

# State and Local

## KLS tells judge Wasson acted beyond authority

By Mike Sullivan  
Staff Writer

An attorney representing KLS Computers in a \$4.05 million lawsuit against Bill Wasson, Texas A&M vice chancellor, said at a pre-trial hearing Friday that Wasson acted beyond the scope of his authority when he authorized the creation of A&M's Micro Center.

Kelvin Adams, Wasson's personal attorney, said Wasson was acting within his official capacity at A&M when he and other members of a University committee created the Micro Center.

But John Hawtry, the KLS attorney seeking an injunction to close the Micro Center, said there's no legal basis for A&M to operate the Micro Center. He said Wasson acted outside A&M's authority and his own authority when he gave his consent.

He said that because Wasson acted beyond the scope of his position, he acted as an individual and subjected himself to the lawsuit.

Hawtry said he would dismiss the lawsuit if Wasson's attorneys could

prove A&M has the legal right to operate a computer center that competes directly with local computer retailers.

If such a statute existed, Hawtry said, Wasson would be acting within the scope of his authority.

"I've looked at it (the Education Code) for the better part of a year, and I have yet to find it (a law permitting A&M to operate the Micro Center)," Hawtry said.

At the hearing, Hawtry said the Education Code allows universities to sell books and offer students room and board. But it does not allow universities to open a retail outlet for the sale of computers, he said.

But Adams said A&M doesn't need specific legislation allowing them to operate the Micro Center.

Adams also said KLS is suing the wrong party because Wasson is employed by A&M, and the Micro Center is owned by A&M.

"He (Hawtry) is suing Wasson for something A&M is doing," he said.

Wasson was granted a motion for protection at the hearing, which means he won't have to produce

documents belonging to the University at a deposition Friday.

The documents include financial records and minutes from the Micro Center Committee meetings.

Hawtry said he thinks the documents will show that Wasson and the other committee members were aware of possible legal violations before they gave consent to open the Micro Center.

Adams said Hawtry will be involving A&M if he gets the documents. He said that because KLS is suing Wasson as an individual, Wasson has no right to get the documents from A&M.

Adams said Wasson would have to get the documents as a private citizen but that as a private citizen he has no right to A&M property.

Judge W.T. McDonald said he will allow the deposition of Wasson as an individual and then decide if it's Wasson's responsibility to produce the documents.

A May 6 hearing is scheduled to decide if a temporary injunction to close the Micro Center should be granted.

### Authorities recover A&M student's body from lake

Burleson County police pulled the body of a Texas A&M student out of Lake Somerville Friday morning.

Richard P. Beck, 22, a senior wildlife and fisheries sciences major from Houston, was involved in a boating accident at about 4 p.m. Thursday.

Burleson County Deputy Sheriff Joe Covington said Beck was sitting in front of the moving boat and lost his balance as it began to circle around to pick up a fallen skier.

Beck fell out of the boat, was sucked underneath and hit in the head by the outboard motor's propeller, Covington said.

He said police began searching for the body Thursday afternoon but stopped at dusk.

The search was resumed Friday morning and the body was recovered near Welch Park at about 10:20 a.m.

Covington said the death was ruled as an accidental drowning.

## Celebration to honor Texas independence

AUSTIN (AP) — When the state officially commemorates 150 years of independence on April 21 at the site where it was won — the San Jacinto Battleground — fireworks will explode simultaneously from the battleground and nine Texas cities.

Viewed from the heavens, the exploding fireworks will simulate a huge star across the Lone Star State, according to the Parks and Wildlife Department, which is sponsoring the "Texas 150 Celebration."

It is estimated that more than eight million Texans will be able to see the fireworks shows from the San Jacinto State Historical Park, Austin, Corpus Christi, Waco, Dallas, Lubbock, El Paso, Longview, Beaumont and Brownsville.

Gary Caimano of Pyro-Spectaculars of Rialto, Calif. said the fireworks show "is unquestionably the largest and most extensive ever attempted anywhere." The program is being financed by Anheuser-Busch.

More than 12,000 rockets will be set off over Texas skies on April 21.

The fireworks will be choreographed to patri-

otic music broadcast on radio stations in each of the cities.

The display will last 18 minutes — the length of time it took the Texas Army to defeat Mexican troops at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

Although local Sesquicentennial events are being held throughout the year, activities at the 756-acre park are scheduled for April 20-21. About 75,000 people are expected each day.

Vice President George Bush has been invited to do a "patriotic reading," and Texas Gov. Mark White will give an account of the Battle of San Jacinto.

There will be seven stages with Texas music and dance; exhibits; ethnic and regional foods; a children's pavilion; and visits to the 570-foot high San Jacinto Monument, the Battleship Texas, which is berthed adjacent to the park, and the sailing ship Elissa.

Special ceremonies include a service to honor black heroes of the Texas Revolution, with a single rose "placed commemorating the contributions of each of 20 black men who served Texas

cause in 1836," according to the Parks and Wildlife Department.

More than 50 performers of Texas song, music and dance will appear each day at the festival. Headliner entertainers are Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers, B.J. Thomas, The Texas Playboys, Asleep at the Wheel and the Houston Symphony Orchestra featuring Willie Nelson.

The Parks and Wildlife Department said the two-day celebration is designed "to honor the memory of the people of 1836 who took a stand for constitutional government, made a declaration, committed their lives in battle and created a republic where none had existed."

The festival also will "recognize and celebrate our Spanish heritage," the department said. "Texans broke their formal ties with Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto, but we can never break the cultural ties."

"We celebrate the cultural heritage which binds our country and our state to Mexico, recognizing that Texas is, forever, a bridge between Mexico and the United States."

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### TAMU Raquetball club

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A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

WOMEN'S A - B \_\_\_\_\_

C - D \_\_\_\_\_

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MEN'S A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

WOMEN'S \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Deadline  
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