

# Local / State

## Senior will represent A&M at Cotton Bowl

By JENNIFER CARR

**Battalion Reporter**  
Jane Prior, a senior marketing major from Dallas, has been chosen to represent Texas A&M University at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas Jan. 1.

Prior said she applied because a friend who works in the Student Activities office told her they weren't looking for a beauty queen, they just wanted someone who was enthusiastic about Texas A&M.

"I'd like to... show what kind of traditions we have and try and portray the school in the best manner I can," Prior said. "I feel very strong about the traditions as well as the academic standing of A&M."

Prior was one of 40 applicants for the position of Cotton Bowl representative.

Other Southwest Conference schools will be represented by their homecoming queens. The Cotton Bowl Queen will be the homecoming queen of the University of Texas.



Jane Prior

Prior will represent the University at a series of parties and luncheons during her all-expense-paid weekend in Dallas. She will ride on a float in the Cotton Bowl Parade and be presented during the halftime show.

In addition to being Texas A&M's Cotton Bowl representative, Prior is active in Fish Camp, an annual orientation session sponsored by the Student Y; is the president of Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society; and is a member of Cap and Gown, the senior honor society.

The University of Texas will play the University of Alabama in the Cotton Bowl. The game will start at noon.

## Economic benefits debated

### Prison divides Navasota

By TERRI COULSON

**Battalion Reporter**  
Duane Prestwood and Robert Nemir have much in common.

Both are natives of Navasota, own local businesses and both want the best for their community.

But one thing they don't have in common is the opinion they hold of the prison being built in their county.

Last November's purchase of a 689-acre tract five miles south of Navasota for use as the site of a 1,000-inmate prison facility has touched off a wave of controversy.

Efforts by Navasota residents to stop construction of the facility failed when a state district judge ruled in March that the prison system could proceed with construction.

Now the citizens of Navasota must adjust to the prison.

Prestwood, owner of Oberkamp's Drug Store, opposes the prison because he doesn't think it will do anything for the community.

But, since the fight is over and the prison walls are going up, "all that we can do now is keep the powder dry, be vigilant and pray and hope nothing adverse happens," Prestwood said.

"Those of us who are against the prison will resist any enlargement that will remove more land from the tax rolls," he said. The tax-exempt site has already decreased land taxes \$2,432.50 annually.

"Any change bringing more prisoners into the area will also be a thought," Prestwood said. "Our control is limited, if we really have any to speak of at all."

On the other hand, Nemir, owner of P. Nemir Dry Goods, sees the prison as an industry.

"The economic reasons are manifest," he said. "The payroll and the employment potential are real. There is the potential for cooperative effort between the Texas Department of Corrections and Navasota for progress of the town."

Nemir pointed out that surrounding counties have state-aided institutions.

"Washington County has its state school, Waller County has Fairie View A&M, Brazos County has Texas A&M and Walker

bear the burden? It has to go somewhere, and we have the place for it here."

Betty Jane Burlin, the Navasota real estate agent who sold the prison property to the state, said the prison will help the economy. It will not keep people from moving into the area or hurt the value of surrounding property, she said.

"I've sold three places within a two-mile radius of the prison site for a lot more than I sold the prison property for," she said.

However, another Navasota real estate agent disagrees.

"Navasota is an up-and-coming community," John Milligan said. "And people from Houston (moving into the area) are not going to want to live next to a prison."

At present, Milligan doesn't know of anyone moving away because of the prison, but he said the prison will hurt further growth.

## Europe Club a foreign forum

By JOHN BRAMBLETT

**Battalion Reporter**  
Representatives from 22 countries gather together each week to eat, drink and be merry — and to talk about Europe.

The 70-member Europe Club comprises Texas A&M students whose homes are in Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and Australia. They have met every Wednesday night since 1977 at Mr. Gatti's, located at the corner of University Drive and South College Avenue.

Members mix business with pleasure, said President Ulrich Trebus, a doctoral student in statistics from West Germany. "We meet here every Wednesday,

doing business, drinking beer and eating pizza," he said.

John Todorovic, club secretary-treasurer, said, "Our philosophy for membership in the Europe Club is if you are European, have been to Europe, want to travel to Europe or are interested in meeting different people, you are welcome."

On Friday nights a different member of the club hosts language tables at his house, Todorovic said. Language tables are informal get-togethers where a different language is spoken, he said.

"We've had French and German this semester and next semester we are planning on Slavic and Spanish," he said.

On Dec. 2, club members recognized Mr. Gatti's and its owner Ron Smestuen for special support and hospitality towards the club.

"Letting the Europe Club have their meetings here started in the interest of business, but it became more than that," Smestuen said.

"They've reminded us that hospitality is a way of life."

Liubov Diangar, a genetics student from the Soviet Union, said the opportunity to meet people from different countries and discuss different problems and cultures is what makes the club worthwhile.

## Task force fights oilfield crimes

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — The head of a special task force on theft of oilfield equipment said a new state organization to combat the \$100 million annual problem will be established within the next year.

The organization will compile data on stolen oilfield equipment around the state and will handle an oilfield-theft telephone line where companies can report crimes, said Gene Wright, an independent Texas oilman.

The organization will have a first-year budget of \$200,000, Wright said, and will require several months to hire its four or five staff members.

"You can sort of compare it to

the Texas and Southwest Cattle-men's Associations, which handle cow theft in Texas," Wright said. "Now when you have something stolen, you go to a sheriff and he may or may not have enough people available to help you. This way we'll be tackling the problem head on."

Wright announced the formation of the organization after a press conference at the Dallas Convention Center, where the World Oil and Gas Show begins Monday.

Officials estimate nationwide oilfield thefts cost the industry up to \$200 million. Thefts in Texas account for at least half that amount.

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