

What's up

Monday

AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS: will have its first meeting of the semester at 7 p.m. in 274 Reed.
THE NATIONAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY (TAU BETA PI): Dr. James H. Earle, head of the division of engineering design graphics, will speak at 7:05 p.m. in 102 Zachry on "America's Future." This event is open to the public.
LIBERAL ARTS STUDENT COUNCIL: will have a general meeting for all liberal arts majors at 6 p.m. in 503 Harrington.
ALPHA KAPPA PSI: will have a formal rush function at 7 p.m. in Clayton Williams Alumni Center.
PI SIGMA EPSILON: will meet at 7 p.m. in 206 MSC for an orientation.
MSC LITERARY ARTS: is accepting submissions of poetry, prose and graphic art through Feb. 20 for the 1988 Litmus.
A&M TRAP AND SKEET CLUB: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder.
PSYCHI/PSYCHOLOGY CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder.
HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT FOUNDATION: will have a snack and study session at 7:30 p.m. in the Hillel building.
CBA HONORS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 704 A-B Rudder.

Tuesday

ECONOMICS SOCIETY: Dudley Fishburn, executive editor of The Economist, will speak at 7:30 p.m. in 201 MSC.
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS: Tim Chinn, director of the Brazos chapter of ASCE, will speak at 7 p.m. in 110 Civil Engineering.
FACULTY FRIENDS: will have a faculty forum lecture, "Signs of the Ages," with astronomical evidence for God's existence at noon in 110 Civil Engineering.
WILEY LECTURE SERIES: will have an informational session at 7:30 p.m. in 305 Rudder. Membership applications are available in 216 MSC.
AGGIES FOR JACK KEMP: will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN: will have a meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 704 Rudder.
SPEECH COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 153 Blocker.
DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Arthur Anderson will be presenting information on careers in data processing at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Inn penthouse.
BETA BETA BETA: will meet at 6 p.m. in 109 Heldenfels.
AGGIE LEAGUE OF ENGINEERS: will meet at 6 p.m. in 203 Zachry. Pictures for the Aggieband will be taken. All engineers are welcome.
THE BIG EVENT COMMITTEE: will meet at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC.
SADDLE AND SIRLOIN CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in Zachry building to take pictures for the Aggieband.
MT. PLEASANT AREA HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.
PRE-LAW SOCIETY: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
ALVIN HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.
NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY: will have a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder.
TAMU SAILING TEAM: will meet at 7 p.m. in 109 Trigon.
CAP AND GOWN SENIOR HONOR SOCIETY: will have an information session for juniors wanting to apply at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder.
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN: will present "Digital Painting" by artist Julia Hoerner at the CAED gallery through Feb. 12.
SILVER TAPS: will be at 10:30 p.m. in front of the Academic Building.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

County billing state for holding prisoners

LUFKIN (AP) — Angelina County is billing the state \$31,839 for housing inmates who aren't being taken by the Texas prison system because of overcrowding.
 But Angelina County Judge Dan Jones said the state comptroller's office told him he could expect no money until Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox issues an opinion on whether the counties are liable for holding such prisoners.
 Jones said he was told that opinion may not be issued for three to six months. Meanwhile, he said, "Somebody's going to have to pick it (the bill) up because it's going to break all the counties."
 "If they are refusing to accept new prisoners that have been sentenced to the TDC, it is certainly not this county's problem."
 "But they are making it our problem by forcing us to pay for housing them until they get good and ready to accept them."
 Angelina County in East Texas is one of several counties that have billed the state for housing the inmates.

Because the state prison system is near its court-ordered capacity, nearly 5,500 felons are in county jails awaiting transfer to the Corrections Department.
 Sheriffs and county officials have been complaining about the situation for months.
 County officials have been told that help is on the way in the form of new prisons, but relief isn't expected for more than a year.
 Gov. Bill Clements issued an emergency declaration last week that will allow construction of 2,250-bed maximum security units in Amarillo and Gatesville.
 Galveston County Sheriff Joe Max Taylor said, "It will be between 18 months and two years before they can give us any relief."
 Galveston County sent the state a bill for \$65,000 two months ago, but Taylor said the county probably won't see a cent.
 "They (state officials) say they are looking into into the legal entanglements" of paying counties for holding state prisoners, he said. "Really it's just doubletalk."

Cancer patient given surprise Super Bowl trip

HOUSTON (AP) — A mysterious stranger handed over two Super Bowl tickets and a wad of spending money to a Houston travel agent last week and had her make reservations at a posh San Diego hotel, all to surprise a youngster the benefactor will never meet.
 The anonymous person has for the past 11 years donated a weekend Super Bowl travel package to various young cancer patients at M.D. Anderson Hospital.

Selected by a hospital committee to watch the Denver Broncos play the Washington Redskins Sunday was 17-year-old Vincent Ross, an energetic and outgoing Fort Worth high school student who has Hodgkin's disease.
 Ross said that after his mother got a call from M.D. Anderson about his trip, she had a bit of trouble convincing him that his dream of going to a Super Bowl game was about to come true.
 The news finally sank in, and now Ross would love to meet and thank his benefactor.
 But travel agent Renee Maltz who

has made the arrangements for the annual Super Bowl trip for the past decade, is the only person who knows the donor's identity. She will only say that he or she is a Houston resident.

"First, I'd give him a big hug and tell him that he has made this young man very happy," Ross said. "I'm going to write him a letter (deliverable through Maltz). I feel very lucky."

Ross plays cornerback and running back for his Southwest High School football team and runs the mile relay and 100- and 200-meter dash on the track team.

He appears in excellent health, but it was not always so.

He was first diagnosed as asthmatic at 8, but a Houston doctor determined the real cause of his illness was Hodgkin's disease, a cancer that affects the lymph nodes.

Except for a recurrence of the cancer in August 1986, Ross has remained healthy and in remission, though he still makes a trip to Houston every six weeks for blood tests.

Officials to inspect 50 Texas factories for radiation leaks

DALLAS (AP) — State health officials Monday will begin inspecting 50 Texas chemical and soft-drink factories that have the same device that has been linked to radioactive leaks at plants in the Dallas area.

The decision by the Texas Department of Health followed the detection of radioactive polonium 210 last week at KTI Chemicals Inc. in Carrollton.

On Jan. 23, a similar leak of polonium 210 was found at the Ashland Chemical Co. in South Dallas. Officials also have detected contamination in recent weeks at a factory in Pennsylvania and three in California.

All the leaks have been traced to an air-gun used to clean containers and bottles. The air gun is made by 3M Co.

The latest leak was discovered late Thursday at KTI Chemicals, a subsidiary of Union Carbide Corp.

KTI officials said the leak of polonium 210 posed no danger to the public, but that seven workers have been tested for contamination. Those test results are due later this week.

Ashland's South Dallas plant tested 37 workers for contamination, but the initial urine samples proved negative, according to Richard Ratliff, director of the compliance and inspection program for the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control.

If inhaled or absorbed into the body, polonium 210 can move into the digestive tract and lead to cancer.

The radiation levels at the Ashland and KTI plants were lower than levels of some medical X-Ray procedures, Ratliff said.

Both KTI and Ashland have suspended operations at their Texas

plants while a cleanup plan awaits approval from the state agency.

Because the leakage came from several 3M air gun models the problem could be more widespread than originally thought, Greg Cook, a spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said.

About 20,000 3M air gun ionizers are in operation around the country, officials said.

3M notified state officials that there are 200 air guns in use in Texas, Ratliff said.

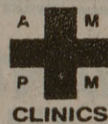
Half of the Texas factories make chemicals for sale to the computer industry or for government research, he said. About 10 companies bottle soft drinks and the rest use the device for bottling chemicals for developing film, he said.

The air gun devices use polonium 210 to neutralize static electricity charges and remove dust in applications where a high degree of purity is needed.

The device looks like a garden hose sprinkler nozzle that is inserted into glass or plastic bottles, according to Roger Schrum, a spokesman for a chemicals packaging plant in Easton, Pa. that was closed after a similar leak was discovered.

The polonium is encapsulated in microscopic ceramic spheres, which are then chemically bonded to the nozzle.

Compressed air rushing through the nozzle is ionized by radiation from the polonium and acquires a positive charge, which then neutralizes the static charge of any dirt inside the bottle. Once clean the bottles are used to hold chemicals for the semiconductor industry, which requires material with a high degree of purity, he said.



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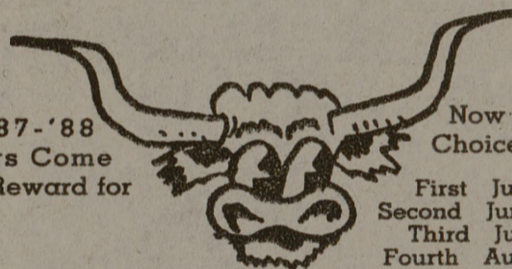
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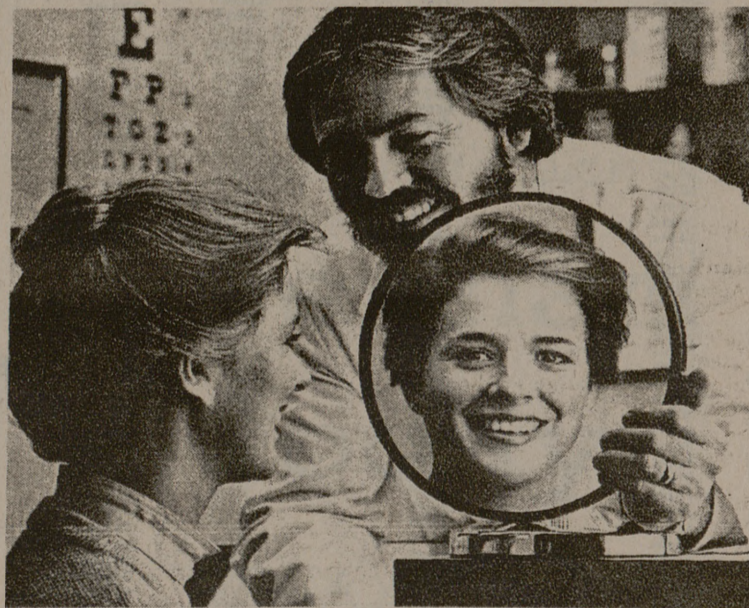
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