

Photo by JOHN RYAN

Jeff Barnes, vineyard manager of the Messina Hof Winery in Bryan, checks the flow of juice from the grape press into stainless steel fermentation tanks.

## Family tradition kept at Messina Hof vineyards

By LAURIE HEIDBREDER  
Reporter

Messina Hof winery, located in Bryan, harvested their last grapes Thursday for the 1984 season. The winery is owned and operated by Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo. Bonarrigo is a physical therapist as well as a wine maker. "It is something that you have to really schedule your time for," Bonarrigo said. Mrs. Bonarrigo graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in marketing and is the general manager of the winery. Bonarrigo's family had a winery in Sicily. After moving to the United States, they kept making

wine but did not continue the vineyard. His father made the wine from bought grapes. "The tradition is that the first born son is called Paul and he is that generation's wine maker," Bonarrigo said. The Bonarrigos 2-year-old son, Paul Bonarrigo VII, will inherit the winery. The Bonarrigos organized the vineyard in 1976 and planted it in 1977. They began making the wine in 1980 and in 1983 they were bonded and had their first commercial release. "The grapes are harvested yearly," he said. "It starts the first of July and usually finishes about the first week in September."

The wine is made mostly by machines. However, there is some foot treading of the grapes which Paul VII has already experienced. Messina Hof wines are distributed locally in Bryan and all over Texas. "We have some distribution in New Orleans, New York and in Florida," Bonarrigo said. It is sold under the Messina Hof Wine Cellars label. "It's named after Messina, Sicily where my family is from, and Hof, Germany where Merrill's family is from," he said. The Messina Hof winery makes 11 types of wine.

## Smoke detectors installed in dorms, local apartments

By KIM TREESE  
Reporter

A new law protecting tenants requires all dwelling units occupied as residences prior to September 1, 1981, to install smoke detectors by September 1 of this year. W. G. Ferris, housing operations supervisor, said approximately 650 smoke and heat detectors are being installed in Texas A&M residence halls. "We've been working hard all summer," he said. Harry Stiteler, of the Texas A&M Department of Health and Safety, said the alarms being installed are equipped with both heat and smoke sensors. The smoke sensor will trig-

ger an individual alarm in the room where the alarm is only. However, once the room temperature reaches 135 degrees Fahrenheit a heat sensor will trigger the main university alarm. Smoke and heat detectors have been installed in each room of the modular halls and in two balcony halls, Schuhmacher and McInnis. Installation is being completed in Hughes, Fowler and Keathley Halls. Twenty smoke detectors per floor are being installed in the halls of Aston, Krueger, Mosher, and Dunn Halls. Stiteler said even though these

smoke detectors are not located in the rooms they still will meet the residents' fire protection needs. College Station apartments also have been affected by this law. Gerrie Jillette, manager of Barcelona apartments, said about 250 smoke alarms are being installed in the complex. "We're working like mad and putting them in right now," she said. Elena Bosely, manager of the Travis House apartments, said that many of the units already had smoke detectors. Since July, however, 30 more have been added to the complex.

## A&M team creating special software

By MARY COX  
Reporter

Texas A&M professors are creating a software library for use in high school science laboratories. The University received a contract from Bio-Systems, a Healthdyne Company in Houston, to design the programs for micro-computers. Program coordinator Dr. Jon Hunter said one of the major weaknesses in American high schools is the lack of science laboratory skills. "We became concerned about the quality of secondary education back in December, 1982," Hunter said. "As educators, we wanted to upgrade labs. And the ideal thing is to use micro-computers." SCI-LAB (Science Computer-based Instruction) will provide instruction and experiments in biology, chemistry and physics. The software will be used on micro-computers manufactured by Apple, Texas Instruments and I.B.M. Personal Computers. "The computer is ideal for teaching in four areas," Hunter, an associate professor of bioengineering and veterinary physiology/pharma-

cology, said. Hunter explains the computer will simulate complex problems in situations where lab experiments are too expensive. He said it will perform mathematic computations and it will present visual information such as reproduction of slides, which is necessary in the medical sciences. The computer will gather data and allow students to test hypotheses, he said. "My philosophy is computers are not ideally suited to teach, just as teachers are not suited to compute," Hunter said. "This is a very sophisticated research tool for high school students. "While it takes one teacher for 30 or 40 students, we recommend three people per computer. Therefore, you would need eight or ten computers per lab." Hunter said each lesson in the software library will contain a title page, a 'menu' that describes the various topics covered in the lesson, the objectives and principles of the lessons, procedures, data collection, data analysis and a summary. The computer also will store information

and will come equipped with a line printer. Students will be able to perform experiments with the addition of a sensor that plugs into the interface hardware. Testing pH levels and performing an electrocardiogram are some examples of the experiments that SCI-LAB will do. "Anything that you can measure can be measured by this computer," Hunter said. He said SCI-LAB will enable students to study at their own pace. This will be helpful to the exceptional student as well as the slower student. Hunter said he feels that high school students are tested too much. The idea behind SCI-LAB is to whet student's appetite for knowledge after they have studied a text, he said. Hunter said the computer will be designed to be 'student-friendly' — easy to operate and use. The software engineers that perfect the instructions and design the colorful graphics are research assistants Randy Adolph, Anne Adolph

## Beach cleanup of oil stopped, left to nature

United Press International

GALVESTON — Officials have decided to let nature take its course in cleaning up oil on the island's western beaches and have stopped the use of heavy machinery to scrape away sand, a Coast Guard spokesman said Thursday. "It's one of those things of how much sand do you really want to scrape off," Lt. j.g. Larry Clark said. "There comes a point (where you wait) and see what happens naturally."

Clark said the ratio of oil to sand on the western beaches from a massive oil spill is now one to four pounds of oil per 100 pounds of sand. Tons of oil washed up on Galveston's beaches after the British tanker Alvenus split open July 30 off the coast of Cameron, La. The ship currently is in a Galveston Bay shipyard and will be lifted into dry dock Wednesday for repairs, Clark said. A major problem continues to be cleaning the thick mess from rocks at

the bottom of the seawall. "They're still working on it," Clark said. "No one is finding a great solution (to get it off the rocks). You can always get it with a Brillo pad and a putty knife. So far a great solution has not presented itself." Clark said the contractor hired by the ship's owner has asked to remove work crews from the seawall to allow the oil to weather. However, the Coast Guard has not yet decided whether to grant the request. More than 100 workers are using

## HISD suit settlement reached

United Press International

HOUSTON — The Houston Independent School District settled a 28-year-old desegregation case Thursday by agreeing to a \$13.4 million improvement program and the recruitment of more minority teachers.

Four days of almost around-the-clock negotiations with attorneys for the NAACP and Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund ended about 1 a.m.

The settlement still must be approved by U.S. District Judge Robert O'Connor. After negotiations began Sunday, O'Connor delayed a hearing that was scheduled this week on the plaintiffs' opposition to a school board request that the suit finally be dismissed.

The most expensive part of the settlement is the institution of a preschool program for 4-year-old children from economically deprived areas. The program, which is to begin in the 1985-86 school year, is expected to cost \$8 million, HISD spokeswoman Geri Koningsberg said.

A major demand of the plaintiffs was answered by the decision to set the ratio of minority to white students at inner city magnet schools at 60-40. The ratio currently is 50-50, which NAACP attorneys said prevents many minority students from attending the special schools.

About 42 percent of HISD students are black, while 34 percent are Hispanic and about 20 percent are white.

The school board also agreed to increase recruitment of teachers from colleges with substantial numbers of Hispanics and blacks; increase the number of teacher aides in bilingual classrooms; offer voluntary tutorial programs to any student not achieving state or national norms; and continue to improve its school buildings.

It also agreed to a demand by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund to make a study of dropouts and determine methods of keeping them in school.

The district also will hire more people to act as liaisons between schools and the community.

District Superintendent Billy Reagan said the five-year plan approved by the groups is the highlight of his 10 years with the district. He said children are the winners in the settlement.

O'Connor ruled in 1981 that the Houston district is "unitary," saying it had done everything possible to desegregate. At that time, he said the court would monitor HISD for three years.

The desegregation suit was filed in 1956 on behalf of two black students who were denied admittance to all-white schools.

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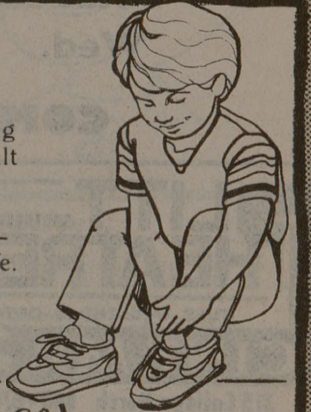
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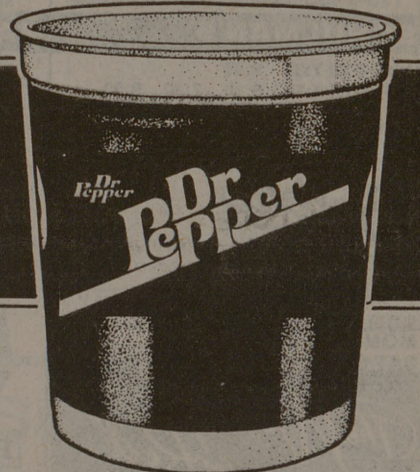
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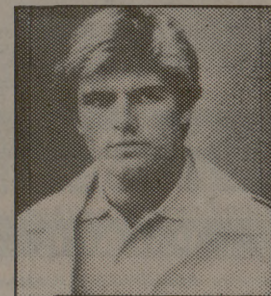


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