

What's up

Wednesday

CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL: will meet at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.
ALPHA EPSILON DELTA PREMED HONOR SOCIETY: will meet and a speaker will talk at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS: Jaques Jordaan, vice consul of South Africa, will speak at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. Call 845-5826 for meeting place.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 145 MSC.
BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: will have Bible study at noon at the Baptist Student Center.
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS: will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 225 MSC.
BEAUMONT HOMETOWN CLUB: will have a social at 7 p.m. at The Flying Tomato.
STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder.
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS: will discuss "Professionalism and You" at 7 p.m. in 102 Zachry.
EUROPE CLUB: will meet at 9:30 p.m. at The Flying Tomato.
COLOMBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. at Mama's Pizza.
MANAGEMENT SOCIETY: Mike Thompson will discuss "Career Development" at 7 p.m. in 165 Blocker.
AGGIE TOASTERS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 104B Zachry.
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have an Aggie supper at 6 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church.
FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES: will meet at 8 p.m. in the letterman's lounge.
MODERN LANGUAGES: Linda Henderson will discuss "Modernism in the Fourth Dimension" at 7:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

Thursday

ECONOMICS SOCIETY: will meet for happy hour at 5 p.m. at Rocco's.
PRE-LAW SOCIETY: will take pictures for the Aggeland at 9:30 p.m. in the Zachry lobby.
HAMILTON COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 302A Rudder.
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM: Dr. Katherine Dettwyler will present slides and discuss "Infant Nutrition in Developing Countries: A Study in Mali, West Africa" at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days before desired publication date.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police from Nov. 2 through Monday:

MISDEMEANER THEFT:
 • A student reported that his roommate had several backpacks in their room. Upon investigation, an officer found that one of the backpacks had been reported stolen from Sbsia Dinning Hall.

ATTEMPTED THEFT:
 • A student saw four men trying to remove the street sign at the corner of Ross and Spence streets. When the student approached the men, they fled in two cars.

UNAUTHORIZED SOLICITATION:
 • Officers arrested several members of a Mississippi Hare Krishna organization who were soliciting donations at the A&M-La. Tech football game.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY OF MOTOR VEHICLE:
 • Someone tried to break into a 1984 Mercury Cougar and a

1983 Toyota Celica in Parking Annex 56.

BURGLARY OF MOTOR VEHICLE:
 • Four vehicles in PA 56 were broken into and four stereos, a set of speakers, a radar detector, cassette tapes and a camera were stolen.

THEFT OF SERVICE:
 • Someone used 24 counterfeit \$1 bills to get change from a campus coin machine.

INDECENT EXPOSURE:
 • A student told police she saw a man exposing himself on the second floor hallway of Francis Hall.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS:
 • Officers found several students on the roof of Bolton Hall. The students were given criminal trespass warnings and were told to leave.

ROBBERY:
 • A man told police that two men knocked him down and took \$70 from his wallet.

A&M researchers study behaviors of Texas alligators

By Mary McClenny
Reporter

From the time Texas alligators appear in March until they retreat to their underwater nests in the fall, Texas A&M professor James R. Dixon studies these intimidating animals for clues to their behavior patterns, sex ratios and lifestyles.

For one of his major studies, Dixon, a wildlife scientist, gathers information about alligator nest temperatures with doctoral student Louise Hayes. Dixon says temperature is a key to determining the sex of unhatched alligators.

Hayes says knowing the number of alligators of each sex in the nest and in the wild is the best way to determine the maximum number of alligators that can be taken during the 21-day hunting season without endangering the population.

"This is a huntable animal in the state now," Dixon says. "Primarily we want to harvest excess males, and this is where our research becomes important."

"If we keep altering the habitat, we may start producing all one sex and they may be males. This would cause the population to drop because we are not getting enough females in the population."

With funding from various agencies in the United States and abroad, Dixon and graduate students in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department conduct research activities in alligator-inhabited areas that need their services.

Hayes is now working on a mark-recapture study she conducts in the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area near Port Arthur.

Hayes is researching sex ratios of alligators in different Texas climates. She does this by placing electronic devices in selected alligator nests to monitor temperature.

In the study, Hayes captures alligators up to four feet long — sometimes longer — tags their feet and then turns them loose. She checks them periodically to determine growth and survival rates.

Hayes sacrifices the eggs in these nests to determine the sex of each alligator.

"There is a definite relation between nest temperature and sex of the alligators. With a higher temperature, you get males, and lower, you get females."

— Louise Hayes, doctoral student

"There is a definite relation between nest temperature and sex of the alligators," Hayes says. "With a higher temperature, you get males, and lower, you get females."

Hayes says it's important to know about different alligator habitats because it allows her to know which sex is coming from each area and if there is a variation.

Dixon says they are trying to find out how Texas alligators respond to their environment.

"We want to find out if we are getting mostly male or female or if we are getting a good mix," Dixon says.

He says the research is helpful in managing and hunting alligators.

In past hunting seasons, there have been between 900 and 1,000 alligators taken.

Hunters keep the hides and the meat, but scientists obtain much of the remaining alligator carcasses for research.

"You have to know a lot about the biology of a species to be able to harvest it," Dixon says.

"You just can't go out there and indiscriminately shoot and expect to keep that population around. You will probably overshoot it."

Dixon says one problem with alligator hunting is that different agencies have opposing ideas about the validity of hunting these animals.

"You have to satisfy both of the opposite extremes — the hunters and the conservationists," Dixon says. "We have to make them realize there is a place for both. We are the predators now, and it is our responsibility to sustain this population."

FSLIC begins lawsuit against shareholders

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. filed a \$279 million lawsuit on Tuesday against the former chief executive of First South Savings & Loan Association of Pine Bluff, Ark., and two Dallas developers who were among the thrift's shareholders and principal borrowers.

The FSLIC alleges they engaged in a pattern of racketeering conduct. The suit named developers George S. Watson and A. Starke Taylor III, both of Dallas, and Howard J. Wiechern Jr., FirstSouth's former chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

The FSLIC's suit came four days after Watson and Taylor filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles seeking \$30 million from the agency, which was

named receiver of First South last December after federal regulators declared the institution insolvent.

The FSLIC suit alleges that the defendants became involved in racketeering activity in 1982 and continued through 1986, during which time Watson and Taylor were controlling shareholders of First South.

According to the suit, Watson and Taylor — without investing any of their own funds — benefited from more than \$300 million in loans, as well as millions in cash through other transactions financed by the savings and loan.

FSLIC seeks to recover damages arising from the alleged misapplication of First South loans used for speculative real estate deals in Dallas.

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 Stephen Dunn 696-6196



Burleson School board votes against teaching creationism
 BURLESON (AP)—The Burleson school board has decided not to change its policy allowing creationism to be taught along with other theories about the origin of man.
 In a 5-2 vote, the board advised its school staff Monday that creationism can be taught, but it rejected a request to add the subject to its curriculum.
 The board added that teachers will not be required to offer creationism as an alternative to evolution.
 Charles Boardman, chairman of the science department at Burleson High School, said he and the teaching staff will continue as before and not introduce creationism material.
 Attorney Marilyn Walker, representing 15 parents who sought to

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