed hopes that the more exacting and more controlled

cell culture method might even help improve on current cancer testing techniques.

A blue ribbon White House committee on environmental quality reported last week that more than 100,000 Americans die each year from on-the-job exposure to chemicals and that prolonged exposure contributes heavily to the nation's cancer rate, sometimes as much as 38 percent.

The panel also warned that no dose of a chemical that causes cancer — no matter how small — can be considered a safe level.

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**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Cooperative Education in the College of Liberal Arts has a half-time position open at the Bridgehouse in Bryan. The salary is \$3 per hour. For more information about this position, please contact Henry D. Pope or Susanah Clary at 845-7814...115

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