

# What's up

Tuesday

- STUDY ABROAD OFFICE:** will have a Fulbright informational meeting at 251 Bizzell Hall West at 2 p.m.
- HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT FOUNDATION:** will have an ice-cream, pizza bash for freshmen at the Hillel Jewish Student Center at 5 p.m.
- NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY:** will meet in 145 MSC at 8:30 p.m.
- WRITING OUTREACH:** will hold a workshop entitled "The Writing Process: Filling the Blank Page" in 112 Blocker at 6:30 p.m.
- WILDLIFE BIOLOGY SOCIETY:** Dr. David Owens will speak in 108 Harrington at 7:30 p.m.
- SILVER TAPS:** will be held in front of the Academic Building at the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Statue at 10:30 p.m.
- COLLEGIATE FFA:** will have an ice-cream social in 101 Scoates Hall at 6:30 p.m.
- FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet in 158 Blocker at 7 p.m.
- TAMU HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** will meet in 115 Kleberg at 7 p.m.
- AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS:** Bob Davis will speak on hazardous waste in 110 Civil Engineering Building at 7 p.m.
- ON-CAMPUS CATHOLICS:** will meet at the All Faiths Chapel at 9 p.m.
- TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION:** will meet in 206 Rudder at 7 p.m.
- GYMNASTICS CLUB:** will meet for a workout in 307 Read at 6:30 p.m.
- TAMU FLYING CLUB:** will meet in the clubhouse at Eastwood airport at 7 p.m.
- ALPHA PHI OMEGA:** will have a rush meeting in 226 MSC at 7 p.m.
- AGGIES FOR JACK KEMP:** will meet in 504 Rudder at 7 p.m.
- INTRAMURAL SPORTS:** Indoor soccer entries close in 159 Read at 5:30 p.m.
- RETAILING SOCIETY:** will meet in 150 Blocker at 7 p.m.
- BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION:** will hold a tour of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Meet at VMS 201 at 7 p.m.
- UNDERGRADUATE BIOCHEMISTRY SOCIETY:** will have an ice-cream sundae social on the lawn of the Herman Heep Building at 6:30 p.m.
- TEXAS AGGIE GRASSROOTS COALITION:** will meet at 205-1 Sulphur Springs Road between South College and Texas Avenue at 6:30 p.m.
- STUDENT GOVERNMENT:** will have a "Get Involved Night" in 301 Rudder at 8:30 p.m.
- TEXAS A&M ASSOCIATION OF MARTIAL ARTS:** will have a karate-gung fu demonstration at Rudder Fountain at 2 p.m.
- MSC JORDAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS:** will meet in 302 Rudder at 7 p.m.
- PHI THETA KAPPA:** will have a reception for old and new members in 145 MSC from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- AGGIE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION:** will meet in 144 Blocker at 5 p.m.
- OMEGA PHI ALPHA SERVICE SORORITY:** will hold fall rush in 230 MSC at 7 p.m.
- TAMU ONE WHEELERS:** will meet in front of G. Rollic White at 6 p.m.
- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION:** will hold a prayer meeting in the library of the All Faiths Chapel at 7 p.m.
- WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES:** applications will be available at several campus locations from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 7 through Sept. 25. For more information call 845-4728.
- COSGA — STUDENT GOVERNMENT:** Applications are available for student government organizations in 221 Pavilion.

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

## Houston officials expect increase in hotel business

HOUSTON (AP) — Local hotel officials are anticipating an end to drops in occupancy rates with the opening of the city's George R. Brown Convention Center.

Hotel occupancy rates slid during the recent economic downturn and many hotel employees' hours were cut.

But some officials believe such decreases could soon end.

The city hopes to put its best foot forward on Sept. 26 as it hosts a group of 500 meeting planners to show off the downtown convention center.

The meeting planners and association executives play a leading role in helping major groups decide on convention sites.

The next month, the convention center will host its first full-fledged convention — the World Travel Congress of the American Society of Travel Agents.

A favorable impression on the travel agents would lead to more business in Houston if they help promote the city on an ongoing basis, officials said.

"We're hoping it's probably inevitable," said Cheryl Willis, spokesman for the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Council.

Some 4,000 travel agents and up to 3,000 other travel-related professionals are expected to attend the convention Oct. 11-16.

Six major shows have been

booked into the convention center through the end of 1987, which will bring about 36,500 people to the city.

Those visits will result in 8,700 hotel room nights, Willis said.

The Four Seasons Hotel, the downtown hotel located closest to the new convention center, has seen its group bookings for 1988 climb to 15,000 from the 4,000 it projected for 1987.

Cody Plott, general manager of the Hyatt Regency Hotel downtown, said the hotel business is "coming back slowly."

Although downtown hotels will feel the impact of the convention center the most, the spillover effect of displaced corporate travelers will improve occupancy rates for other area hotels, officials said.

The average occupancy rate has increased from 49.9 percent in July 1986 to 52.7 percent in the same month this year, according to a survey by the accounting firm of Laventol & Horwath.

Terry Richards, an analyst who tracks the lodging industry for Laventol & Horwath, said he expects downtown hotel occupancy rates to climb 5 to 10 percentage points during the next year with convention business.

"It's not going to be consistent, but it will have an impact when they (conventions) are in town," Richards said.

## Evangelists accused of weakening power of religious television

BEAUMONT (AP) — Television evangelists such as Jerry Falwell and Jimmy Swaggart who publicized Jim Bakker's downfall seriously set back the cause of Christian broadcast programming, the head of the nation's third-largest Christian TV network said.

"I have told Jimmy Swaggart personally, I have told Jerry Falwell personally, John Ankerberg, and that whole gang, I've looked them all in the eye and told them I think they should have kept their mouths shut," Paul Crouch, president of the Trinity Broadcasting Network, said in an interview with the *Beaumont Enterprise*.

Falwell took over PTL when Bakker resigned in March after confessing to a sexual affair with a church secretary in 1980.

Swaggart and Ankerberg went to denominational leaders and the secular media with more allegations of Bakker's sexual and financial misconduct.

"They made a big mistake. . . . I'm

grieved in my spirit that so many Christian brethren jumped in there and talked to you news media people," he said.

"I think they should have kept their mouths shut, and dealt with it in the confines of the church," he said.

"We completely stayed out of the fray," he said.

Crouch, 53, and Bakker started TBN, based in Santa Ana, Calif., in 1973.

Last week, Crouch and his wife, Jan, brought the staff of their broadcasting network to a Baptist church in Lumberton, outside Beaumont, to broadcast their "Praise the Lord" show live.

They also conducted a telethon to gather pledges for a local educational station owned by TBN.

Crouch and Bakker split in 1973 shortly after the two Assembly of God ministers started TBN.

Bakker founded the PTL club soon after he left the broadcasting network.

## Experts: Gulf instability helps West Texas oilmen

MIDLAND (AP) — Three dollars — the difference between a barrel of crude oil this summer and a year ago — has never meant so much to oil-dependent West Texas.

Experts say instability in the Persian Gulf has returned hope and activity to the Permian Basin, but they question whether the oil-dependent region can improve further.

"There's a speck of light out there at the end of the tunnel, but it's been a long tunnel," said William Gee, an independent oilman in Midland.

The Permian Basin was one of the fastest growing regions in the nation during the early 1980s, when the Arab oil embargo, Iranian revolution and other factors drove up the price of domestic oil. In 1985, the price of oil declined

slowly but steadily and by 1986 the price of a barrel of domestic crude plunged.

The increase in oil prices in late 1986 began encouraging oil firms that survived the bust to take the first, cautious steps back into exploration and production.

Grant Billingsley, an executive with one of Midland's major independent oil companies, Wagner & Brown, said, "The sense I get is that people have a better attitude and are allowing themselves to consider alternatives in the future. This fall is like the coming of a new year."

Oil prices were about \$19-a-barrel this summer, compared to \$16 last year. The increase

largely has been fueled by tensions in the Persian Gulf and concern over the availability of foreign oil, industry officials said.

Midland banker Darryl Pounds, an economic development official with the local Chamber of Commerce, said, "We are starting to see some positive signs. I wouldn't call it large, but it certainly is a turn in the right direction."

But despite the good news, experts are skeptical about a turnaround.

For one thing, surviving lenders who bankrolled the oil exploration during the West Texas oil boom may not be willing to risk their money a second time.

### UNDERGRADUATE BIOCHEMISTRY SOCIETY

ICE CREAM SUNDAE SOCIAL — 1st GENERAL MEETING  
LAWN OF THE HERMAN HEEP  
6:30 p.m.

- Come meet the faculty and advisors.
- Everyone welcome

STUDENT GOVERNMENT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



GET INVOLVED NIGHT  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8  
8:30 p.m.  
301 RUDDER

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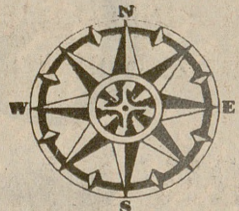
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### MSC JORDAN INSTITUTE for INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS



General Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 8 7:00pm  
Rudder Tower Room 302  
Membership Is Open

## Confused? Tired of RUMORS? QUESTIONS?

We are having a group presentation to Texas A&M University System Employees and Retirees.

Thursday, September 10  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
SCOTT & WHITE CLINIC  
1600 UNIVERSITY DRIVE EAST

We will be:

- Discussing Scott & White Health Plan Benefits
- Answering questions
- What's covered, what's not
- Assisting with forms



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