

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Hydrogen seen as future fuel

By Jeff Pollard  
Staff Writer

With oil and gas supplies shrinking and the use of these as fuels destroying more and more of the environment every day, some feel a new fuel needs to be found that will reduce the world's dependence on these fuels and that is readily available.

Hydrogen will be this fuel of the future, said John Appleby, director of the Center for Electrochemical Systems and Hydrogen Research at Texas A&M.

Hydrogen is clean, renewable and

does not have the harmful effects of fossil fuels, he said.

Four research centers, including the A&M center, have received \$600,000 each from the U.S. Department of Energy to explore the possibilities of hydrogen as this new fuel.

Theoretically, hydrogen could be used to make solar cells that are up to 60 percent energy-efficient, Appleby said. This is impressive when compared to the 7 percent to 12 percent efficiency level of the solar cells available today. This means that eventually solar-hydrogen fuel cells can be used to perform any task re-

quiring power, from lighting a city to running a car.

The other centers involved in the project are the Hawaii Natural Institute, Florida Solar Energy Center and the Clean Energy Research Institute at the University of Miami.

Appleby said the groups are doing work that will be complementary while still achieving the goals of the Department of Energy.

"The work that we plan to do is in the area of production of hydrogen and the end use of hydrogen," Appleby said. "Specifically, we are going to be looking at electrocatalysis and catalysis of the formation of hydrogen from water and the design

of devices that can do this from solar energy."

Electrocatalysis is the use of electricity to speed up a chemical reaction. The reaction in this case being the decomposition of water into its components — hydrogen and oxygen.

Appleby said the ultimate goal of the project is to design a device that either will function as a solar-hydrogen power cell or will be used to split water directly into hydrogen and oxygen. The end result might look like a sheet of Polaroid film, he said, with one side of the sheet producing oxygen and the other side, hydrogen.

"It's a bit of a dream right now,"

Appleby said. "But if you could do that you would solve all of the world's energy problems without introducing pollution into the environment. It's conceivable, but many years down the line."

As a more immediate use of solar-hydrogen power, many researchers are using power-cell technology from space and applying it to more earthly problems. The A&M center is using part of its money to develop a fuel cell based on this technology.

"The cell would weigh about 150 pounds and would go in an automobile," Appleby said. "You would need an electric motor and other controls, but the cell would use hydrogen to produce all the power you would need to run the automobile."

To test this theory and demonstrate the possibilities of hydrogen fuels, the center has received an electric car from the U.S. Navy and two electric vans from the Department of Energy. Appleby said the researchers hope to have one of the vans running in about six months.

The centers have begun working on plans to continue the project beyond the original one-year stipulation. Through the support of Congressman Joe Barton, R-Ennis, and U.S. Speaker of the House Jim Wright, D-Ft. Worth, all four centers are looking to make this a long-term project.

"We anticipate this to be a long-term effort, but we have support in the right places," Appleby said. "It's going to take total international collaboration. Hopefully, looking at the big picture, we will see all sorts of things happening in the area of hydrogen fuels in the future."

## FBI director: Investigation within law

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The FBI does not target dissident groups for investigation of criminal activities, despite such complaints from groups opposed to Reagan administration policies in Central America, FBI Director William Sessions said.

Sessions said Saturday that Attorney General Edwin Meese's guidelines were followed during an investigation of a coalition of organizations called the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador or CISPES.

Sessions, a former federal judge who became FBI director late last year, said he had not read the entire report about the investigation, but assumed that the guidelines were followed and that the agency did not violate anyone's civil rights.

Sessions, who said he anticipated no FBI policy changes in those type of investigations, denied the group was investigated just because of its political leanings.

"The fact that it may feel or that there may be a perception that there is a thrust in the investigation," he said. "I would deny that categorically."

"Some people may be very pleased about the investigation of certain factions within the United States. Some may feel that the far right ought to be investigated or that some of the groups that are on the far left ought to be investigated. That is not the criteria and we hope it never is."



Photo by Shelly Schluter

## Super Bowl fever

A&M students gathered with others at Dudley's Draw Sunday evening at 5:30 to watch the Super Bowl. This year the annual contest pitted

the Denver Broncos against the Washington Redskins. Washington won, 42-10. See related stories on page 11.

## Pickens receives business award, tells crowd entrepreneurship lives

By Tracy Staton  
Senior Staff Writer

Entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens attributes his success to a simple cliché of hard work and honesty, but the formula he outlined to a packed Rudder Theater Friday was more complicated — it involved avoiding government regulation and reviving economic competition.

Pickens was at Texas A&M to receive the first Entrepreneur of the Year award from the College of Business Administration. The award was created to honor Harold L. Kupfer, Class of '54.

Pickens told a beyond-capacity crowd of about 1,000 that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive, despite reports of its demise.

"I debated just Monday in Washington with a Harvard economist . . . who said the dream of being self-made is now dead in this country," Pickens said. "I told him, 'Robert, you've never been to Texas.'"

Texas entrepreneurs will fill the gap in the state's economy created by the decline of the oil and gas industry, he said.

"Oil and gas will be less and less a factor in the Texas economy," he told a press conference before the presentation. "You've got an abundance of capable people in the state. And those people, as a vacuum develops, will move into that vacuum. I think that's what's going on in the state right now. That's why we've gone down and we will go back up."

Pickens castigated the executives who plead for government protection from adversity.

"Listen to me on this one — stay away from it (government intervention)," he said. "Do not let the government get involved in your business. Solutions to business in America are not in Washington, I can tell you that."

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## Corporate raider makes millions, enemies during career characterized by controversy

### Analysis

By Tracy Staton  
Senior Staff Writer

Although the American dream of becoming a "self-made millionaire" seems outmoded to some, T. Boone Pickens' rise from junior geologist to well-known corporate raider follows the style of Andrew Carnegie or John D. Rockefeller.

He started Mesa Petroleum Co. in

1964 with \$2,500 in equity; he is now a limited partner of the company, which has earned more than \$500 million in profits for its shareholders since it was formed. He was voted Man of the Year in 1986 by the Oil Trades Association, and Petroleum Management magazine called him one of the 10 most influential people in the petroleum industry.

But the candy-coated capsule of Pickens' success has its bitter aftertaste. In 1986, Business Week magazine ranked him second in a list

of 10 chief executives who gave the shareholders the least in return for the executive's salary.

Some question the economic value of his takeover attempts. And his plea for shareholders' rights is juxtaposed by his attempts to limit freedom of the press in Amarillo, his home town.

Pickens is steeped in controversy. He elicits strong reactions from those who come in contact with him — intense loyalty or intense distrust,

profound dislike or overwhelming admiration.

When Pickens was at Texas A&M Friday, these polar responses could be seen on the faces of his audience in Rudder Theater. And the award he came to receive, the College of Business Entrepreneur of the Year, didn't seem to fit a person who inspires such conflicting feelings.

In Sunday's *Houston Post*, oilman

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## Reagan won't ask Meese to resign in spite of probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan will keep close tabs on the investigation into Attorney General Edwin Meese's role in an Iraqi oil pipeline project, but seeking Meese's resignation now would be tantamount to "pitching people to the lions without proof," a top White House official said Sunday.

"The president . . . has said he continues to have full confidence in his attorney general," White House chief of staff Howard H. Baker said.

"I see no reason on earth for the president to take any action unless and until it's made to appear that Meese has done something wrong."

Meese has been one of Reagan's closest associates since his days as the governor of California. Meese's attorney, James Rocab, has said Meese had only a limited involvement with the project and has not broken the law.

Baker's comments came amid a report Sunday in the *New York Times* that White House officials have been told by the independent counsel probing the matter that the attorney general played "an important and sustained role" in the \$1 billion Iraqi pipeline project, which never came to fruition.

A close friend of Meese, E. Robert Wallach, had a financial interest in the Iraqi project and he sent the attorney general a memo citing a plan to pay off a top Israeli official in return for a guarantee that Israel would not bomb the pipeline, sources close to the investigation have confirmed. The sources spoke on condition of not being identified.

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## Controversial chief of fire department decides to resign

By Richard Williams  
Senior Staff Writer

Embattled Bryan Fire Chief Claude Jenkins III resigned his position Friday citing personal reasons.

Jenkins will officially leave the department on Feb. 12, but it is not yet known by city officials if he will work until then.

Deputy City Manager Marvin Norwood said Jenkins may use vacation time for the remaining days.

Deputy City Manager Marvin Norwood said Jenkins decided to tender his resignation during a Friday morning conference between the two. The conference was "to talk about his (Jenkins) future with Bryan and the development of events in the department," Norwood said.

During the discussion Jenkins "decided to resign," Norwood said. "Looking at the events I am not surprised," he added.

Norwood said he delivered the letter of resignation to City Manager Ernest Clark at about 4:30 p.m. and a press conference was held at 5 p.m.

Clark and Jenkins could not be reached for comment.

Jenkins has been on probation since Dec. 1 after an investigation into a petition signed by all 79 Bryan firefighters.

The firefighters' petition said they had "lost total and complete confi-

dence in Chief Jenkins' ability to be an effective administrator and fire chief."

Firefighter Nick Pappas, speaking for the Bryan Firefighters Association, said the resignation "caught us all by complete surprise."

"We felt something was going on so we called some of the media . . . they didn't know of anything so we blew it off," Pappas said.

The firefighters are relieved the situation is over, he said, adding "relations between city hall and the firefighters are at an all time high."

After the announcement was made a message was written on a chalkboard at Central Fire Station reading: "Santa Claus lives! Christmas is 12 Feb. 88."

A Bryan firefighter, who asked not to be named, said the message referred to one of Jenkins' favorite sayings.

"When he would cut one of our programs or privileges he would say, 'Santa Claus is dead,'" the firefighter said.

Norwood said the city will not name an interim chief but will work with the existing chain of command to run the department, Norwood said.

Applications from Bryan firefighters will be considered before outside applications, he said, but no deadline has been set for the naming of a new chief.