

What's up

Wednesday

AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS: will have a party at 8:30 p.m. in 226 MSC.
STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 401 Rudder.
TAMU SCUBA CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.
THE PRE-MBA ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 120 Blocker.
OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 146 MSC.
THE ENGLISH CLUB: will discuss "Mythology in History and Literature" at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR SOCIETY: Applications for graduate study are available in 219 Engineering Physics Building.
AGGIE GOP: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a Newman Liturgy at 7:30 p.m. at 103 Nagle in College Station.
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have an Aggie supper at 6 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church.
RACQUETBALL CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. at Court 7 in the Read Building.
MSC HOSPITALITY: will have an Aggie Christmas Fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the ballroom on the second floor of the MSC.

Thursday

SPEECH COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION: will meet at 5 p.m. at the Sundance Club at the College Station Hilton and Conference Center on University Drive.
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM: Dr. Miguel Velez will discuss "Dairy Production in Developing Nations — Facts and Alternatives" at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
STUDENT Y: YOUTH FUN DAY III: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 228-230 MSC.
MSC HOSPITALITY: will have a fashion show at noon in the MSC flag room.
FRESHMAN AG SOCIETY: will have a Christmas party at 5:30 p.m. in the Kleberg Building.
MEXICAN-AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
S.H.A.R.E.: Applications for S.H.A.R.E. staff are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the end of the semester at the Off-Campus Center.
MODERN LANGUAGES — GERMAN FACULTY: will present "Die Hose" at 8 p.m. in 201 MSC.
WOMEN'S STUDIES: will show the movie "To the Lighthouse" at 7:30 p.m. in 120 Blocker.
TAMU CYCLING TEAM: will meet at 7 p.m. in 350 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.

Grounds director: A&M parking lots built improperly

By Debbie Halley
Reporter

Some parking lots at Texas A&M are in bad condition because they were constructed with improper foundations, says Eugene Ray, director of the University Grounds Maintenance Department.

Ray explains that at one time, A&M had "thin section" lots, which were made by putting a base of lime into the soil, then simply covering it with asphalt.

"Thin section lots were a bad idea," Ray says.

Now A&M has to worry about the fast wear of these lots and the cost of reconstruction, which could have been prevented if they had been based properly, he says.

The lots are being redone, due to deterioration, by either grounds maintenance or by contracted concrete companies. If grounds maintenance reconstructs a parking lot, it puts a base of lime in the soil, which keeps the soil from expanding. Then, a layer of limestone and a layer of asphalt is added, he says. If a concrete company is contracted to redo a lot, steel-reinforced concrete is used.

These construction techniques help prevent wear from elements such as weather and the continuous parking of large machinery trucks,

buses and other heavy vehicles on campus, Ray says.

If there were a preferred technique, Ray says he would choose the steel-reinforced concrete simply because it would allow the grounds maintenance to work on other projects on campus that need attention.

However, there are high dollar contracts involved when concrete companies do the reconstruction, he says.

"The costs can be as much as \$1,200 to \$1,700 a space," he says.

The funds for any repairs or reconstruction of the lots is not appropriated, Ray said. The money comes from a sub-account of parking facilities that earns its revenue from parking permits issued each year.

Grounds maintenance works closely with the University Police Department, Ray said. If there are any decisions to be made about parking plans, the two departments discuss the needs.

Grounds maintenance is aware of problems with parking lots and is working on improvements each semester, Ray says. However, it takes time to reconstruct a whole lot.

When a lot is being redone, the job takes place in the summer when the demand for parking is not as great, he says.

If the parking lots are constructed properly, he says, they can last from 25 to 30 years.

Mental records show thousands committed under now invalid laws

AUSTIN (AP) — A Texas Civil Liberties Union official says he is stunned by records showing that thousands of mentally disabled people in state institutions were committed under laws that no longer are valid.

Government records show that 2,280, or 30 percent, of residents in the 13 state schools for the mentally retarded were committed before 1978, when the commitment law for retarded people was changed, the *Austin-American Statesman* reported Tuesday.

Records also indicated that 591, or 16.6 percent, of mental patients in the eight state mental hospitals were committed before 1983, when Texas law was rewritten to make it more difficult to commit mentally ill people against their will.

The records were obtained from the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in response to a Texas Open Records Act request filed by the newspaper. Names were not included in the information in order to maintain confidentiality.

"The numbers are really overpowering," said Jim Harrington, legal director of the Texas Civil Liberties Union. "I must say I was really stunned. The problem is much more substantial than anyone thought it was."

None of the nearly 3,000 mentally disabled people are being confined illegally, said Kent Johnson, chief attorney for the mental health department.

The 1983 law that changed commitment criteria for mental patients and the law that in 1978 changed commitment standards for retarded people did not require the department to hold new commitment hearings for all those committed under the previous standards, Johnson said.

"If they (lawmakers) had meant for us to do that (hold new commitment hearings), they would have just said recommit everybody," he said.

Seventeen people were committed in the 1920s and 96 people in the 1930s, records show.

The department was sued in October by TCLU and Advocacy Inc. on behalf of Opal Petty, 69, a borderline retarded woman who lived in state institutions for 51 years before being released two years ago.

The lawsuit alleges that Petty, who spent 37 years in Austin State Hospital and 14 years in San Angelo State School, never received a judicial hearing to determine if her 1934 court-ordered commitment remained necessary.

Program tracks prisoner by electronic ankle device

HOUSTON (AP) — A state prisoner became the first Texas inmate released under electronic surveillance Tuesday, going home two months before he would have been considered for parole, officials said.

Electronically monitored ankle bracelets have been used in Texas for probationers and parolees but this is the first time someone who would otherwise be sitting in a prison cell was released on the electronic device.

Legally, Domingo Martinez Saucedo, 43, is still an inmate of the Texas Department of Corrections, but he is being confined to his South Houston home.


"When they hook (an ankle bracelet) up on tomorrow I can't remove it," Saucedo said.

"I will sleep with it, I will eat with it and I will go to work with it if I can find a job," he said.

"Somebody will be controlling my life but I'd rather be out there with my family than in here," the gray-haired man said from the Corrections Corporation of America prison facility near Humble where he was transferred a few weeks ago.

Mike Roach, a spokesman for the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, said Saucedo is being released as part of a pilot program.

Saucedo, a former truck driver, was sentenced to five years probation in 1985 for cocaine possession. But because traces of marijuana showed up in one of his urine tests, he was sentenced in September to three years in prison.



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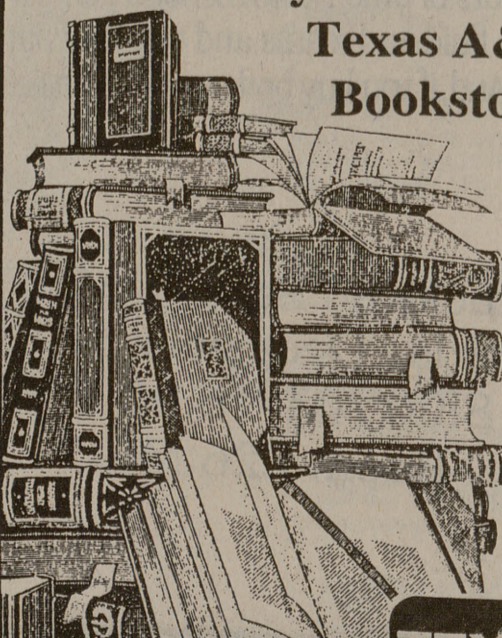
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