

## Around town

### Science students must take exam

Any junior or senior in the College of Science who has not taken the English Proficiency Examination should plan to do so this semester unless they have completed English 301 with a minimum grade of C. Students in the College of Science are required to pass either English 301 or the test in order to qualify as a degree candidate in the College of Science.

The English Proficiency Exam will be administered by the English Department. Students in the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics should register for the exam in 152 Blocker by June 29.

### Driver safety course begins Friday

The TAMU After Hours Program will sponsor a Driver Safety Course on Friday and Saturday. This course may be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed and to receive a 10 percent discount on automobile insurance. Registration is held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in room 216 MSC. For more information, call 845-9352.

### SCAVMA sponsors dog bath and dip

The SCAVMA Auxiliary will sponsor a dog bath and dip on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the vet school parking lot. A veterinarian will be available to answer questions. The cost is \$5 per dog. You must bring your dog's leash and a towel.

### Fort Bliss wants cheaper beer

## Suds battle erupts in West Texas

**United Press International**  
EL PASO — The Fort Bliss military base is waging a battle of sorts against civilian distributors of beer, claiming they charge too much for the brew and has threatened to take its business elsewhere.

If the brass at Fort Bliss gets no satisfaction, they say they'll take their thirty-three million — worth nearly a million dollars annually — to New Mexico.

"I have no wish to take Fort Bliss business to New Mexico," said Maj. Gen. James P. Maloney in a letter Monday to wholesale beer distributors, obtained by the El Paso Herald

Post. "Quite the contrary. But without some pricing accommodation on the part of the El Paso distributors, I feel that I will have no other choice (than to purchase beer out of state)."

Charles Hurd, president of Hurd Distributing Co. Inc., which handles products of Anheuser-Busch, claimed it would be "very unfair" to retailers to slash prices for the military, but not for ordinary customers.

"Major distributors are up in arms" with the notion of dropping prices in this special case for the military, he said.

Besides, the government would scarcely save money by switching to

New Mexico beer distributors, since law in that state requires the beverage be sold at a price fixed near the national average.

Maloney backed off from his initial estimate of savings — roughly \$150,000. At the general's request, El Paso distributors examined Maloney's figures and concluded the post would not save much by buying out-of-state because of increased personnel, equipment and handling costs.

After modifying his estimates, Maloney still said he could save almost \$59,000 annually by purchasing beer in New Mexico.

## SBA goes after deadbeats

**United Press International**  
HARLINGEN — The Small Business Administration reports immediate results from a crackdown on deadbeat borrowers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley — some who have put off paying disaster loans dating back to Hurricane Beulah in 1967.

SBA District Director Rodney Martin said if the threat of lawsuits keeps flushing out people well able to pay their share of \$25 million in delinquent loans in seven valley counties, the Corpus Christi area will be next in line because residents there have neglected to pay about \$20 million in overdue SBA home and business disaster loans.

Martin and McAllen attorney Darrell Davis, special assistant U.S. attorney to head the collection effort, both blame many of the delinquencies on a "myth" among many borrowers that nothing will happen to them if they do not pay back the easy-term, low-interest SBA loans or that Congress has or will "forgive" the debts.

Martin said the Harlingen SBA district, which includes most of deep South Texas including Corpus Christi, is the first in the region including Texas, New Mexico, Loui-

siana, Oklahoma and Arkansas to get tough on delinquents, although similar crackdowns have occurred in New York, Boston and Columbus, Ohio.

"In just a week and a half, we've collected \$16,000 and that's money that never would have been gotten otherwise," Martin said.

He said his goal is to collect \$1 million in the valley delinquencies during the first year, well offsetting the \$75,000 to \$80,000 a year he projects the crackdown will cost.

"To preserve these programs we have to give credibility and let people know they're not grants — they're loans," he said.

The threat of hauling long-time delinquents into court already has had a salutary effect on people who have fallen behind on other SBA accounts, Martin said, with a flurry of people making two and three payments at a time to keep themselves off the delinquent list.

Martin said that Daniel Hedges, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas in Houston, should get much of the credit for the crackdown. Hedges cooperated in having Davis appointed as special Justice Department representative as well as

SBA attorney. This speeds up collection without overburdening Hedges' staff, which already leads the nation in caseload.

He said in most cases SBA districts "are at the mercy of the U.S. attorney" in how tough they can be on collecting past due loans.

Davis filed 23 civil suits against valley businessmen and homeowners in federal court at Brownsville to collect delinquent loans ranging from \$1,200 to \$24,900 and plans up to 300 more. Assets not covered by the Homestead Exemption can be seized in the anticipated judgments.

Martin said most SBA delinquents are able to pay the unsecured government disaster loans, but decide not to.

Martin stressed that none of a possible 300 lawsuits planned in the Valley are directed at "hardship cases" — unemployed people, widows or divorcees — but at people able to pay who refuse to do so.

"We not picking on the valley. We're just discouraged at going out to collect and having people laugh at you and say 'there's nothing you can do.' We want to put some teeth into it," the SBA director said.

## Texas drug ring 'used torture'

**United Press International**

TYLER — Federal authorities Tuesday confirmed they have cracked a major Texas drug conspiracy whose ringleader allegedly used steel-fortified apartments, torture and dummy businesses to build a million-dollar empire.

"The illegal take was enormous, a million dollars is a very conservative estimate," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Jacks. "They made a number of trips across the country to buy drugs. On one trip alone they brought along \$300,000 cash."

The alleged ringleader — Bonnie Burnette Erwin — held controlling interests in Erwin Produce Co., a North Texas watermelon farm, and Catfish Oasis Restaurant, both of which were money laundering operations, said a 33-count indictment unsealed Monday.

They were strictly "shell businesses ... whose legitimate activities were minimal," the indictment charged.

The investigation was launched two years ago when Dallas police stumbled into a string of apartments, lined with steel walls, Jacks said.

"They knew this had to be a well organized thing when they found these little fortresses," he said. "The apartments were designed to pre-

vent them (drug dealers) from being identified by undercover cops. They could easily dispose of the drugs if police raided the place.

"The steel walls also kept other criminals from ripping them off."

Erwin, whose bond was set at \$1 million, had not been captured Tuesday, Jacks said. Sixteen of 23 others named in the indictment were in custody, including Erwin's son, Tyrell Defaris Erwin; brother, Don Wayne Erwin; and daughter, Tarantha Esmeralda Erwin.

The two men were being held in lieu of \$250,000 bond each. The daughter, accused of selling cocaine and amphetamines from the fortified apartments, was held on \$10,000.

Erwin, 42, was charged with ordering the death of Patrick Brooks, allegedly for embezzling drugs and money.

Authorities believe Brooks was bound, gagged and tortured, and later beaten to death with a shovel and buried on Erwin's watermelon farm. His body was found a year later.

The indictment also charges Erwin, his brother and son lured Dallas women to California, New Mexico and Nebraska to buy amphetamines and painkillers. The drugs were later sold in South Dallas.

## Man sues for Sooner tickets

**United Press International**

OKLAHOMA CITY (UPI) — The State Supreme Court returned to a lower court Tuesday a decision on whether an attorney or his ex-wife will have custody of six season tickets to the Oklahoma Sooners home football games.

The tickets at issue are for 50-yard-line seats for the 1984 season in the University of Oklahoma's 70,000-seat Memorial Stadium, which is sold out for every Sooner home game.

The university had objected to giving the tickets to George Mothershed, saying the tickets always had been in the name of Post Oak Oil Co., which a divorce court judge awarded to Mothershed's ex-wife, Carrie Abernathy Bell.

Oklahoma University attorney Stan Ward said the Sooners' athletic scholarship donor policy prohibited transfers and required tickets in such cases to go to the next person on a 2,000-name waiting list.

Post Oak paid \$250 per ticket each year for the privilege of purchasing the tickets, Ward said.

The high court ruled unanimously that District Judge E.M. "Mike" McDanel erred in ruling against Mothershed without first hearing witnesses. The justices ordered McDanel to conduct a full hearing on the issue of the university's policy.

Mothershed said he will challenge the constitutionality of the ticket policy.

"I really don't think the university realizes the seriousness of what they are getting into," he said. "It goes to the very ability of the university to fund the bonds on their stadium."

His attorney, Carroll Gregg, said he had three witnesses ready to testify about ticket transfers made contrary to the policy, adding an administrative policy "has to be constitutional and it has to be applied even-handedly."

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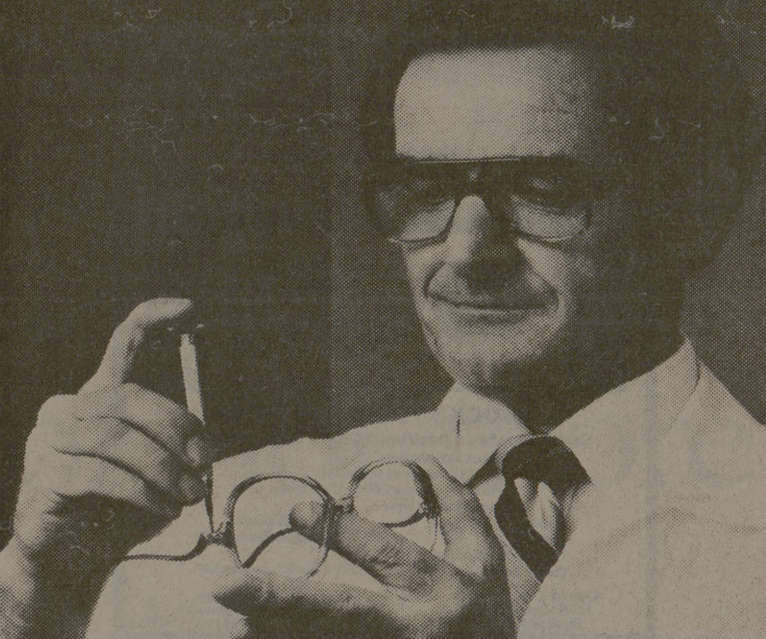
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