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## Student group to travel to Mexico over break to renovate mission

By **Sondra McCarty**  
Reporter

This Saturday, a busload of students will travel to Mexico, but they aren't regular spring-breakers going for the hot sun, cool surf and a week-long party. These students, and a few local families, will devote most of their vacation to helping people who are less fortunate.

A group of about 50 people from the Texas A&M Wesley Foundation will be spending Saturday through Thursday donating time, skill and labor on the renovation of a one-room mission in Valle Hermoso, Mexico.

"In Valle Hermoso, they have a small Methodist mission — it needs quite a bit of work," says Johanna Hume, a junior French and history major at A&M.

The Mexico-bound group consists mainly of undergraduate and graduate students from A&M, plus a few local families from area Methodist churches, she says.

The group plans to build a bathroom, a fence and a sidewalk as well as doing sheetrocking and painting.

Doug Hiser, work projects chairman for Wesley Foundation, says the students will build the bathroom from the ground up.

"We are definitely going to try to get the bathroom done," Hiser says. "That's priority number one."

Another top priority is to get supplies needed for the project, he says.

The foundation, whose funds are heavily supported by the Methodist Church's Texas Annual Conference, will spend between \$1,500 and \$2,000 on supplies, Hiser says.

"We did a kind of fund-raising drive, in which we asked local Methodist churches to donate \$50 to sup-

port a missionary," he says. "With that \$50, we buy all the supplies the missionary would need to do the project. The students themselves pay \$30 for food and transportation."

The missionaries will take few provisions on the trip since they will cross the Mexican border.

"We'll take sleeping bags, power tools and scaffolding," Hiser says.

Since the missionaries will be working in another country, Hiser says they had to get permission to do so through a tourist visa.

"Everyone must have one of three things to get past the border," he says, "a passport, a birth certificate or a voter's registration card."

Hume said, "When you take a group into Mexico to work, they (officials) don't look highly upon that because you are taking away jobs."

## What's up

### Friday

**UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY:** will hold a peanut-butter fellowship at 11:30 a.m. at Rudder Fountain and a Bible study at 6:15 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church.

**TAMU MEN'S TENNIS:** will play Baylor at 1 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

**TRANSFER CAMP '87/ STUDENT Y:** applications for transfer camp counselors are available through today on the second floor of the Pavilion.

### Sunday

**BRAZOS VALLEY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP:** H. Bailey Gallison of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center of the University of California, San Diego will speak at 3 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

### Tuesday

**COMMODORE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP:** will meet at 8:15 p.m. in 105 Horticulture Forestry Sciences.

**MARRIED STUDENT APARTMENT COUNCIL:** will meet at 7 p.m. in the council room next to the garage.

**PEER ADVISER:** applications are available in 108 YMC through March 27.

**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.**

## Man convicted in 22-year-old murder case

**PAMPA (AP)** — Jurors convicted a man Thursday who had escaped prosecution for murder for 22 years because authorities mistakenly listed him a "mental vegetable" after he killed his wife and shot himself in the head.

Albert Branscum, 56, was convicted on a charge of first-degree murder with malice in the 1964 shooting of Glenna Fay Branscum, who had moved out of their home and begun divorce proceedings.

He could be sentenced to life in prison and fined \$10,000 when the trial's punishment phase begins Friday.

Branscum was at first judged incapable of standing trial because of his head wounds and was committed to a hospital.

The case was reopened last year after a relative of Mrs. Branscum's questioned the case's status. Authorities discovered Branscum had walked away from the hospital 20 years ago and had been operating a salvage yard in Konawa, Okla., since then.

Prior to the verdict Friday, Branscum took the stand in his own defense and wept quietly as he spoke of the killing and his attempted suicide.

He said he doesn't remember shooting or his suicide attempt.

Branscum testified that his marriage was "like heaven" and he was crushed when his wife died out on him a week before.

"It just came to a point there was no way to go, no turn," he said. "I just couldn't. I was afraid of losing my life, just didn't know what was happening to any of us."

In closing arguments, District Attorney Harold called Branscum's actions premeditated and vicious.

## Family owns, operates country grocery

By **Ed Holtgraver**  
Reporter

This is farm country. Locals in the widespread community of Whitehall think nothing of seeing as many tractors as cars in the early morning.

Old farmhouses dot the landscape, most of them with pickup trucks parked in front of them.

On a small hill, an old frame building rests on the corner of a three-way intersection. This intersection covers what would be considered the business district of Whitehall, a small community east of Navasota along Farm Road 362, about 10 miles south of Texas Highway 105.

The old frame building, a combination general store and gas station, serves as the only business in the business district.

Weeds grow in the street at the intersection. The town indeed is not a metropolis.

The general store, called Schroeder Grocery, was built in 1934 and has old 1960s-style gas pumps out front.

Several chairs sit by the door, waiting for the occasional afternoon visitor. Right now, they are vacant. At other times they are filled with the friendly talk of people wanting to find someone else with whom they may talk.

Upon entering the store, an old, red Coca-Cola freezer — one that has been around for what must be forever — stands immediately to the right. It is not really old, like an antique, but it has a certain style to it that the freezers in most convenient stores lack.

As a visitor glances at the soda pop and then begins to look around the rest of the store, a friendly greeting is heard from behind the counter.

"Hello, how are you today?" The smiling person behind the counter with the friendly greeting is Eleandre Feldmann. Somewhat short and middle-aged with gray hair, she looks over the counter and waits patiently as the customer walks around, deciding on what purchases to make.

Outside, a man pulls up in a Ford truck and comes in to talk for a few minutes. He and Feldmann talk

about the times. They apparently are old acquaintances, talking casually.

After a short time, the man leaves and drives off. But not without Feldmann telling him to be sure to come back.

Just as the man leaves, a large truck drives up and stops next to the gas pumps. It's a large Like Cola truck, and a delivery man gets out with a clipboard.

Feldmann receives an order and the man brings three cases of soda from the truck. The man gets back in the truck and drives away, as this is the extent of the delivery.

Today is a busy day. Feldmann began working at the grocery in 1977, and she enjoys her work at the store.

"I had been working at a dairy my uncle owned," she says. "After he sold the dairy, I came here to the grocery to work... not too much has really changed since then."

But she forgot one very important thing that has changed since then.

"Oh, only we did put in air conditioning last summer," she adds.

The uncle she mentions is Mr. Schroeder, the man whose name is on all the store's business cards.

Feldmann and her husband, Wilbert, own all the merchandise inside the store, though her uncle owns the building itself.

Besides running the store, the Feldmanns keep cattle near their home and Wilbert bales hay.

Mrs. Feldmann took over the daily operations of the store when Schroeder's wife died.

She says her predecessor had her own way of doing things.

"She (Schroeder's wife) never used the winter daylight savings time in the grocery," Mrs. Feldmann says. "Instead, she used 'God's time.' She believed it was too wasteful, especially for farming. By the time a farmer got started in the fields again

after lunch, it was already getting dark."

Most of the store's visitors are friendly, Feldmann says.

Aggies don't stop by too often she says, because the store is too far away to be affected by traffic generated by Texas football weekends.

"But the Renaissance helps a lot," she adds.

Against the far wall of the building, there are several large all about seven feet high wooden doors and various supplies on the side.

Those cabinets came out of a goods store in Navasota in 1955, she says. They're pretty nearly as good by now, she says, guessing the cabinets are fairly valuable.

But anyone planning to visit Schroeder Grocery should be reminded visitors that the store has "no credit."



Schroeder Grocery in Whitehall, Texas

Photo by Bill High

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