

Tuesday, July 17, 1990

What's Up

Tuesday

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at 8:30 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

STAGECENTER COMMUNITY THEATRE: will have auditions from 7 to 9 p.m. at 3715 East 29th in Bryan. Call 846-0287 for more information.

Wednesday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION: will have a speaker at 7 p.m. in 118 Civil Engineering Building. Call Charlie at 822-3577 for more information.

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.

Former students donate memorabilia to center

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M former students are rolling up their sleeves to search their attics and closets for Aggie memorabilia to donate to the new \$3 million Corps of Cadets Center.

The center will be under construction in the fall.

Former cadet George Morgan Crook, Class of '20, from Paris, Texas, is contributing a little bit of A&M's history 54 years after his own death.

According to an interview with the Paris News, Dr. J. Craig Stephens, a cousin of the Crook family, discovered the A&M memorabilia in the house of Crook's sister, Thelma Crook Johnson, after her death in 1989.

Stephens told the Paris newspaper that Crook was obviously an outstanding cadet judging from his uniforms which indicated his position on the Corps Staff and the Ross Volunteers.

Among the uniforms, Stephens found Crook's World War I-vintage "regular" cadet uniform, complete with hat, cadet rank, ROTC em-

blems and a crossed-rifle insignia which was a sign of membership in the infantry.

Also, a pennant used at the A&M vs. University of Texas football game in 1917 was found with the rest of the historical items.

The pennant, which read "A.M.C. — 7, t.u. — 0," symbolizes an important year to Aggies. According to records, 1917 was the year no one scored against A&M's football team.

The winter issue of First Call, a publication from the Corps of Cadets Development Council, states the center will enable the Corps "to present its history and visually illustrate its programs and role in student life while preserving one of the traditions begun by the Corps — welcoming visitors to the campus."

The memorabilia will be displayed in the largest room in the center, called the Hall of Honor.

The hall also will be where heroes will be honored and A&M's history is featured.

Court hears plan for school funding

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas has a way to equalize education funding between rich and poor school districts without going broke. What the state needs is the will to do it, an advocate for poor school districts testified Monday.

"If Texas had the will, there are untapped sources of revenue that could be applied to public education," Craig Foster, director of the Equity Center, said as the court hearing on the state's new school funding plan began its second week. "And they could do it without breaking the bank."

Foster, whose Austin-based group represents about 200 poor school districts, said legislators missed an opportunity to bolster the education budget when they allowed several so-called temporary tax increases to expire.

"If Texas had the will, there are untapped sources of revenue that could be applied to public education."

Craig Foster,
Equity Center director

The taxes, which raised \$571 million, included an increase in the business franchise tax, an insurance surcharge and professional fees. They were passed in 1987 to help bridge a multi-billion dollar state budget deficit. All had lapsed by last January.

The legislative plan passed in June would raise about \$528 million for the 1990-91 school year. It includes increases in the state sales and cigarette taxes and other state fees.

Poor districts say the latest plan

perpetuates the same system that led the Texas Supreme Court to rule the school finance system unconstitutional last year.

The new law doesn't limit the amount of money school districts can raise from local property taxes. Poor districts argue that wealthy districts can therefore continue to raise more money through property taxes than poor districts can.

Public schools are financed by state funding, local property taxes and some federal aid.

State District Judge Scott McCown, who is presiding over the hearing, said he hopes to decide if the Legislature's plan meets the Supreme Court mandate by Sept. 1.

In an out-of-court development, Texas Education Commissioner W.N. Kirby said the new state funding plan could fall \$100 million short if local school districts statewide raise taxes, which would then require the state to pay a higher matching share to local districts. Because state funds are limited, some districts, probably wealthy ones, would not get the state funding they're entitled to, he warned.

Assistant State Attorney General Kevin O'Hanlon asked Foster if he would rather the Legislature allocate money to education than for health programs that serve critically ill children.

Coast Guard licensing proposal angers commercial shrimpers

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Congress may disagree, but Rockport shrimper George Polinard says he has no need of a license to navigate his boat through Texas bays and the Gulf of Mexico.

"There's an awful lot of people who were born and raised on the waters," Polinard said. "They could operate at night without fathom meters or compasses and never have any problems."

In 1988 Congress passed the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act, ordering the Coast Guard to draft safety regulations for commercial fishing vessels. The Coast Guard is accepting public comments on the licensing and safety proposals until Aug. 20.

Polinard said he believes it makes sense to license recreational boaters or those who transport passengers for hire, but that it doesn't make sense to license shrimpers and other commercial fishermen.

"We know what we're doing on that water better than anybody," he said.

Coast Guard statistics, however, show that the commercial fishing industry outranks either mining or quarrying as the most dangerous industries in the United States.

There were 37 deaths per 100,000 workers in the commercial fishing industry in 1988, compared to nearly 34 deaths per 100,000 in the mining and quarrying industries, according to U.S. Department of Commerce statistics.

All industries combined had an average of 5 deaths per 100,000 in 1988.

"The good news is the death rate is going down," Lt. Cmdr. Bruce Pickard of the Coast Guard said. "The bad news is that the number of vessels lost is going up."

In response, Congress passed the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act, requiring the Coast Guard to draft safety regulations for commercial fishing vessels, including shrimp boats. The act also calls for the Coast Guard to submit a plan to Congress for the licensing of commercial fishing boat operators.

Only Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey and Florida have licensing programs for recreational vessels; no states require licenses for operators of commercial fishing vessels.

"Right now there are no professional requirements for going out on the water," Pickard said. "There's a major difference between licensing a vessel and licensing an operator. You register your car. Does that mean you know how to drive?"

Wilma Anderson, who owns shrimp boats in Aransas Pass, said she does not believe new licensing requirements will create that much of a hardship for area shrimpers.

She said shrimpers with vessels of a certain tonnage have already been licensed, and that many other boat captains have taken safety courses.

The president of the Texas Shrimp Association said he is worried about overkill by the federal government.

Harris Lasseigne said he favors a mandatory two-day safety training session for shrimp boat operators, but objects to the flurry of new regulations.

"We're getting bombarded left and right," he said. "First, you don't have any regulations at all and then all of a sudden you have a lot of regulations."

The proposed safety regulations, published April 19 in the Federal Register, include requirements that vessels be equipped with readily accessible fire extinguishers, life preservers, immersion suits, visual distress signals and survival craft. The regulations also require individuals in the commercial fishing industry to report every injury or illness to their supervisors within seven days, and for vessel owners, agents and masters to report all job-related deaths to the Coast Guard.

The new safety regulations may become effective as early as 1991, Coast Guard Cmdr. Mike Rosecrans said.

For the 110,000 commercial fishing industry vessels in the United States, the capital costs resulting from the proposed regulations is estimated at \$71.6 million, the Coast Guard said.

Beach erosion causes worry for officials

GALVESTON (AP) — Beachfront development may be good for the economies of Texas Gulf Coast cities, but state officials are worried there may be no beach to develop.

A study from the University of Texas shows that almost half of Texas' shoreline and 56 percent of the vegetation line retreated between 1974 and 1982. State officials are beginning to take note of the erosion.

The General Land Office, which was made responsible last year for coastal management, is conducting a series of workshops and hearings and expects to announce its recommendations on preserving threatened beaches in September.

Land office officials at a recent hearing in Corpus Christi suggested the developers be required to build farther from the water. Other measures under consideration would require beachfront developers to shore up their property with sand.

"The beach is going," A.R. "Babe" Schwartz, 63, a former state senator who has lived in Galveston all his life, said. "Regardless of what they say, it's going."

The General Land Office is especially concerned about Galveston's West Beach.

Pastors call on Richards to stop support for repeal of sodomy law

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A group of San Antonio pastors called on Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ann Richards to withdraw her public support for repeal of the Texas statute outlawing homosexual activity.

Asked about the law last week, Richards said she doesn't believe the government should be interfering in Texan's private lives "on any issue you can name."

Twenty-three clergymen from many denominations and churches signed a petition which criticizes Richards for accepting campaign contributions from groups that promote homosexual rights.

"What we do not want is a public

stand by a politician to have (the sodomy law) repealed," Gilbert Perez, pastor of the Temple of Praise Church, told the San Antonio Express-News.

"We think repeal of the Texas sodomy law is a bad public policy position for Ann Richards to take," Perez said, "and a position that deeply disturbs us as ministers of the gospel."

Richards campaign manager Glenn Smith said Richards hasn't changed her stance about keeping the government's say in peoples' private lives to a minimum.

Perez said that the group wasn't endorsing Republican gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams. He also

said none of the pastors are connected with the Williams campaign.

Billy Hobbs, associate pastor of Alamo City Baptist Church, said the pastors also don't endorse a lifestyle in which it is acceptable to solicit a prostitute as a young man.

The job was aimed at Williams, who has said he solicited prostitutes while he was a teen-ager and while in college.

In other political news, Richards on Saturday won the endorsement of the 5,000-member Texas Conference of Police Officers and Sheriffs.

"In the Richards administration, those men and women on the front line will have a friend in the governor's office," Richards said.

Astronaut candidates stay optimistic despite NASA's recent troubles

See NASA study/Page 4

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Several new astronauts said Monday they were confident the space agency will overcome its recent rash of problems and resume flying space shuttles.

The astronaut candidate class of 1990 reported to work for the first time Monday — the same day the Bush administration ordered a review by outside experts of the nation's long-term space goals.

But the news didn't dampen the spirits of the 23 astronaut candidates, who were chosen earlier this year from nearly 2,000 applicants. They talked briefly with reporters on their first day at work.

"They'll fix the shuttles. I don't have any doubts about that at all," Marine Corp. Maj. Terrence Wilcutt, one of seven pilot candidates, said.

Dr. David Wolf, a mission specialist candidate, added, "It's very prudent to shut down the shuttle system until they fully understand the problem."

After undergoing a year of training and evaluation, the 23 candidates will become full-fledged astronauts. It probably will take at least two more years after that before any of them get a shuttle flight assignment.

Besides the seven pilots, the 1990 class includes 16 mission specialists. Eleven of the 23 are civilians and 12 are military pilots.

Of the five women selected, three are military officers, including the first woman to be named as a pilot candidate. The class also includes Eileen Ochoa, the first Hispanic woman to be selected.

"It's been a big day," Air Force Maj. Eileen Collins, who will be NASA's first female shuttle commander if all goes according to plan, said.

Despite the problems facing NASA, Collins said she, too, is optimistic about NASA's future. She also was not dismayed to hear the Bush administration had called for the outside review of NASA.

"If our president feels it's something that needs to be done, it needs to be done," she said.

NASA has endured a spate of recent embarrassments, including troubles with the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope and hydrogen leaks that have grounded the space shuttle fleet.

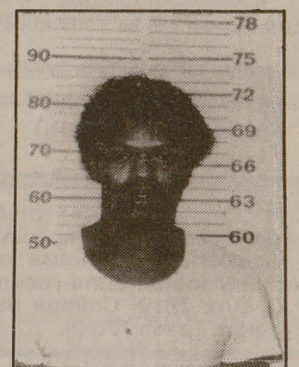
But several of the candidates said problems with sophisticated machines are not unusual.

"There are high points and low points in any airplane or weapon system," Collins said. "You learn to get through the bad times."

Navy Capt. Dan Brandenstein, head of the astronaut corps, said he was confident that the NASA leaders in Washington will get the agency through the current crisis.

"I don't really think it was needed," he said of the call for the outside review.

Man sought for assaulting police officer



F.E. Sherwood

Brazos County Crime Stoppers is seeking information about a 31-year-old black male wanted for assault of a peace officer and motion to revoke.

Floyd Earl Sherwood is described by the Brazos County Sheriff's Department as a 6-foot-1 black male weighing about 200 pounds.

Sherwood is 31 years old and has black hair and brown eyes.

If you call Crime Stoppers and your information leads to his arrest, Crime Stoppers will pay you \$250.

When you call 775-TIPS, you will be given a special coded number to protect your identity, so you won't have to testify in court.

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