

What's Up

Thursday

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: applications for External Communications and Public Relations will be available through the summer months. Please come by 221 Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up your application. For more information call 845-3051.

ATARI USER GROUP: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 102 Teague.

AGGIE BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: will sponsor a Howdy Party for the summer at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Student Center on College Main. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 846-7722.

VOCAL MUSIC OFFICE SUPER SUMMER SINGERS: will have an organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 003 MSC for anyone interested in participating in a mixed choir for the summer. For more information call 845-5974 or 696-9134.

KANM STUDENT RADIO: will hold a disc jockey meeting at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

Friday

TAMU CHESS CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder. For more information call Luis, 846-5903.

Saturday

SAILING CLUB: will sponsor an outing and cookout Saturday and Sunday at Lake Somerville at Overlook Park. For more information call Tim, 696-8642.

Teachers oppose TECAT in state appeals court

AUSTIN (AP) — The basic skills test for Texas teachers faced a test of its own in a state appeals court Wednesday.

General counsel Robert Chanin of the National Education Association said the 1984 law providing for teacher testing was an "unconstitutional statute, which the state board (of education) took and made worse."

The appearance of the Washington lawyer before the 3rd Court of Appeals was made possible when the court granted a motion by the Texas State Teachers Association to use out-of-state counsel.

The TSTA appealed after State District Judge Harley Clark of Austin ruled March 3 that the Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers (TECAT) was constitutional and should not be delayed.

The TECAT was first given on March 10, and 202,084 teachers took the test, with 195,505 — or 96.7 percent — passing both portions of the exam.

A makeup was given in April and yet another TECAT is scheduled for June 28.

Chanin told a three-judge panel that certificates held by teachers are

"permanent and valid for life" and constitute a contract. Forcing teachers to pass a test to retain their lifetime certificates impairs that contract, Chanin said.

"You are not dealing here with a typical license," he said. "This is a special certificate that grants special status."

The state argued that the certificates are licenses, which may be revoked.

Assistant Attorney General Kevin O'Hanlon told the appeals court, "If you say they're contracts, we've got problems."

O'Hanlon said the question is whether what the Legislature did, by adopting teacher testing provisions, was rational and "related to a legitimate state interest. I submit that it is."

Spectators in the court chamber passed out flyers that said, "Remember the TECAT! Fight for Right." The flyers also said, "A single test to determine the ability of a teacher to instruct students is idiotic, especially considering how many tests it takes to become one."

The appeals court took the case under advisement.

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Trial begins in fire blamed on printer

DALLAS (AP) — A trial which revolves around a family's contention that a fatal fire in their home was caused by a Radio Shack computer printer is expected to take about three weeks, court officials say.

Sue Ann Lank died and her husband and two children were severely burned in the 1982 fire which destroyed their \$100,000 home in the north Texas community of Allen while they slept.

The Lank family filed a lawsuit in

July 1984 seeking \$41.6 million in damages from Radio Shack, a division of Fort Worth-based Tandy Corp.; the printer's manufacturer, Tokyo Electric Co. of Japan; and retailer Montezuma-Microcomputer, where the Radio Shack Line Printer VI was bought.

The trial, which began Tuesday, is expected to last three weeks.

The plaintiffs contend that a smoldering fire started in the printer and then created two "backdraft" ex-

plosions that engulfed the home in flames.

Backdrafts occur when superheated gases from a fire in an enclosed area suddenly combine with oxygen from an outside source.

Defense attorneys deny the fire started in the printer and have filed motions saying they intend to introduce testimony about the family's personal lifestyle.

State District Judge Jim Jordan said he will allow testimony from a woman William Lank married after

the fire, divorced and filed suit against to reclaim expensive gifts.

Lank died from cancer in February and lawyers delayed the trial about four months.

The family escaped the fire by climbing out of a window onto the lawn, but Lank and the children suffered burns over 50 percent of their bodies.

Ms. Lank, who was burned over 80 percent of her body, died 18 days later.

Expo opens despite rain

WACO (AP) — Wet runways and gray skies dampened the opening ceremonies of the official Sesquicentennial air show Wednesday, but organizers said the weather won't interrupt the agenda for the Texas Air Expo.

Although rain and clouds forced a parachute team to forgo its jump with a U.S. flag, the showers stopped in time for Gov. Mark White to open the five-day event with an address to a sparse crowd consisting mostly of show organizers and officials.

Bentsen: Mexico must divest

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said Wednesday that Texas sympathizes with Mexico over the effects of falling oil prices, but Mexico must face economic reality by selling some government-owned industries and changing its attitude toward foreign investors.

"Those of us from Texas can appreciate the severity of the problem when Mexico says the declining oil prices have cost their country some \$6 billion," said Bentsen, D-Texas. "And for an economy of that size, that's a heavy hit."

Speaking on the Senate floor, Bentsen praised what he said

appeared to be a change in attitude toward Mexico on the part of the Reagan administration, as evidenced by Senate testimony Tuesday from Assistant Treasury Secretary David Mulford.

Last month, administration officials criticized Mexico for not doing enough to stop drug smuggling, prompting a protest from Mexico.

Mulford testified that Mexico has not gotten the credit it deserves for already taking some of the recommended steps to improve its economic situation, which includes a \$97 billion foreign debt and the recent 30 percent drop in the value of the peso.

Bentsen said Mulford's testimony and reports that Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker had met with Mexican officials were hopeful signs that the financial crisis in Mexico will be eased for the time being.

"And I call it a financial crisis, but actually it's more properly termed, I think, a political crisis, and it's happening right next door," Bentsen said.

Bentsen said Mexico is going to have to sell some government-owned industries to private owners and encourage foreign investment.

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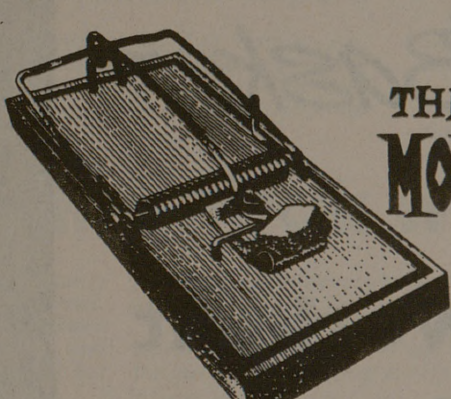
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