

What's up

Tuesday

- WRITING OUTREACH:** Jerri Sosvill will discuss "The Elements of a Clear Style" at 6:30 p.m. in 110 Blocker.
- UNIVERSITY ART EXHIBITS:** John McDermott will discuss "The Eros of the Medieval Divine Ideas" at 7:30 p.m. in 201 MSC.
- SADDLE AND SIRLOIN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
- POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY/PI SIGMA ALPHA:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC.
- PLAINVIEW HOMETOWN CLUB:** will take pictures for the Aggeland at 8:15 p.m. in the MSC flag room.
- CAREER DAY — HOUSTON:** All majors and classifications can sign up for Career Day in Houston through Nov. 6 in 208 Pavilion.
- MEXICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
- INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM:** Dr. Keith Andrews will discuss "Technology Transfer in the Third World" at 3:30 p.m. at the Soil and Crop Sciences Building-Entomology Center.
- ECONOMICS SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 163 Blocker.
- INTRAMURAL SPORTS:** Entries close for badminton doubles in 159 Read.
- NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 507A-B Rudder.
- ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC AND FREETHINKER SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 305A-B Rudder.
- DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 130 Blocker.
- ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 134 Blocker.
- MEXIA HOMETOWN CLUB:** will take pictures for the Aggeland at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC main lounge.
- PRE-LAW SOCIETY:** Murray Nusyhowitz will speak at 8:30 p.m. in 206 Rudder.
- AGGIE ALLEMANDERS:** will have a square dance workshop and will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Pavilion.
- RHA FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 203 Harrington.
- PI SIGMA EPSILON:** Team C, the "Dotted Lines," will play volleyball at 9 p.m. in the Read Building.
- NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 145 MSC.
- CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will have a discussion group at 9 p.m. at the All Faiths Chapel.
- MSC PAGEANT COMMITTEE:** Applications for 1988 Miss TAMU Pageant are available until Nov. 13 in 216 MSC.

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

A&M researcher helps computerize court's decisions

By Clark Miller
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M researcher is participating in the creation of a computerized database containing nearly 8,000 U.S. Supreme Court cases that will be ready to use next year.

Charles A. Johnson, associate dean of liberal arts at A&M, is working with political scientists from the University of Houston, Michigan State University and the University of Kentucky. He said the collection of information will benefit anyone trying to study Supreme Court decisions.

"It provides a common database of facts and it is a time-saving device," Johnson said.

The computerized compilation will include every Supreme Court decision that justices have given oral or written opinions about between 1953 and the early 1980s, Johnson said.

The \$250,000 project is funded by the National Science Foundation, Johnson said. A&M is receiving slightly less than \$40,000 of that money.

The project idea was originated by Dr. Harold Spaeth, a political scientist at Michigan State who convinced the NSF of the project's importance.

"There is a definite need for a standardized method of studying the behavior of the Supreme Court," Spaeth said.

In the past, when Supreme Court scholars wanted to study the behavior of the Court, it took vast amounts of time, money and energy to do the research necessary to find the information.

Dr. Robert Carp, a University of Houston political scientist working on the project, agrees, saying it's too expensive for one person to collect the data.

Spaeth said the database being collected by Johnson, Carp and other researchers will make studying the Supreme Court simpler.

Johnson said the new system, expected to be ready between September and December of next year, will be especially useful to social scientists, historians and law school professors.

Johnson has been involved with this program from the beginning, Spaeth said. He served on the NSF committee that oversaw the collec-

"There is a definite need for a standardized method of studying the behavior of the Supreme Court."

— Dr. Harold Spaeth, Michigan State University political scientist

tion of information when the project started and became one of the main investigators on the project when the committee realized the job needed more researchers.

Johnson said he is aided by six A&M graduate students who are each assigned a volume of Supreme Court decisions with which to draw information after a training period that teaches them what specific information to look for.

The database will include the origin of cases, how they got to the Supreme Court, how justices voted, who wrote opinions, who the involved parties were and other information.

All the researchers will submit their data in May or June and the database will be prepared. When it is completed, the database will be given to the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan for dissemination. The ICPRS then will be available to subscribers nationwide. A&M is already an ICPRS subscriber.

A&M researchers: Drug aids people with high levels of test-taking anxiety

By Jena Atchison
Reporter

Drugs known as "beta blockers" have been found to increase Scholastic Aptitude Test scores for individuals suffering from high levels of test-taking anxiety, a Texas A&M educational psychologist says.

Although test anxiety is common among students, some suffering from high anxiety become nervous any time they are faced with a competitive situation, says Dr. Gwyneth Boodoo, an A&M associate professor.

Propranolol, a hypertension drug that decreases anxiety, has been administered to high-anxiety students taking the SAT and has been found

to increase high school students' SAT scores.

Boodoo says students who have been treated with the drug are intelligent, but anxiety has impeded their performance on the SAT. These individuals suffer from abnormal anxiety, which causes a loss of ability to perform in a pressured situation. Therefore, a student taking a test would have a temporary loss of memory caused by anxiety.

"For the average person a little anxiety is healthy," Boodoo says. "When anxiety increases to a dangerous level, the individual can do well on an exam."

Although test results are positive,

Boodoo says there is no conclusive research to show a direct relationship between the drug and the SAT.

Dr. Anthony Bourgeois Jr., an A&M associate professor of psychology, explained some physical effects of propranolol. He says the drug affects the heart and brain by lowering blood pressure, which decreases arousal of hypertension. Adrenaline decreases and the heart rate beats at a normal pace.

Boodoo expressed concern for the possible abuse of the drug.

"I think some might abuse the drug by relying on it to get through every exam, which could make them

unable to face pressure situations without the drug," she said.

She also stresses that harmful effects can result from inappropriate use of "beta-blockers" by people who don't need the drug.

"My reaction was that students with normal anxiety levels might take the drug to lower those levels, thinking the drug will increase their test scores," Boodoo said.

No research has been conducted on students with normal anxiety levels because they are not targets of "beta-blockers." Yet, she says, the drug successfully has reduced anxiety levels and dramatically increased test scores of those who were administered propranolol.

Lawyers give millions to Texas Supreme Court campaigns

DALLAS (AP) — Eight Texas lawyers and law firms account for almost 18 percent of the \$7.9 million collected in this decade by judges on the Texas Supreme Court, the Dallas Times Herald reported Monday.

In a copyright story, the newspaper said members of those firms have appeared 28 times before the court in disputes settled by written opin-

ions issued since 1985.

Among those lawyers and firms making direct contributions of more than \$100,000 to the justices' campaigns since 1980 are Houston attorney Joe D. Jamail Jr. and his son Joe Jamail III, who gave \$238,000.

Others include Corpus Christi attorneys Bill Edwards, David Perry, Russell McMains and An-

thony Constant, who gave \$252,887 through a political action committee led by Edwards and Perry.

The Houston law firm of Vinson & Elkins gave \$230,551 through its Texas Good Government Fund political action committee, and the Houston firm of Helm, Pletcher, Hogan, Bowen & Saunders gave \$151,228.

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The Department of History of Texas A&M University invites you to the eighth annual J. Milton Nance Lecture in Texas History entitled **The Slave Hire System in Texas** by Randolph B. Campbell Tuesday, November 3, 1987, at 7:30 p.m. Room 113 Kleberg Center Texas A&M University College Station, Texas

Reception following in Atrium

PRE-LAW SOCIETY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
206 RUDDER
8:30 P.M.

SPEAKER: MURRAY NUSYHOWITZ
ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR
UNIV. OF HOUSTON LAW SCHOOL

PRESENTATION: STANLEY KAPLAN
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1.26	\$2525	.69	\$760
1.17	\$1395	.67	\$815
1.16	\$1345	.65	\$975
1.10	\$2250	.63	\$715
1.08	\$1975	.62	\$775
1.06	\$2375	.61	\$715
1.02	\$2685	.59	\$930
1.00	\$1950	.57	\$695
1.00	\$1345	.55	\$865
.96	\$896	.54	\$695
.87	\$1275	.50	\$795
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		.10	\$63
		.05	\$35

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