

# What's up

Wednesday

**FOUNTAIN FORUM:** Karl Palmeyer will speak and answer questions about *The Battalion* at noon at Rudder Fountain.

**JORDAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS:** Dr. Mikhail Barszap will criticize two films on Soviet culture at 8 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

**WESLEY FOUNDATION:** Dr. Jim Wild, A&M professor of biochemistry and genetics, will speak on "AIDS In Perspective" at 8 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

**GAY STUDENT SERVICES:** a guest speaker will speak on "The Bible and Homosexuality" at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

**MSC POLITICAL FORUM:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

**CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL:** will conduct a program on resumes at 8:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

**AGGIE TOASTERS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 342 Zachry.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will meet at noon. Call 845-5826 for location.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. Call 845-5826 for location.

**UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY:** will hold an Aggie supper at 6 p.m. at A&M Presbyterian Church.

**MSC HOSPITALITY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC.

**TAMU MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

**WRESTLING CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 260 G. Rollie White.

**OHIO HOMESTATE CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder.

**AGGIE BAR ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP:** Applications are available through today in 103 Academic for seniors planning to enter law school in the fall.

Thursday

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will meet at 12:15 p.m. Call 845-5826 for location.

**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** will meet at 6 p.m. Call 845-5826 for location.

**TAMU ROADRUNNERS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

**TAMU CYCLING TEAM:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 105 G. Rollie White.

**CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 200 Heldenfels.

**STUDENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC CREATIONISM:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

**AGGNOG:** will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a demonstration on squeezing and archiving files to save diskette space.

**CENTER FOR RETAILING STUDIES:** applications for senior positions are available in the CRS office through Friday.

**STUDENT "Y" ASSOCIATION:** applications for chairman are available through April 22.

**CHANCELLOR'S STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD:** applications are available in the office of the Vice President for Student Services, office of Student Affairs, Student Activities office, Corps Commander's office, MSC Director's office and Student Government office. Applications are due at 5 p.m. Friday in 110 YMCA Building.

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

## Pennzoil unsure about contesting bankruptcy claim

HOUSTON (AP) — Pennzoil Co. has not decided whether it will take action to challenge the validity of Texaco Inc.'s Chapter 11 filing, a company spokesman said Tuesday.

"There's a question as to which way to go," spokesman Mickey Gentry said. "There's some reasons to let it stand."

Pennzoil is taking time to review its legal options following Texaco's Sunday filing for protection from creditors, said retired Pennzoil President Baine R. Kerr.

Pennzoil could determine that its interests are protected better in the bankruptcy court than with an appeals bond, Kerr said Monday.

"We have not made any decisions yet," he said. "But there are advantages to the bankruptcy court. First of all, it is very difficult to get out of there."

Since all Texaco expenditures and transactions have to be approved by the bankruptcy court, Pennzoil, as the largest unsecured creditor, will have a say in how the funds are spent, Kerr said.

"Bankruptcy essentially accomplishes the same thing as a bond," he said. "It takes something out of the hands of people that in my opinion were acting irrationally and irresponsibly anyway. To get out of bankruptcy, they are going to have to come to terms with their biggest creditor. I don't quite see how they have improved their position in any way."

Texaco filed for protection from its creditors under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code Sunday. The White Plains, N.Y.-based company claimed it could not afford to post a bond or other security in the appeal of the \$10.3 billion judgment it was ordered to pay Pennzoil.

The litigation stems from Texaco's 1984 acquisition of Getty Oil Co. In 1985, a Houston jury awarded Pennzoil the multibillion-dollar award after determining Texaco unlawfully interfered with Pennzoil's attempted merger with Getty.

The Texas 1st Court of Civil Appeals upheld most of the award in February but reduced the punitive damages, making the total \$8.5 billion. With interest, the judgment is about \$11 billion, the largest in U.S. history.

Pennzoil attorney John Jeffers said a decision to attempt to dismiss Texaco's bankruptcy petition has

not been made. However, he and Kerr indicated that Pennzoil will put a high priority on resuming the appeals process at the earliest opportunity.

Texaco attorney James B. Sales said Texaco plans to proceed with the state court appeal as soon as the bankruptcy court gives its approval.

Sales denied that Texaco's bankruptcy filing is an effort to evade the jurisdiction of the Texas courts.

Last week, the high court directed Texaco to pursue the appellate security issue in the state courts.

Texaco has dispelled earlier claims that bankruptcy would force it to shut down its business and put thousands of people out of work.

## Clements concerned over job loss

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements, while voicing concern for the jobs of 8,000 Texaco workers in Texas, said Tuesday he is undecided on legislation to lower the bond Texaco must post while appealing the loss of a multibillion-dollar lawsuit to Pennzoil.

"I'm concerned about the Texaco-Pennzoil situation as it relates to jobs," Clements told reporters at his weekly news conference.

Texaco has sought protection under federal bankruptcy laws after being on the losing end of an \$11 billion judgment to Pennzoil, which alleged that Texaco Inc. had interfered with a merger.

Under Texas law, the losing side is required to post bond roughly equal to the judgment to protect the winning side while appeals are pursued.

Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, and Rep. Charles Evans, D-Hurst, have introduced legislation that would limit the amount of the bond that must be posted to \$1 billion.

Clements said he hasn't seen the legislation or talked with Parker or Evans.

"Until I see the bill, and I talk to the sponsors and fully understand the bill, I'm not taking a position on the bill as such," the governor said.

## District judge says home schooling doesn't break Texas' attendance law

FORT WORTH (AP) — Teaching school-age children at home constitutes private schooling and does not violate Texas' compulsory school attendance law, a state district judge ruled Tuesday.

Judge Charles Murray said state law does not require that children attend public school, but that they attend a school with an organized curriculum.

Murray also ruled that the state Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency do not have the authority to define what a private school is because they have jurisdiction only in public schools.

The judge ruled in a class-action lawsuit filed against the state in 1985 by a group of parents, some from Arlington, who teach their children at home. Four home-school curricula companies joined in the suit.

Court records show that between 10,000 and

15,000 school-age children in Texas attend home schools.

State law requires every school to offer a basic curriculum of reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics and good citizenship.

Most home schools use lesson plans from companies throughout the country that offer religious-oriented material. Those home schools are accredited through the companies, and therefore comply with state law, the ruling said.

School districts throughout Texas had filed criminal lawsuits against more than 80 couples who teach their children at home, saying the parents were guilty of truancy.

Murray's ruling prohibits Texas school districts from pursuing charges against parents who teach at home. But his ruling does give school district truant officers the authority to check occasionally to ensure that school-age children are in school — whether public or private.

In the suit, the parents asked the judge to declare home schools are private schools and to decide whether such schools are bound by state guidelines requiring proof that students are attending and following a basic educational plan.

"It's incredible," said Fort Worth attorney Shelby Sharpe, who represented the parents. "It's a 100 percent victory for home education."

"Needless to say, we're very, very happy," Gary Leeper, whose wife Cheryl teaches their 10- and 12-year-old children at home, told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. "We won everything we wanted, and didn't sacrifice anything."

The Leepers filed the initial lawsuit against the Arlington school district.

But not everyone felt the ruling was a victory for parents.

Ron Dusek, a spokesman for Attorney General Jim Mattox, said Mattox considered the ruling "a split decision."

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