

What's up

Monday

VARIETY SHOW COMMITTEE: applications are available in 216 MSC and are due by Friday in the Variety Show cubicle.

THE BIG EVENT: individual and student organization applications are available on the second floor of the Pavilion in the Student Government office and the second floor of the MSC. Deadline is Feb. 21.

CLASS OF '87 BALL: tickets for the ball will go on sale in the MSC, Sblisa and the Quad.

TAMU VENEZUELAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will hold a meeting concerning international week activities at 7 p.m. in 145 MSC. For more information call Rosa, 696-4205.

AGGIE ALLEMANDERS: will give square dance lessons at 7 p.m. in 212 Pavilion and the club will meet at 8:30 p.m.

PHILOSOPHY CLUB: will hold a meeting at 3 p.m. in 503 Harrington. For more information call Louis, 260-1382.

PHI THETA KAPPA: will hold a meeting. For the time and place call Brenda, 696-6586.

PHI THETA KAPPA ALUMNI: will finalize plans for the state convention at 7:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder. For more information call Kenneth, 775-0656.

PARKS AND RECREATION: registration for pre-season softball tournament will run today through Feb. 19. Format will be double elimination. Play starts Feb. 24. Entry fee is \$55. For more information call 764-3773.

PARKS AND RECREATION: registration for College Station's first soccer invitational will run today through Feb. 19. Format will be round-robin with play being on February 22-23. Entry fee is \$75. For more information call 764-3773.

PARKS AND RECREATION: will offer adult soccer leagues. Registration will be today through Feb. 21. Season starts March 3 and will consist of 10 games plus playoffs. Entry fee is \$250. For more information call 764-3773.

PAID PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION: will take a resume review picture for 1986 graduates at 6 p.m. A reception with Mr. Frank Smith will follow at 7:15 p.m. For more information call Duane, 846-0824.

Tuesday

GALVESTON COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: will have a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder to discuss the semester activities. For more information call Danny, 764-7106.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PEER ADVISORS: will present programs on how to survive Math 230 at 7 p.m. in 127 Blocker and how to survive Bana 303 at 7 p.m. in 130 Blocker.

SPIRIT AWARD APPLICATIONS: Buck Weirus Spirit Award applications are available in the Former Students lobby, 110 YMCA, the Student Activities office, the Student Government office, and the MSC. Applications should be returned by Feb. 29.

RHA FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: will hold a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

AGGIES FOR BARTON: invites everyone to come and meet with Congressman Barton at 8:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

PLACEMENT CENTER: will hold a "Health Careers Opportunity Day" with representatives from Allied Health, Pharmaceutical Sales, Medical Technology, Hospital Administration and Graduate Schools of nursing, pharmacy and physical therapy. For more information call Judy, 845-5139.

FRONTIERS IN OCEAN TECHNOLOGY: a symposium on the future of ocean technology and research will be in 301 Rudder from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The symposium is sponsored by the University Marine Fellows Program and Texas A&M's Sea Grant College Program. For more information call 845-3854.

AGGIE ALLIANCE: will present a lecture by Missy Norton, of Tennaco, at 8:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder. New memberships will be accepted. For more information call Dana, 693-9339.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY: will have a general meeting and hear from former students now enrolled in law school at 8:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder. For more information call DeeDee, 260-0672.

PHI ETA SIGMA: will hold a "Welcome Back Pizza Party" at 7 p.m. at Mama's Pizza. For more information call Brian, 846-7948.

STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN: will hold a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder. For more information call Denise, 260-1869.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION: will present Dr. James E. Womack speaking on "What's New in Genetic Research" at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medical Sciences Bldg.

GAY STUDENT SERVICES: will hold a general meeting in Rudder. For the time and room call Gayline, 775-1797.

MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AND SOCIETY OF IRANIAN STUDENTS: will present a lecture by Dr. Siddiqui at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder. For more information call Saied, 846-3889.

SAILING TEAM: will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. in 109 Military Sciences Bldg. For more information call Billy, 764-2999.

Mattox to investigate insurance industry

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The state attorney general says he will investigate the insurance industry to look for anti-trust law violations and deceptive trade practices.

Attorney General Jim Mattox told a special legislative panel Saturday he is sure the current insurance crunch is the result of insurance company collusion aimed at increasing premiums and profit.

Mattox said, "I'm not sure I can prove it, as often is the case. But I think the facts clearly show it."

"I am especially concerned with our Texas citizens and businesses who have been redlined by the insurance carriers and their reinsurance partners. This group includes our day care operators, our motor carriers, our municipalities and even ministers of the gospel," he said.

The Joint Committee on Liability Insurance and Tort Reform is looking at the insurance crunch that has driven up rates and, in some cases, made liability coverage unavailable. Several Texas cities have had to drop basic coverage because of high prices.

Insurance companies say the premiums have been driven up by big jury awards in liability lawsuits.

Those jury awards have dried up the availability of "reinsurance," the coverage purchased by insurance

companies to cover their risk. Mattox said it's all a result of collusion.

"I intend to ask my staff to determine whether the anti-competitive practices of the liability insurance carriers and their reinsurance associates in boycotting entire lines of business amount to illegal restraints of trade or deceptive trade practices," he said.

"I think any lawyer that would look at what appears to be the cancellation of insurance would lead one to believe there's collusion involved," Mattox said.

A Washington attorney for Lloyd's of London, a major reinsurer, testified Saturday that the rising cost of coverage is a result of "horrendous" losses.

"Underwriters at Lloyd's are not holding U.S. insurers for ransom by withholding reinsurance capacity," said Charles Havens III in denying Mattox's allegations.

The reinsurance companies paid out \$133 for every \$100 of premiums collected in 1984, according to Andre Maisonnier, president of the Reinsurance Association of America.

Changes in the court system are needed, he told the committee.

Maisonnier said, "We are not encouraged by the action which the various legislatures have taken to date to reform the tort system."

'Burnings'

Conservationists: Fire holds hope for disappearing prairie

Associated Press

WACO — Centuries ago, lightning-sparked prairie fires would light up Central Texas skies from horizon to horizon in a natural cycle of death and rejuvenation.

But now, with little more than 3,000 acres of pristine prairie remaining in the state, it is left to humans with torches to light friendly fires to simulate the process, environmentalists say.

Madge Gatlin, founder of the Native Prairies Association of Texas, says "Fire is the reason we have the prairie."

About 20 student ecologists and ranchers gathered last week at a 60-acre patch of popcorn-colored prairie to witness such a burn.

Though four inches of recent rain dampened their efforts to torch more than a few acres, the event served to focus attention on the particular ecology of the prairie.

Conservationists agree it seems contrary to common sense to burn something to bring it back to life.

But fire is what holds some hope for the preservation of the once-ubiquitous prairie in Texas.

Throughout the years, prairie fires periodically decimated the land, scorching scores of varieties of plants down to their roots.

Those plants that survived were the ones with deepest and strongest roots — the grasses, the genetic forerunners of wheat and corn.

Woody plants such as trees and bushes died.

The fires also replenished the soil with nitrogen, helping to create the fertile black dirt so prized by farmers.

The surviving grasses evolved into the nourishing plants upon which bison, and eventually cattle, grazed.

Without fire, "woody plants would have come to dominate," Dallas environmentalist Ned Fritz said, and the prairie would disappear.

But the Texas prairie is disappearing.

Once stretching from the Red River north of Dallas to San Anto-

nio, the native tall grasses now can be found only in pockets of preserves and in vacant plots on the edge of developed areas.

"So much has been covered up with development and roads and ruined by dirt bikers," amateur naturalist and photographer Gatlin says. "It just kind of tears me up inside."

Environmentalists say Texas is lagging behind other states in the protection of what prairie land remains.

While Missouri, Minnesota and Iowa have officially saved thousands of acres, Texas so far has preserved fewer than 500 acres.

The Nature Conservancy has tried to buy up as much of Texas prairie as it can, including the 60-acre tract in Marlin, near Waco.

Another 70-acre preserve is in Celeste in Hunt County.

To educate the public and develop strategies for preservation, a national prairie conference will be held in June in Denton.

But in the meantime, periodic burns like the one in Marlin will go on.

She admits that she, like many people, didn't always appreciate the subtle beauty of grasses such as the Eastern Gamagrass and the Big and Little Blue Stems.

"To most people, grass is grass," she says.

But she said she was won over when she studied the ecology of the prairie and learned of the importance of the grassland to the culture of Texas and to the development of cultivated grains.

"It's part of our natural heritage and cultural environment," Gatlin told the Dallas Times Herald.

Beyond that, Gatlin and other environmentalists are convinced that the study of the native grasses will ultimately lead to a better understanding of the genetics of plant life and thus to improvements in everyday human life.

"Those same native species out there will someday provide us with new foods and medicines," she says.

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MY CHAUFFER (R)	7:25-9:45	*OUT OF AFRICA (PG)	8:30
ROCKY IV (PG)	7:30-9:55	MANOR EAST 3	
UP HILL ALL THE WAY (PG)	7:20-9:35	MANOR EAST MALL	823-8300
THE HILLS HAVE EYES II (R)	7:15-9:40	YOUNG-BLOOD (R)	7:15-9:35
		*DOWN & OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS (R)	7:25-9:45
		101 DALMATIANS (G)	7:30-9:15
		*Dolby Stereo	