

What's Up at Texas A&M

Tuesday

MSC BASEMENT: Meeting in "Rumors" at 7 p.m. to discuss upcoming shows.
TAMU STUDENT DIETETIC ASSOCIATION: Planning and Business meeting at 6:30 p.m. in 126 Kleberg.
CHI ALPHA: Meeting in the All Faiths Chapel at 7 p.m. for prayer, planning and Bible teaching.
TAMU ASSOCIATION OF MARTIAL ARTS: Demonstrations on Jan. 18, 19, 20 and 21 at 267 East Kyle at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

NATIONAL AGRI-MARKETING ASSOCIATION: Meeting to discuss seminar and trip to Denver at 8:00 p.m. in Kleberg Lounge.
SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS: Meeting to work on conference at 7:30 p.m. in 103 Zachry.
TAMU POLO CLUB: Mandatory meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the

Animal Industries Building.
OCA: Meeting at 6:30 p.m. for the Apartment President, Officers, and Comm. Chairmen in the OCA Cubicle.
MSC OPERA AND PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY: Simon Sargon's Rigoletto Operalogue at 7:30 p.m. in the Theater. Admission: \$1.00.
HILLEL CLUB: Welcome back - wine and cheese party at 7:30 p.m. in the Jewish Student Center.

Thursday

SURF CLUB: Surfing Movie "We Got Surf" by Hal Jepsen will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Heldenfels Bldg. Filmed in Calif., Hawaii, Bali-Bata, and some new footage.
CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Everyone welcome in 105 Harrington Classroom Complex.
MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE: Movie "Dragon Slayer" at 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

Worse weather predicted in March

United Press International "Astrometeorologist" Joseph Goodavage, who predicted in 1978 that this winter would be one of the coldest and deadliest on record, says the worst is yet to come — in March.
 Goodavage, whose weather forecasts are based on the activ-

ity of the sun and planets, said in a 1978 interview with the Detroit Free Press that the winter of 1981-82 would be one of the worst on record and produce more than 200 weather-related deaths in the United States. The death toll has already far ex-

ceeded 200.
 In a followup interview published Sunday, Goodavage, who is also a science writer and the author of "Our Threatened Planet," had more bad news, saying even worse weather is on the way.

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Company trying to cap leaking natural gas well

United Press International ALLISON — In the remote Texas Panhandle, a huge crater filled with choppy, cold water surrounds a well spewing a hazy cloud of natural gas into the sky, as more than two dozen earthmovers attempt to dig 150 feet into the ground to stop its flow.
 The well, which blew out Nov. 3 approximately 8 miles southeast of Allison, has been releasing more than 20 million cubic feet of gas per day over the sparsely populated countryside.
 Some involved in the process have estimated the expense of the massive digging and capping effort at approximately a half-million dollars a day. A spokesman for Apache Corp., which is responsible for the well, declined to estimate the cost but said the expense was covered by a well control insurance policy.
 Officials in Apache Corp.'s Minneapolis, Minn., office say the well, which initially blew out Oct. 4 but was recovered a month later, began releasing "an uncontrolled flow of gas from the wellhead."
 Workers and area residents tell a different story.
 "The pumper was driving off after checking the well and finding it had 11,000 pounds of pressure," said Orville Carter, who has a construction firm at nearby Canadian.
 "He heard an explosion and turned around to see the Christmas tree and the pipe shooting hundreds of feet into the air."
 The pipe and Christmas tree — pipes and valves fitted onto the wellhead to control gas flow and prevent a blowout — fell back into a virtual crater the explosion cut into the earth.
 Now heavy equipment operators are digging day and night in efforts to relocate the top of the pipe releasing gas from the well.
 A Woodward, Okla., well servicing firm, Cudd Pressure Control, is in charge of the dangerous operation to literally dig out the well hole. Although workers say chances of the well igniting are remote, highly flammable gas hangs over the work area.
 Bob Cudd, who supervises

the operation for Apache, declined to comment on the well blowout except to say: "Apache is doing everything humanly possible to get this well under control."
 Although 150 feet is an estimate, no one knows how far heavy equipment operators will have to dig before the pipe is unearthed enough for Cudd's crews to cap the bellowing well. The Christmas tree and additional pipe were found at about 80 feet beneath the earth's surface. So far workers have dug more than 100 feet.
 The well sits about 500 feet from a county road, where passersby pause to take photographs and watch the massive digging operation.
 After two months of digging, workers have created a huge hole resembling a dry lake bed. The well crater, filled with water oozing in from beneath the ground, is bound by a 10-foot-high, man-made dirt fence within the huge hole.
 Apache spokeswoman Betty Watson in Minneapolis said the company hopes the well can be put back into operation, but another well is being drilled near the blowout site to be used as a relief well if needed.
 Parker Drilling Co. of Tulsa is drilling the relief well, which workers say will be used to offset the immense pressure forcing gas from the blown well.
 Parker spokeswoman Susan Dornblaser said Parker had the drilling operation listed as "a confidential project" for Apache and could not release information on its activities. Apache, a well operating company, does not have a drilling operation.
 Each load of dirt from the hole is dumped atop a huge mound growing daily near the crater. Semi-tractor trailers haul thousands of gallons of water daily pumped from the smaller crater where the gas spews into the air. Bulldozer laboriously pull the multi-ton trucks up the steep embankment for dumping.
 The feverish digging, the unending water pumping and hauling process, and hardhatted

workers' plans to go into the hole and cap the high pressure well are all part of a "unique operation" for which no time limit can be set, one man at the site said.
 "They can't get to the casing so they just have to dig down until they find it," he said. "This

is dangerous. This has never been done before."
 And, he said, the dangers are part of the job.
 "This is a different breed of person out here in the oil field," he said. "They do things that are dangerous to the rest of us and they don't see it that way."

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Houston Chronicle



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is now accepting applications for

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