

What's Up

Monday

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY: will discuss "Maintaining Long-Term Productivity in Southern Pine Forest Soils" at 7 p.m. in 103 Soil and Crop Sciences.

Tuesday

GRADUATE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES: Dr. Foster of the graduate biology department will speak at 4:30 p.m. in 113 Biological Sciences Building East.

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.

Department hopes to attract students with endowment

By Christina De Leon Reporter

Texas A&M's chemical engineering department has received a \$75,000 private endowment for a new graduate fellowship.

The Gas Processors Suppliers Association of Tulsa, a group of several natural gas processing companies, has provided the funds to attract more of the nation's top chemical engineering graduate students to study at A&M, Jaedicke says.

Dr. Ray Flumerfelt, head of the chemical engineering department, says the interest from the \$150,000 endowment will be used to support one graduate student each year.

He says most fellowships provide about \$12,000 per year for the student to pay for tuition and other expenses. The actual amount granted depends on the interest the endowment earns, Flumerfelt says.

"The department is trying to build up more fellowships," Flumerfelt says, adding that he would like to see more fellowships added to the

existing three graduate chemical engineering fellowships.

Jaedicke says the association has many contracts with A&M's Thermodynamics Research Center and hopes to hire some of the students supported by the fellowship.

The Thermodynamics Research Center is a part of the Engineering Experiment Station and is staffed mostly by chemical engineering faculty, Jaedicke says.

Flumerfelt says the new fellowship will not be awarded for about a year until interest can be earned on the endowment.

"All of these will be given on a competitive basis," Flumerfelt says, stressing that a strong academic record and good leadership potential are necessities when considering the qualifications of a graduate student for the fellowships.

Although the Gas Processors Suppliers Fellowship is given on a one-year basis, Flumerfelt says the fellowship could be renewed if the graduate fellow completes his term in good standing.

Official wants to help drug users stop AIDS

AUSTIN (AP) — State drug abuse officials proposed a new AIDS prevention program Friday that included distributing condoms and bleach to intravenous drug users and instructing them how to clean shared needles and engage in safe sex.

Bob Dickson, executive director of the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, told a legislative task force that the spread of AIDS has prompted the agency to make the radical proposal.

"The commission fully realizes that the street outreach approach may be viewed by some as extreme and not in keeping with an agency whose philosophy emphasizes drug-free treatment methodologies," he said.

"However, we feel it is important to stress that this virus can infect anyone, whether or not they eventually become alcohol and drug clients," he said.

Under the program, drug users would be approached "on their own turf by street-knowledgeable personnel" who would discuss AIDS prevention methods and distribute condoms, bleach and brochures that emphasize safe sex, Dickson said.

The program would be financed by the national Centers for Disease Control through grants provided to the Texas Department of Health.

Dickson says he is aware that the

plan may be criticized but adds that the agency's duty is to prevent deaths associated with drug abuse.

"This often means doing the difficult, the dirty work if you will, that is sometimes not popular," Dickson said. "And it means a continuum of services encompassing prevention as well as treatment — including these types of outreach programs."

A similar program in New York City, on a smaller scale, has sparked strong criticism from church and law enforcement leaders.

But drug abuse counselors in Texas have praised the commission's proposals for the state.

Dennis Cisel, executive director of Redoubt River Ranch, an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program, "The drug abuse community is going to be the link to put this disease into the heterosexual population."

Pilot programs to begin in May would be in addition to three demonstration projects in Houston, Dallas and El Paso recently approved by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The commission will try to provide services to other cities by establishing programs in metropolitan areas such as San Antonio and Lubbock, which have a high incidence of drug abuse, he said.

Report: Bishops informed Secret Service

HOUSTON (AP) — While arranging Pope John Paul II's trip to the United States, the anti-abortion National Conference of Catholic Bishops relayed materials to government agents about a pro-choice Catholic organization planning peaceful activities during the visit, published reports said.

A newspaper reported Sunday it was unclear how or if the U.S. Secret Service — which was in charge of security for the pope during the Sept. 10-19 trip — used the literature about Catholics for Free a Choice, a national group based in Washington, D.C.

But the Secret Service released the material from its files in response to questions from the Houston Chronicle, under the Freedom of Information Act, about monitor-

ing of U.S. organizations in connection with the papal trip.

Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, which she said has 8,000 supporters, expressed surprise at the action of National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The bishops' conference is the religious arm of the civil U.S. Catholic Conference, who sponsored the pope's visit.

"I think it is totally inappropriate for the U.S. Catholic Conference to be cooperating with government agencies in the collection of data that they know has no relevance to the physical safety of the pope," Kissling said. "I don't think it's the function of a religious entity to serve as the investigative arm of a government agency."

"There has been within the

church an increasing attempt to silence and punish individuals who exercise their rights to disagree with the bishops on public policy. I think that represents a kind of McCarthyism in the church."

Kissling said there is no evidence the Secret Service conducted surveillance on her organization.

Richard Doerflinger, assistant director of the bishops' Office for Pro-life Activities, said his 1985 report about Catholics for a Free Choice was sent to the Secret Service along with several membership letters. There were also several press releases on CFC letterhead that he had obtained.

Doerflinger said the Secret Service wanted to be sent any materials about groups conducting protests so they would know what to expect and

be ready for whatever may happen.

Secret Service spokesman Richard Adams said he could not determine immediately if the agency could discuss its reasons for collecting the documents or how it may have used them.

But if such a determination is made, a new Freedom of Information Act request would be required to obtain the explanation, he said. Such requests usually take months to process and the information could easily take longer to obtain.

Kissling said the group will contact its attorney today to discuss filing its own information request in an effort to discover if other information was collected about CFC.

Kissling said her group asked to meet with the Secret Service before the pope's arrival but were turned down.

Proposed airport benefits anonymous investors

HOUSTON (AP) — If it is built, Houston's proposed westside airport will benefit more than 40 investors, many of them wealthy, who bought land around the site under arrangements that have kept their names largely secret for more than 18 months, the Houston Post reported in a copyright story Sunday.

In fact, Mayor Kathy Whitmire and 13 of 14 city councilmen said last week they did not know who owned half the airport site when the council voted to buy it in 1986 for \$5.7 million.

Major partners in a consortium that sold the city 1,400 acres of Waller County farmland in 1986 for the airport insist there are no conflicts of interest in the sale. They say the site, about 35 miles west of Houston near Brookshire, is one of the brightest spots on Houston's economic horizon.

"We don't want to sit around and

wait until the year 2000 and think, 'Oh by God, we need an airport'... If you wait until you need it, you will cost the city untold millions," said Bruce Cameron Jr., a Houston developer who coordinated the project. "I know people would like to believe somehow that we're bad guys... (But) this is succeeding because of a lot of hard work."

"What we think this will do is become a catalyst for further growth."

Groups opposing the proposed airport, however, have said the multimillion-dollar sale to the city constituted a "land scam."

Documents released to the Post last week show more than 50 investors own more than 2,000 acres of land near the proposed airport.

The opponents' major complaints are:

• Property owners and others in-

terested in the project donated more than \$73,500 to campaigns of the mayor and council members in the last three years. More than \$31,000 in contributions came from members of a joint venture which sold 700 acres of the airport site to the city.

• The airport site was bought before environmental or feasibility studies were undertaken — a process critics of the new airport contend was backward.

• A majority of the council and the mayor said they did not know who owned the land the city bought.

Virgil Knox, president of Individual Landowners and Homeowners Inc., a non-profit watchdog group, said the package of investors that would profit from the airport shows "the whole purpose behind the air-

port project was to enhance real estate values. It's a builder-developer pork-barrel project."

An environmental study of the airport site is expected to be completed in May, and public hearings on the study may occur in July, Houston Aviation Director Paul Gaines said.

After being questioned by the Post, several council members suggested that city land acquisition processes be changed. The city always should know who is selling the land, they said.

"I understand sometimes why people want some anonymity, but when it comes to dealing with public funds I don't think that should be followed," said City Controller George Greanias, who voted for the project as a councilman.

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