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Wednesday

-OP STUDENT ASSOCIATION: General meeting. The speaker will be Dr. Bill Adams and summer officers will be exceed in 504 Rudder at 7:30 p.m.

SCOPAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Group meets for Holy Eucharist and Supper at 5:30 p.m. at the Canterbury louse, 902 Jersey St

y thing m bury them RADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL: Meeting to be held at 4 o,m. in the MSC Council Room

SC OUTDOOR RECREATION: Three canoeing films fea-ured in meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

Thursday

MPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: A meeting will be held at p.m. in 308 Rudder

ERRA CLUB:Dr. Carls will discuss controversies over off-road vehicles on Cape Cod National Seashore at 7:30 p.m. in the Brazos Valley Museum, Brazos Center.

EXAS A&M ICE HOCKEY: A meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on the sixth floor of the campus library to discuss summer activities and fund raising.

Friday

ISCOPAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Group meets for loly Eucharist and breakfast at 6:30 a.m. at the Canterbury House, 902 Jersey St.

Worker says offshore industry needs safety

United Press International NEW ORLEANS — Workers ering the offshore oil indusface the same risks as soldiers ning into battle, a 20-year ran diver told a congressionbcommittee.

"It's like open warfare out e," Ed White told the House committee on manpower housing Monday. "The alty rates are high."

White, a San Francisco diver works offshore for oil comnies, was among several wit-sses who testified on the safety the industry.

Barry White, director of safe standards for the federal called the inistration. shore oil industry extremely ardous. However, he said, nflicting statistics on casualties tions. They also ade it difficult to make exact training programs

comparisons with other indus-

High turnover for offshore workers probably accounts for many of the industry's safety problems, White said. Workers with less than six months of experience have an "incredibly reater likelihood of an accident." he said.

In a written statement, White said the number of serious injuries resulting in lost work per 100 fulltime workers was 6.6 offshore in 1980. That compares with 3.9 for other American industries.

Conversely, oil industry officials said they were proud of upation Safety and Health their safety records considering the dangerous offshore environment and saw no need for additional government regulations. They also praised new

Aggie businessman wins state awards

by Colette Hutchings

Battalion Staff Ben Hardeman is another example of an Aggie who's made good

Hardeman, 36, and presi-dent of the Bryan-based OMC Industries, which makes bronze and aluminum awards and castings used in the oil industry, was recently named Small Businessmen of the Year for Texas by the U.S. Small Business Administration. He also won the regional title in the National Small Business Person of the Year Award competion.

A Class of '68 graduate in industrial distribution, Harde-man's company started in 1967 when the industrial education club wanted to produce cast metal nameplates for a moneyraising product.

Hardeman secured orders for 30 nameplates and was later asked by the executive vice-president of the Texas Aggie Club, John Hopkins, to make 750 plaques for Outstanding Aggie Club members. With Hopkins' help and a \$1,000 loan for the project, the business was born.

Since his father taught industrial education at Texas A&M for several years and Hardeman made aluminum castings while in junior high school, Hardeman said he had an interest in metal works even before college

509 University Dr

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At first OrnaMetal Castings he'll stick with the management was a sole proprietorship which produced metal name plates for doors and desktops, awards, metal belt buckles and paperweights.

But soon the company expanded and began making castings for pumps and valves for oil firms. The name of the company then changed in 1981 to OMC Industries, Inc.

Ten years after the start of the business Hardeman's sales were up to \$1 million a year and by 1981, OMC Industries had generated \$3.4 million in sales with \$2.2 million coming from the castings sales to oil firms.

Hardeman said that typically, in starting a business, mechanic-al skills are needed, and that part of his success came from knowing how to produce his product personally

An important factor in run-ning a successful company, Hardeman said, is knowing one's abilities.

"A common person who starts a company with skills and entrepeneur spirit often will not be able to make a switch in managing other people," he said. "Some of the downfalls of

companies that start up, grow some and then fail, are because the people who are the driving

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part of the company as it continues to expand "I'm not sure I have the abil-

ity to manage that big a com-pany," he said. "At that level it takes a different type of person to manage a \$25 million com-pany with 1000 employees than it does a 5-employee company. Hardeman says OMC cur-rently employs 75 workers.

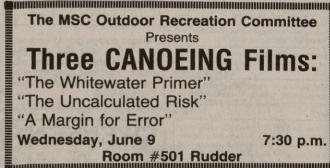
"You have to decide which is more important, working for self or for someone else," he said. "Working for someone else provides security but working for yourself provides satisfaction

Hardeman said he will continue to grow with the company and intends to manage it.

"Hopefully, I'll recognize it if don't have the skills to manage a larger company and will be willing to admit it," he said.

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