## What's up

Tuesday

TAMU SAILING CLUB: will hold a membership drive from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rudder Fountain.

AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS: will hold an executive board meeting at 7 p.m. followed by a general

BUSINESS CAREER FAIR HOSPITALITY COMMMIT-TEE: Career Fair company hosts will meet at 7:45 p.m. in

**DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 150 Blocker.

TAMU WOMEN'S CHORUS: will hold auditions through Friday. Arrange an audition time in the Vocal Music Office, 003 MSC. Auditions are also being held for a bass guitarist and a drummer.

Wednesday

TAMU SAILING CLUB: will hold a membership drive and novice test at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder.

TAMU BOXING CLUB: will hold an organizational meeting at 5:30 p.m. in 260 G. Rollie White.

MSC LITERARY ARTS: is now accepting submissions for Litmus. Call 845-1515 for more information.

PARENTS WEEKEND COMMITTEE: applications for nominating 1987-88 Parents of the Year are available in the Commons, Sterling C. Evans Library, the Memorial Student Center and the Pavilion.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.

# Lawsuit to contest funding method for state schools

erty-poor school districts are pitted against wealthy districts in a trial starting today over the method the state uses to allocate funds to public

At last count, at least 115 districts had entered the suit, which is expected to last at least several weeks.

Texas Civil Liberties Union legal director Jim Harrington said Mon-day that TCLU will join the suit on the side of poor districts, which claim the present system discrimi-

nates against them. Preliminary hearings were held Dec. 17 before State District Judge Harley Clark.

In a court petition, 67 school districts claim that state funds for schools are not being distributed equitably under school reform legislation passed in 1984.

Eight districts in South Texas originally sued the state in March of

The state, backed by 48 other school districts, claims state money is being spread evenly over the state. State lawyers say the poorer districts simply are not collecting as much local school taxes as they

During the December hearing, the attorney general's office contended that any change in school financing should be made by the Legislature, not the courts.

Assistant Attorney General Kevin O'Hanlon said the poorer districts do not want equity.

They just want more state money without having to raise local taxes,

Austin lawyer Rick Gray, representing a group of the poorer districts, said some school districts with wealthy assets can collect local taxes of only 8 cents per \$100 property valuation and spend up to \$19,000 per student in school.

As a result, low-wealth districts, which are limited by law to a tax rate of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation, can spend only \$3,000 per student.

Kids devour 12,500 burritos a week

# School district has big grocery list

ms on Ron Clark's weekly grocery are 12,500 frozen burritos, 3,000 illons of milk and 62 cans of scourpowder.

— the more than His "family" .000 students of the Ector County dependent School District - also sume 3,000 pounds of ground

Clark, the associate director of od services, said students and teaers are expected to eat about 3 nillion meals by the end of this aca-

emic year. The food they consume is stored a warehouse, where staffers work nid giant-size cans of fruit cocktail, tsup and cases of cereal boxes

acked to the ceiling. Popular cereal choices include The district uses 14,000 prepared rix, PacMan, Country Cornflakes hamburger patties each time that

ODESSA (AP) - Among the and Frosted Flakes, Clark noted. Students consume about 11,180 packages of cereal each week.

At Burleson Elementary, fifthand sixth-grade students say that they most enjoy eating fast-food en-

Sixth-grader James Parrish, 11, said he also liked the hamburgers

"I like just about everything," Par-

"Kids are getting away from what we'd call traditional meals such as meat loaf, fried chicken or lasagna."

— Ron Clark, associate director of food services for Ector County ISD

trees like hamburgers.

"I like the hamburgers, burritos, everything," said Edward Torres,

rish said. "The food's pretty always

Clark, 39, said students tend to avoid the kinds of meals he ate when

he was going to school.

"Kids are getting away from what

item appears on the menu, Clark said. That happens twice a month. we'd call traditional meals such as meat loaf, fried chicken or lasagna," Clark said. "Convenience foods have really grown, and kids are eating out more and more so that's what's popular — like chicken nuggets.

"Fast food is not bad for you as

long as you eat it in moderation.'

Goulash and lasagna are among the district's least favorite entrees, Clark said.

Sixth-grader Corey Abila, 11, agreed about the lasagna: "I never have tried it, but I don't want to" because it looks bad, Abila said.

Some people complain that the school lunches have too many starchy foods, Clark said. But some items are served because the federal government sends surplus products

#### Gramm fights opponents of twin plants

HARLINGEN (AP) — Sen. Phil Gramm vowed again Monday to fight congressional opponents of the twin-plant industry that assembles U.S.-made products with Mexican labor.

would be coming under attack in Congress from legislators who don't understand the program benefits people on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Speaking to the dedication of a new training center at the Har-lingen campus of Texas State Technical Institute, Gramm said. American jobs are preserved by the twin-plant industry and shutting it down would be "devastatng to the Valley, devastating to

-7599

## Steelworkers optimistic over news of tentative contract agreement

BAYTOWN (AP) - With unemsteelworkers say they are relieved dustry's history. union leaders and USX Corp. offi- The 750 un

mistic," United Steelworkers mem- president of Local 7756. ber Ken Bradford said Monday. 'I'm waiting to see the package," he said. "It has to be fairly decent with so many presidents approving it."

On Sunday, the leaders of the local unions voted 38-4 in favor of a four-year pact that cuts pay 8 percent and eliminates 1,350 jobs, while boosting job security for those who

The union's International Executive Board also approved the tentative pact.

The contract now goes to a secret-ballot vote among 33,000 union

If approved, it would end the ployment benefits running out, longest work stoppage in the steel in-

The 750 union workers at Baycials have reached a tentative town's Texas Works Steel Manufacagreement to end a six-month work turing plant will meet Saturday to discuss the proposed contract and stoppage.

"All I can tell you is I'm optithen vote on it, said Pete Brady, vice

"We're upbeat at this point," Brady said.

Brady said union members ap-

peared to get what they wanted in the form of increased job security. 'As it stands right now, it looks

pretty good," union member Betsy Mendez, 40, said Monday. "We'll have to get the full details. Everyone is in limbo right now. No one wants to get real excited. But we have a lot

of smiling faces today."
Already, Mendez's 14-year-old daughter is planning a celebration,

She's pretty anxious for me to go back to work," Mendez said. "Everyone's eager to go back to work."

Bradford, 29, said he has been depending on unemployment benefits, occasional work such as mowing lawns and his wife's wages as a clerk to support their family of four.

"Our savings was exhausted a long time ago," he said. "You'd be surprised how high the price of (baby) formula is."

Their second daughter was born less than a week after the company locked workers out of the plant Aug when labor negotiations broke down, he said.

Bradford said he is prepared to take a wage cut to be able to go back

Like most of the workers, his unemployment benefits will end in late January, he said.

"I'm pretty confident we'll go back to work," Bradford said. "I just don't know when.

None of the union members lost a car or home during the work stoppage, Brady said.



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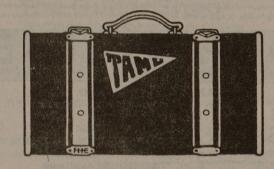
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#### **Defensive Driving Course** Jan. 21, 22; Jan. 27, 28; Feb. 4, 5 **College Station Hilton**

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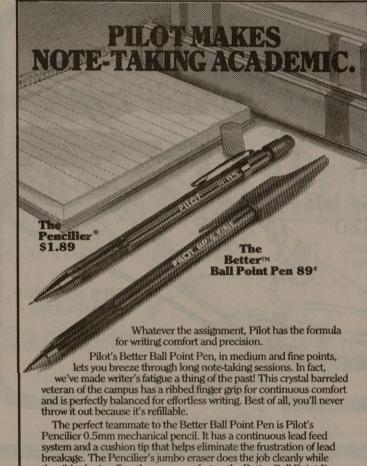
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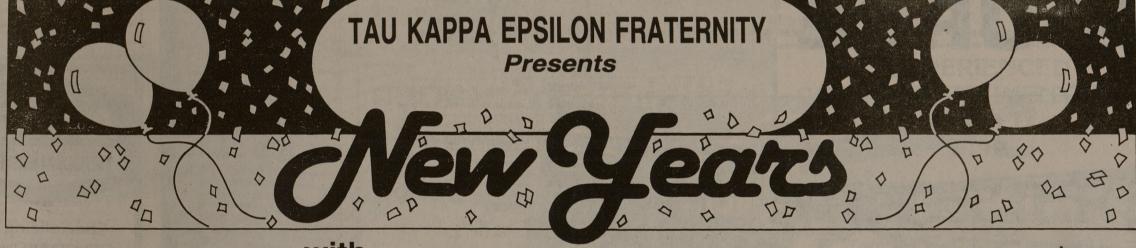
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PILOT



# "The Pet Peeves" **Tuesday, January 20th**

Begins at 8:31 at the TKE house Plenty of snacks and refreshments TAMU

Texas Ave. Bryan ->

South Parker