

A&M institute promotes technology, inventions

by Jennifer Carr

Battalion Staff
Gov. Mark White signed a bill Friday which created a new institute within the Texas A&M System — an institute designed to develop and promote new technology.

Dr. Arthur Porter, director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, said TEES had the authority to establish the Institute for Ventures in New Technology, INVENT, which has been in operation since November, but submitted the bill to the Legislature to give the program added support and visibility.

INVENT is expected to create jobs in Texas by screening product processes and business

opportunities and helping entrepreneurs execute potentially successful ideas, INVENT director Franklin J. Sekera said. The screening process is divided into four stages, and involves both engineering and business experts.

The first stage is the evaluation of the idea. Experts determine whether the idea will work and be marketable. If not, the idea is eliminated. Ideas may also be eliminated if Texas A&M doesn't have the faculty, expertise or facilities required to execute the idea.

Sekera said 90 percent of all ideas and inventions are eliminated in this stage.

The second stage is the research. About a weeks' worth of research and market studies are conducted to further determine

if an idea is viable.

The third stage is the creation of a plan. If an idea is successful, a program plan is designed for the product which includes exactly what role INVENT will play in developing and marketing the product. An agreement is defined between INVENT and the entrepreneur.

The fourth stage is the implementation of the plan. Sekera estimates that only 2 percent of the plans submitted will reach stage four.

Of approximately 200 ideas submitted since the program's beginning, two are in stage three, and three are in stage four. The plans in stage four include a new oil drilling technique, a water purifying technique, and a new combustion engine prototype.



Head em up!

staff photo by Barry Papke

Laura Walker, a agriculture graduate student, barn for teasing and breeding. Walker, from rounds up the mares and drives them toward the Center, is an employee at the Horse Center.

Officer rams car, injuring two in fatal suicide attempt

United Press International
DIMMITT — Two people were in critical condition Tuesday, the victims of a troubled policeman who rammed their car on a dark highway in an apparent suicide attempt, and then shot himself to death.

An autopsy conducted in Amarillo showed officer Vaughn Maddox, 30, suffered only minor injuries after he collided with a car on U.S. 385 north of Dimmitt shortly after midnight Monday. The autopsy showed he died of a bullet wound to the heart, fired from his service revolver.

A witness said Maddox's patrol car appeared as if out of nowhere with its headlights off and rammed directly into the other car.

Department of Public Safety spokesman David Wells said a suicide note was found in the patrol car. The contents were not disclosed.

Two people in the other car — Robert Young Jr., 47, of Midland, and his nephew, Michael Stephenson, 13, of Clayton, N.M. — were transported about 60 miles to Lubbock Methodist Hospital, where they were in critical condition in the surgical intensive care unit a hospital

spokeswoman said. Young's wife, Jean, 45, was treated for minor injuries and released.

Wells said an inquest had been ordered by Dimmitt Justice of the Peace Marshall Young to determine officially whether Maddox's death would be classified as a suicide.

Maddox, a veteran west Texas police officer who previously worked in Odessa and Plainview, had been suspended from the Dumas force on Dec. 18, 1981, following an investigation into eight arson fires. Officials said Maddox had discovered or reported three of the fires.

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