State and Local

ne Two Texas A&M administrators NRC suspends oin Leadership Texas program

By Kristin Czarnik

Reporter

Two Texas A&M administrators

ment Division of the Texas Engiering Experiment Station (TEES), back on," Dorsey said. d Penny Beaumont, assistant dep-

Leadership Texas is a program help her in her position at A&M.

at tries to combine continuing ed
"I am meeting women at other

Foundation for Women's Re- for my own program." irces in Austin who wanted to get

The objective of this group is to tive in their jobs at A&M.

identify and develop women leaders in Texas, Dorsey said.

"Leadership Texas wants to instill we been named to participate in a in these participants more experi-ar-long program called Lead- ence, confidence and understanding about what it takes to be a retail.

About what it takes to be a retail.

Balance and a retail.

Balance are and a retail.

Technology Business Devel- go back to our jobs, we will have a retail. more resources and networks to fall

Dorsey, who is working to comchancellor of engineering for the mercialize university and private labexas A&M University System, were oratory research and to give techni-no of the 83 women around the cal support for new and small attechosen to take part in the pro-technology-based companies in Texas, said that the program will

ation and leadership development schools and at companies that are in-th information and discussion of terested in working with industry," jor policy issues in Texas, Dorsey Dorsey said. "This provides me with a network in which I can identify The program was organized in more companies, more individuals iseless, \$ 1983 by a number of women from and more educational institutions

> Beaumont agreed with Dorsey men more involved in leadership and said the program will help them take these skills and be more effec-

"Several of these women are in jobs similar to what I do, which is public relations in engineering, so it is always useful to compare the private and public sector's activities," Beaumont said.

This program, Beaumont said, also helps her get assistance in doing

Dorsey said they both already have made some excellent contacts that will help the engineering program and the TEES' Technology Business Technology program at

The Leadership Texas program is composed of a cross-section of women that represent all parts of the state, Dorsey said.

"Women are from both the public and private sectors," Dorsey said. There are people from educational institutions, state agencies, financial and operating companies, as well as some volunteers that are very active

Beaumont said the program wants to make a real, conscious effort to encourage minorities to participate in the program.

Dorsey said the program will consist of six two-and-a-half-day seminars at different locations around

The seminars are on current issues that are important to Texas leaders, Dorsey said.

The first seminar on "The People and Cultures of Texas" was held Jan. 20 in San Antonio, Dorsey said.

In addition to the seminars, Dorsey said, there is an extensive list of reading on a broad selection of topics program officials feel would be good for anyone who wants to make a change in their community.

Dorsey believes that Leadership Texas will improve the status of women at A&M.

"Ultimately I do believe that this is one way in which women at A&M can be more visible and have a greater impact on the Texas way of life," Dorsey said.

device blamed in radiation leak

Regulatory Commission has or-dered 3M Corp. to suspend dis-tribution of a device blamed for leaking radioactive particles at factories in Texas, Pennsylvania and California, officials said

Health inspectors began checking for radiation at a dozen plants that use the device.

"The NRC's concern is that, while this doesn't appear to be a great health hazard to workers or to the public, it does represent radiation that has gotten out of control," said Joe Gilliland, a spokes-man for the NRC in Arlington. The NRC ordered 3M to sus-

pend distribution of its air-gun onizers last week after reports of eaking polonium-210, a naturally occurring radioactive isotope of polonium, at plants in Dallas and Easton, Pa., Gilliland

The air guns use polonium-210 to produce small amounts of radiation to neutralize static electricity charges and remove small particles of dust in applications where a high degree of purity is needed. The polonium is encapsulated in tiny ceramic spheres which are chemically bonded to

Polonium leaks were later discovered at a plant in Carrollton and at three sites in California.

Approximately 12 factories that use the air-gun ionizer in Texas will be inspected this week, said Bob Free, an investigator for the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control.

"We're concerned primarily with industries that are making containers for products that are ingested," Free said. "That's the thrust of this first effort."

Polonium-210 is dangerous when taken internally, such as through inhalation or ingestion, but not externally, officials say.

3M spokesman Ted Pickens said the microscopic ceramic spheres 3M uses to encapsulate the polonium are too heavy to be inhaled and pass through the body when ingested because they cannot be absorbed.

Free said officials are making

if widespread inspections or a product action are necessary, but he would not identify the plants

being checked.

3M is also testing ionizers at various industrial locations across the country, said Pickens, in Aus-

"The NRC's concern is that, while this doesn't appear to be a great health hazard to workers or to the public, it does represent radiation that has gotten out of control."

— Joe Gilliland, NRC spokesman

Pickens said approximately 20,000 air gun ionizers are in use by several thousand companies.

"What we've put together is a testing program to go to a variety of customer applications and find out under what circumstances there is a problem and to quantify that these (leak) incidents are isolated situations," Pickens said.

The first Texas leak was found at an Ashland Chemical Co. plant in Dallas on Jan. 23, Gilliland

Regulators inspected that plant after a polonium leak was discovered at an Ashland plant in Easton, he said.

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

Tests were ordered for seven workers at KTI Chemicals Inc. in Carrollton following the detection of polonium near ionizers at that plant last week.

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

Police charge man of using credit card of dead Odessa man found in dumpster

LUBBOCK (AP) — Lubbock poe said Monday they were holding a in on charges he used the credit rd of an elderly Odessa resident ose charred remains were found

Eddie Wayne Roberson, 32, of marillo was arrested Wednesday in ubbock and jailed on \$50,000 nd, police said.

He is accused of using the credit and of Jack Doherty, 84, who was ported missing Jan. 7.

The severely burned body of a man was found Jan. 19 in a trash bin in Lubbock. Police in Odessa and Lubbock were able to identify the victim by comparing the remains with a description of the missing

Police said they do not yet know whether Doherty was a victim of foul play, but have questioned Roberson in connection with his disappearance

relationship with the man (Do-herty)," Lubbock police Sgt. Randy foul play," Erdmann said. "But we McGuire, said.

McGuire said Lubbock police are awaiting autopsy reports and a rul-Ross, and their investigation is toxicology test results.

Dr. Ralph Erdmann of Amarillo,

don't have too many answers."

Erdmann said he was working to ing on the cause of death from Lub- resolve inconsistencies between bock County Justice of the Peace Bill statements given by Roberson and

Investigators initially believed the who is performing toxicology tests victim may have been living in the d death.

on the remains, said his report dumpster and set a fire inside it to should be given to police Tuesday.

Insurance board approves rate increases

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Insurnce on Monday approved an average 3.9 per-ent increase in automobile insurance rates, a hange that will mean a \$134 million increase in

Specific rates for the 52 rating territories in lexas will be released Tuesday, board spokesan Lee Jones said.

The rates vary by territory, type of vehicle and overage and driver history. Insurance compa-

ROUND DIAMONDS

nies are also allowed to sell auto coverage at reduced rates. According to the board, about 67 percent of the policies now in effect were written at a discount below the board-approved rates.

The average discount is approximately 12 per-

Board members voted unanimously for the 3.9 percent increase, which goes into effect May 1. The board's staff had recommended a 2 percent increase that would have added \$68 million a for a 10 percent, or \$344 million increase.

According to Gaylon Daniel, staff actuary for the insurance board, under the 2 percent increase, drivers in 40 of the 52 rating territories would have seen decreases in their auto rates.

In asking for the rate hike, the industry cited increases in medical care costs resulting from auto wrecks

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	Our Price	Compare		Our Price	Compare	~
4.15 cts. 3.18 cts.	16,97500	28,500000	.57 pts .54 pts	1,18500	2,40000	
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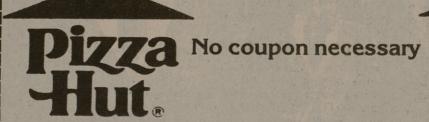
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