

What's up

Thursday

EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: will meet at 7 p.m. in 212 MSC.

MEXICAN-AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS: will meet at 6 p.m. in 105C Zachry.

ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC AND FREETHINKER SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

ASIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

ROADRUNNERS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 604A-B Rudder.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN: will have a rally with redpots at 11 a.m. at Rudder Fountain.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY/PI SIGMA ALPHA: Kent Caperton will speak at 7 p.m. at the Alumni Center, seminar B.

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT '87: will hand out information about the smokeout in the MSC lobby.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 102 Zachry.

WALDEN RETIREMENT COMMUNITY: Students interested in having "Feast of Thanks" dinner with residents next Monday should call Mary Turner at 823-7914.

HUMAN FACTORS SOCIETY STUDENT CHAPTER: William Rogers Jones will discuss "Space Station Habitability Module Design: Implementation of human factors design principles and integration of system support equipment" at 7 p.m. in 203 Zachry.

FRESHMEN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR: Applications are available through Nov. 30 in 208 Pavilion.

Friday

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

AGGIE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION: will give a performance of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" at 11 a.m. at Rudder Fountain.

INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Flip Flippen will discuss "Christians and Sexuality" at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

CHESS CLUB: will have the fourth round of the tournament at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

TEXAS A&M SPORTS CAR CLUB: will have a scavenger hunt at 7 p.m. in Zachry parking lot 51.

YELL PRACTICE: is at midnight at the Rodeo Plaza in the Fort Worth stockyards.

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

Clements asks White House for disaster aid

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements asked the White House Wednesday to declare Cherokee and Anderson counties federal disaster areas in the wake of deadly tornadoes that pounded the region.

The counties were among the areas hardest hit by the swarm of tornadoes that buffeted Texas, killing 10 people, injuring more than 160 and causing millions of dollars in damage.

Such a declaration would make the counties eligible for a variety of federal assistance programs.

Clements' request came a day after he toured Palestine and Jacksonville to view damage caused by the tornadoes Sunday and Monday.

In his request, the governor said damage still was being assessed in many other Texas counties hit by the tornadoes. Clements said he expected to seek a disaster declaration for some of those counties, too.

If approved, the presidential disaster declaration would open several state and federal aid programs to individuals.

The Small Business Administration would offer low-interest loans to eligible persons for private property damage, as well as to owners of small businesses. Temporary housing could be provided for people whose homes are uninhabitable. Also, grants of up to \$5,000 could be made to eligible victims.

Other aid programs sought by the governor include special unemployment assistance for victims left jobless by the storms and a Farmers Home Administration loan program to provide low-interest loans for repairing farm and ranch damage.

Clements, who toured damaged neighborhoods and commercial areas of Palestine, also went to neighboring Cherokee County, where Sunday's storm churned through poor rural communities.

The Palestine Independent School District suffered about \$2.5 million in damage, and Anderson County between \$8 million and \$12 million, officials said.

Controversy about classic by Twain to be seminar topic

By Dana Pipes

Reporter

The controversy surrounding Mark Twain's classic "Huckleberry Finn" will be the focus of a Texas A&M summer seminar sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

English Department Head Dr. Hamlin Hill will be conducting the seminar for fifteen high school teachers selected from applicants across the nation.

Issues of bigotry and racism raised in the book have discouraged teachers from using it in the classroom, Hill said.

"It's only a superficial reading of 'Huckleberry Finn' that produces the reaction that it is a bigoted book," he said.

Teachers should allow students to spend time with the novel in order to appreciate its meaning, Hill said.

"It's an amazingly complex book in spite of looking deceptively simple," he said.

The book was written in the late 1800s during the reconstruction period and was based on recollections of Twain's (Samuel Clemens') childhood.

Hill said early critics of "Huckleberry Finn" saw it as a "panoramic slice of life in the middle United States."

Recent critics, however, say the book is deceptive in its presentation of the pre-civil war period, Hill said.

Opponents of the book's usage in the classroom also say the book is difficult to read, Hill said.

Teachers avoid 'Huckleberry Finn' more because of the dialect than because of the controversial nature of the book," he said.

"Huckleberry Finn" deals with maturing and growing up. Ameri-

cans tend to see themselves reflected in the book, Hill said.

He said in writing the novel, Twain did not intend to endorse racism, but depicted attitudes that some people of that society had.

An example of this is the characterization of Huck's companion Jim in the novel.

"Jim is presented as a stereotypical black by characters we aren't supposed to like," Hill said.

Hill has published several books on Twain including "Roughing it" and "Mark Twain and Elisha Bliss." He also wrote the introduction to a publication of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

As a result of his novels, Twain has become a folk legend, Hill said.

"It's a tribute to Mark Twain that we still manage to find in 'Huckleberry Finn' reflections of the American character," he said.

State board approves increase in workers' compensation rates

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Insurance on Wednesday approved a 25 percent increase in workers' compensation insurance rates, marking the industry's third increase in three years.

The board unanimously approved the new rate, which will generate an estimated \$750 million in additional premiums. It rejected a board staff recommendation for a

16.1 percent rate increase and an industry recommendation for a 43.5 percent increase.

In developing the new rate, which takes effect Jan. 1, board members said they considered the rising cost of medical care and of benefits paid to injured workers.

Without adequate income, insurers will not write workers' compensation in Texas, leaving employers

without protection when a worker is injured, they said.

But board members also said they looked at the state's troubled business climate. The increase follows a 17.7 percent increase approved last year, after a 30.7 percent increase that took effect in October 1985.

"At the board level, we have been besieged by correspondence from business people in all forms of endeavor to reject any increase," board chairman Edwin J. Smith Jr. said.

"To do that would basically not solve their concerns, because they probably could not find a viable market to write the coverage they know they need," Smith said.

Citing the struggling economy, board member David Thornberry said, "Under the circumstances, it's best to have a rate increase that's the lowest reasonable amount based on the evidence. . . . This simply keeps the industry afloat."

Robert Maxwell of the National Council on Compensation Insurance, which represents 600 insurance carriers nationwide, said, "Basically, this increase would maintain the status quo. We're still dealing with inadequate rates."

But Tom Blanton of the Texas Association of Compensation Consumers said the rate increase could cause some employers to drop workers' compensation insurance.

Employers are not required to carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas, but those who do not have coverage face unlimited liability for accidents.

NRC indicates nuclear plant may be close to approval

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has indicated that it may be in a position to approve TU Electric's program for correcting design and construction problems at Comanche Peak.

The NRC will make a decision on the review program after public hearings are held, Jane Axelrad, deputy director of the commission's Office of Special Projects, said Wednesday.

NRC indications that TU Electric's three-year review of the plant might be approved came in a memorandum dated Nov. 6 and made public Tuesday, NRC spokesman Joe Gilliland said.

James Keppler, director of the NRC's Office of Special Projects, said in the memo he found the utility's reinspection program acceptable, with some minor conditions.

The plant, about 80 miles southwest of Dallas in Somervell County, was begun nearly 13 years ago but has yet to generate power. Its estimated cost has increased from \$779 million to \$7.5 billion. At least some of the overruns are likely to be passed on to rate payers.

The design and construction of the plant consistently have been questioned, frustrating the utility's attempts to win a license.

A public hearing on the review program so far has been scheduled for Dec. 9 in Dallas, Gilliland said.

Axelrad said, "The purpose of the public meeting is to get on the table between the NRC and the licensee any residual concerns that the staff has regarding the licensee's program and any concerns that the intervenors have regarding the licensee's program."

FRESHMEN !

The Department of Student Activities is seeking qualified applicants for the **Emerging Leaders Seminar - Spring 1988**. This is a non-credit leadership course designed exclusively for freshmen potential leaders.

For more information please stop by the Student Activities Office Room 208 Pavilion
APPLICATION DEADLINE : MONDAY NOVEMBER 30



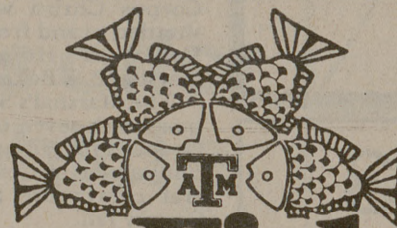
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