

What's Up

Wednesday

CO-OP STUDENT ASSOCIATION: General meeting. The speaker will be Dr. Bill Adams and summer officers will be elected in 504 Rudder at 7:30 p.m.
DIOCEP STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Group meets for Holy Eucharist and Supper at 5:30 p.m. at the Canterbury House, 902 Jersey St.
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL: Meeting to be held at 4 p.m. in the MSC Council Room.
MSC OUTDOOR RECREATION: Three canoeing films featured in meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

Thursday

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: A meeting will be held at 7 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.
TEXAS 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

DIOCEP STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Group meets for Holy 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 entering the offshore oil industry face the same risks as soldiers storming into battle, a 20-year veteran diver told a congressional subcommittee.
 "It's like open warfare out there," Ed White told the House subcommittee on manpower and housing Monday. "The casualty rates are high."
 White, a San Francisco diver who works offshore for oil companies, was among several witnesses who testified on the safety of the industry.
 Barry White, director of safety standards for the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, called the offshore oil industry extremely hazardous. However, he said, conflicting statistics on casualties made it difficult to make exact

comparisons with other industries.
 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 greater 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 their safety records considering the dangerous offshore environment and saw no need for additional government regulations. They also praised new training programs.

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 president of OMC Industries, which makes bronze and aluminum awards and castings used in the oil industry, was recently named Small Businessman 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 competition.

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

At first OrnaMetal Castings 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, mechanical skills are needed, and that part of his success came from knowing how to produce his product personally.

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

"A common person who starts a company with skills and entrepreneur 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 force on a small scale can't switch to a large-scale operation."

Hardeman said he's not sure

he'll stick with the management part of the company as it continues to expand.

"I'm not sure I have the ability to manage that big a company," he said. "At that level it takes a different type of person to manage a \$25 million company with 1000 employees than it does a 5-employee company."

Hardeman says OMC currently 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 I don't have the skills to manage a larger company and will be willing to admit it," he said.

The MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee
 Presents
Three CANOEING Films:
 "The Whitewater Primer"
 "The Uncalculated Risk"
 "A Margin for Error"
Wednesday, June 9 7:30 p.m.
Room #501 Rudder

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