

What's up

Friday

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN: will have a reception for "Austin Annual" at 7 p.m. in Langford Architecture Center.

YELL PRACTICE: will be held at midnight at the west end of the Lubbock Civic Center, near the Buddy Holly statue.

COLOMBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a reunion for all A&M Colombians at 8 p.m., 906 Navidad, in Bryan.

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

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: Fulbright applications are due at 5 p.m. in 161 Bizzell West.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Sam Tidwell will discuss "Immigration Law: Coping with the Changes" at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: will meet at 7 p.m. in 108 Harrington.

MANAGEMENT 481: VISITING EXECUTIVE SERIES: Frederick Meyer will speak at 10 a.m. in 114 Blocker.

Sunday

PI SIGMA EPSILON: will have a signature party at 2 p.m. at Treehouse Village apartments.

TAMU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS: will teach beginning and intermediate folk dance lessons at 8 p.m. in 212 MSC.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a Bible study at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.

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

84,737 abortions performed in Texas in 1986, study says

AUSTIN (AP) — More than 84,000 abortions were performed in Texas last year, according to a first-ever study by the Department of Health.

The figure is lower than expected, said Pam Fridrich of the Texas Abortion Rights Action League. She said an earlier study indicated that 102,000 abortions were performed in the state in 1982.

A survey by the Alan Guttmacher Institute of New York estimated that 100,820 abortions were performed in Texas in 1985.

But a health department spokesman said the agency had no preconceived notions when it did the survey, which is mandated under a law passed by state legislators in 1985. The law requires clinics, hospitals and doctors that perform abortions to report them to the department.

Becky Beechinor, program administrator for the department's health facility licensure and certification division, said, "We had no idea how many to expect."

The 84,737 abortions reported could be lower than the actual number performed, Beechinor said. Although private physicians are required to report abortions they

perform, they are not licensed annually by the department of the way hospitals and abortion clinics are.

Of the abortions done in 1986, three of every four involved single women and one in five involved teen-agers, the study said.

Most of the abortions — 86 percent — were performed in the first trimester of pregnancy, the survey said. Another 13 percent were done in the second trimester.

Twenty-three abortions, a fraction of a percent, were performed in the third trimester.

A state law that went into effect Sept. 1 forbids abortions in the third trimester, unless the life of the mother is in danger or a fetus has a severe abnormality.

Fridrich said the statistics show that the number of third-trimester abortions don't represent "the terrible situation right-to-lifers were making it out to be...."

But Bill Price, director of the Texas Coalition for Life, estimates that at least 200 abortions are on the borderline between the second and third trimester because thousands of abortions were performed in the 21st to 24th weeks of pregnancy.

A&M-Galveston president works to expand research at university

By Deborah West
Reporter

The new president of Texas A&M at Galveston, Dr. William J. Merrell, says he would like to intensify research at the university.

Merrell, appointed to the position in April by the Texas A&M Board of Regents, has helped to attract research scientists and federal programs to the university.

Sea Grant, a joint federal and state research program that deals with subjects related to the ocean, opened a branch office at A&M-Galveston Sept. 1.

Sea Grant is administered in Texas by A&M and has projects on the seafood industry, maritime activities and beach erosion. John D. Merritt, head of the A&M-Galveston Office of University Information, says,

"We expect them (Sea Grant) to take an active role down here," Merritt says. "Each summer Texas A&M-Galveston conducts a sea camp for pre-college students. Sea Grant is interested in marine education. The Gulf Coast is a perfect place for them."

Merrell says research is important to the growth of the students and the university.

"The role of research is to create and disseminate knowledge," he says. "The state needs its learning institutions to do this function. The university must do public service and teaching."

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Merrell is helping to create the Galveston Research Institute, which will bring A&M, A&M-Galveston and the University of Texas together for work and research.

"Texas A&M-Galveston is bringing some top scientists from all over the country to teach and do research," he says. "Many expressed interest in coming here."

Merritt says A&M-Galveston is unique in its ability to give students hands-on training.

"It is good the university is making more room for research," he says. "Other research institutions

only give this type of experience to graduate students. We will make this experience available to undergraduates, too."

But some of the faculty is frustrated by Merrell's desire for more research.

"This university has a dual func-

tion — engineering and maritime," Merritt says. "As a result, there are significant differences in faculty members. Some of the professors have expertise in different areas. They advance their licenses at sea instead of the academic arena."

"The faculty fears academic criteria will be applied to a non-academic organization."

"In the past, a boy left home when he was 8 years old to become a cabin boy. After years of sailing experience, he became the captain of a ship."

"Today, those people need more than sailing experience, and that is what a maritime college is for."

But Merrell says research is a part of every university. He adds that most professors agree with his stance because the image of the university is directly related to the amount of research in which it is involved.

Merritt says that although Merrell believes in making changes slowly, he also wants to make the atmosphere better.

"A&M-Galveston sorely lacks a gymnasium," Merritt says. "The students have nowhere to go for exercise in the winter. That is a project we are working on."

Merrell received his doctorate from A&M in 1971 and has extensive educational experience, which led to his appointment as president of A&M-Galveston.

Merrell was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as Assistant Director for Geosciences for the National Science Foundation in October 1985. Merrell was an associate dean of the College of Geosciences at A&M before working in Washington, D.C., with the foundation.

Merrell says he enjoyed his job as a professor the most.

"It's the best job in any university," he says. "I like working with young people. It keeps you alive. It keeps you young."

A&M student-run radio station's benefit offers diverse range of musical talent

By Tom Reinarts
Reviewer

KANM, Texas A&M's student-run radio station, has held benefit concerts once or twice a semester for the past four years to help the station raise enough money to get off cable and get on FM. Past benefits have featured an exciting variety of musical styles including rockabilly, punk, pop, rock 'n' roll and experimental.

The first benefit this fall took place Wednesday night at Morgens-tern's, a local club. The performing bands were the Locomotives, the Rhythm Rats and Fusion. The

Rhythm Rats was the best band of the evening, but the other two bands also gave enjoyable performances.

The Locomotives started the show. The group played a variety of songs from the 1950s and 1960s, including "Pipeline," "96 Tears" and "Twist and Shout." The vocals were done by Mark Davenport, who also played rhythm guitar, and Tommy Smith. The drummer was Hank Allen, and Jimmy Vickers played bass guitar.

Shortly after the Locomotives finished playing, the Rhythm Rats took its turn on stage. The Rhythm Rats, an Austin-based band, is the first band from outside the local area to play at a KANM benefit. The band has a wide diversity of musical styles, with rhythm and blues being the most prevalent.

The members of the Rhythm Rats are drummer Rusty Trapps, bass

guitarist Loose Reed and guitarist Will Indian. Most of the songs they played were originals, featuring accomplished instrumentation and lyrics with a sense of humor that is irreverent and at times vulgar, but usually funny.

The band played songs from its album "Equipment Check," released last year, and its cassette, simply entitled "Rhythm Rats," released earlier this year. The better songs of the evening were "Liquid Town," a reggae party number, and "I Wanna Spend the Night With Vanna White," a good rhythm-and-blues song that was released as a single a few months ago.

Fusion, a local band that has existed more than six years, wound

up the evening. Bass guitarist Bryan Foster and guitarist Len Carlton have been with the group from the beginning, but drummer David Feagen and lead singer Michael Taylor are more recent additions.

The four played mostly pop and rock 'n' roll covers, but the more enjoyable ones were those that the band has written, including "New Country," a fine country-rock song, and "World."

The show Wednesday night was entertaining. The set performed by the Rhythm Rats was good, while those done by Fusion and the Locomotives were commendable. The next KANM benefit will be Oct. 28 and again will take place at Morgens-tern's.

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