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What's Up

Thursday

TAMU ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY: will have a guest speaker at 7 p.m. in 126 NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at 8:30 p.m. Call

the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information. **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will meet at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will meet at 6 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at **ELECTION COMMISSION:** will have a mandatory candidate meeting for senators, legislative chairmen and graduate student council at 7:30 p.m. in 102

HILLEL STUDENT FOUNDATION: will offer beginning Hebrew at 7:30 p.m. at Hillel. There will also be aerobics at 8:30 p.m. at Hillel, and lunch with the Rabbi at 12:30 p.m. at the MSC.

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 214 MEXICAN AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 104B

RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have registration from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in 159 Read for: tennis doubles, innertube water polo, and golf singles.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM: will have an open forum and a

discussion of issues and activities at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

TAMU MACINTOSH USERS GROUP: will have a demonstration of WingZ, a graphical spreadsheet, at 7:30 p.m. in 101 Herman Heep.

TAMU EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: will have a team meeting at 7 p.m. in 113

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rud-AGGIE SPACE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY: will discuss the LPP conference

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT ORGANIZATION: will offer beginning Hebrew at STUDENTS WITH ALTERNATIVE PHILOSOPHIES: will discuss "souls wan-

dering about perishing" at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder. **DIE AGGIE KOMODIANTEN:** will present a German play at 8 p.m. in Rudder.

Friday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have registration for innertube water polo, ten-

nis doubles and golf singles from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. in 159 Read.

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT ORGANIZATION: will have Shabbat services at 8

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.

Marfa blimp to search for smugglers by radar

MARFA (AP) — Twenty miles west of Marfa, a half-mile south of an isolated stretch of U.S. 90 — far from all but the most determined prying eyes — the biggest snooping device in Texas is being built.

The device, called an aerostat, is a blimp the size of a Boeing 747 equipped with radar to spot drug

Residents of Marfa are hoping the government installation will bring the tiny town legitimate business while it chases away the illegal drug trade that now flows across the remote stretch of Mexican border to the south.

Once the U.S. Customs Service or 3 miles above the desert plain some 30 miles east of the Rio Grande a speck of silver tethered to earth by three cables.

From its lofty position, the aerostat's downward-looking radar will be able to detect low-flying airplanes up to 260 miles away, customs officials

No longer will drug smugglers be able to fly low across the border and evade radar detection, customs spokesman Charles Conroy said.

'Conventional radar looks across the horizon," Conroy said. "Because of the curvature of the earth, smugglers can fly under it. That doesn't make a difference with the aerostat, because it's downward-looking ra-

Customs hopes the aerostat will have the same power to deter tric engineers will staff the aerostat wrongdoers as might a highway pain the first few months, fine-tuning trolman wielding a radar gun with a 260-mile range. Anyone who knows nent crew of about 15 GE employhe's there isn't going to speed, Con-

The aerostat is designed to keep drug-laden aircraft out of the Marc United States, Conroy said. "No one Calif in his right mind would fly into one of these things if he knew it was there, and they'll know it's there be-

to intercept the quarry.

third along the U.S.-Mexico border. The others are at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Deming, N.M. Three oth-South Texas and one at Yuma, Ariz.

Once the entire border is covered by aerostats looking deep into Mexico, customs officials believe smugglers will have to abandon aircraft and rely instead on risky ground transportation.

In the year ending last Sept. 30, the Border Patrol's Marfa sector recorded 47 marijuana seizures totaling 5,045 pounds and four cocaine seizures totaling 19 ounces. The Border Patrol also seized 61 ounces of heroin in two busts. The total value of marijuana, cocaine and heroin seized that year was a little more than \$5 million.

Most of the druge were intercepted at a checkpoint on U.S. 67, which heads north from the sister deploys the aerostat this summer, the white Kevlar blimp will hover 2 sidio, Texas, through Marfa about sidio, Texas, through Marfa about

No one is sure how much Marfa's economy stands to benefit from the aerostat, but it already is raising

The aerostat people have said it'll drop about \$1 million each year into the local economy," Fritz Kahl, man-ager of Marfa Municipal Airport, said. "You divide that among 2,400 people and that's going to have a big

That \$40 or so per person could pay for a dinner in Pecos or a trip to El Paso, Odessa or Midland.

The helium-filled blimp and its ground base cost \$12 million to \$18 million to build, Conroy said. Maintenance runs \$2 million to \$3 million

A crew of about 35 General Elecin the first few months, fine-tuning ees, supervised by customs, will monitor the aerostat and feed information to a command center at March Air Force Base in Riverside,

Though Marfa residents will be just 20 miles away from a device with highly."

When suspected smugglers are detected, customs can send airplanes to intercept the quarry. the capability of tracking their auto-

"There's just been some coffee-shop talk," Robert Halpern, editor The Marfa aerostat will be the of the Marfa Independent weekly and along the U.S.-Mexico border. newspaper, said. "We realize it's very newspaper, said." important to drug interdiction, but Ariz., and Deming, N.M. Three others are scheduled to be built: two in electronic devices, be it radar or in-

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department March 1: ATTEMPTED THEFT OF VE-

A student reported that someone damaged the ignition of his 1985 Kawasaki motorcycle. BURGLARY

• A student reported that someone broke into his car and stole an equalizer.

HARASSMENT: • A student reported that he received an annoying and

obscene phone call. • Another student reported that his ex-girlfriend had been placing signs up around campus that referred to his love life.

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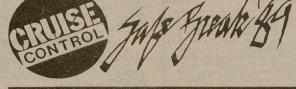
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Center for Drug Prevention and Education Room 222, A.P. Beutel Health Center

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