

Wednesday, July 18, 1990

What's Up

Wednesday

- TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION:** will have a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 118 Civil Engineering Building. For more information, call 846-6767, 846-8748 or 823-3577.
- AGGIES WITH KIDS:** will have a covered dish supper at 6:30 p.m. at Thomas Park. Call Nancy at 845-1741 for more information.
- A&M CYCLING TEAM:** will have summer training at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
- NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at 8:30 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
- U.S. CENSUS BUREAU:** is looking for temporary workers for the remainder of the summer. Call Larry Ingham at 846-0444 or 846-3662 for more information.

Thursday

- 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 have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
- ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** will have a general discussion at 6 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

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.

Candidates bicker over finances Fund sources spark debate

AUSTIN (AP) — Candidates for lieutenant governor traded jabs over campaign finances Tuesday with each accusing the other of selling out to high-dollar special interests.

Republican Rob Mosbacher of Houston said in a news conference that Democrat Bob Bullock's campaign is fueled by donations from political action committees and powerful lobbyists.

"How can you claim to have the independence to do what's right for Texas when you owe so much to so few lobbyists in Austin?" Mosbacher asked.

Following the news conference, Bullock's campaign said Mosbacher was trying to buy the election with his family's fortune.

The Bullock campaign also accused Mosbacher's father, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, of shaking down people to contribute to his son's campaign.

"We're getting reports that his father is making phone calls for him, that he is leaning on people. He's leaning on them hard," Bullock's campaign spokesman John Bender said.

Bender refused to divulge the names of people who he said were pressured by Secretary Mosbacher.

Mosbacher said his father has appeared with him at a couple of political events, but added, "To suggest that he's on the phone calling people, trying to raise money, the answer is no."

Bullock, the state's comptroller, reported raising \$1.2 million and spending \$641,000 in six-month statements filed Monday with the secretary of state's office.

Mosbacher reported receiving \$1 million in contributions and spending \$1.4 million. Mark Sanders, a spokesman for Mosbacher, said the Republican had \$500,000 left over from the last reporting period.

Mosbacher said one-third of Bullock's contributions are from political action committees and special interest lobbyists.

Bullock's campaign said 78 percent of his money is from individuals. "He has the most diverse support, the widest support of any statewide candidate," Bender said.

Mosbacher also challenged Bullock to a televised debate and offered to pay for it. Bender said discussions are under way about a debate.

In another political development, Nikki Van Hightower of Houston, Democratic candidate for state treasurer, received the endorsement of three organizations, which brought criticism from her Republican opponent, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Dallas.

Van Hightower was endorsed by the Texas Abortion Rights Action League, Texas Women's Political Caucus and Texas chapter of the National Organization for Women.

"Since there are two women in the race, I believe that my endorsement by three bipartisan women's political groups is very significant," Van Hightower said.

But Hutchison said describing those three groups as "bipartisan is laughable. They are auxiliaries of the Democratic Party."

Phyllis Dunham, executive director of the abortion rights league, said even though the treasurer's office does not directly affect abortion, "voting for pro-choice candidates is the only way to keep Texas politicians out of our most personal and private decisions."

Dunham said Hutchison refused to answer the TARAL questionnaire.

Hutchison said injecting the abortion issue into the state treasurer's race "is a smoke screen to draw attention away from the real issue" of who is most qualified to fill the post.

Poor districts call law unjust

AUSTIN (AP) — Superintendents of poor school districts challenging Texas' new school funding plan said Tuesday the law doesn't put their students on equal footing with those in richer districts.

"Why shouldn't my students be able to compete with them?" asked Allen Boyd, superintendent of the San Elizario school district in El Paso County. "You're talking about the 'haves' and 'have-nots.'"

State District Judge Scott McCown is overseeing the hearing on the new law, which provides \$528 million in additional state education funding this school year.

McCown on Tuesday denied a request by Assistant Attorney General Kevin O'Hanlon for an immediate ruling against the poor school districts.

O'Hanlon said he wasn't surprised by McCown's decision, but said the poor districts have failed to prove their case.

The law was passed in June in response to last year's Texas Supreme Court order to even out funding between rich and poor school districts. It is meant to phase in an equitable system over several years.

But poor school districts say the law didn't significantly change the \$13.5 billion-a-year school finance system, which relies on state aid, local property taxes and some federal money.

Criminal prosecution begins for shrimpers ignoring laws

HOUSTON (AP) — The National Marine Fisheries Service says it will begin criminal prosecution of shrimpers who are ignoring laws aimed to protect sea turtles and will beef up enforcement along the Texas Gulf Coast.

"We'll be intensifying enforcement efforts and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is also beginning to help us," Andrew Kemmerer, southeast regional director for NMFS, said. "But the major change is that we may be going to issue criminal citations, depending on the situation."

The decision came after about 15 representatives of shrimping associations, the U.S. Coast Guard, Texas Parks & Wildlife and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service met to discuss reports of turtle strandings and discoveries of dead turtles on the shore.

Environmentalists contend shrimpers who are not using turtle excluder devices, or TEDs, on their nets have prompted the increased number of fatal turtle strandings on the upper Texas coast.

Since the Texas shrimp season opened July 8, more than 31 sea turtles — 17 of them endangered Kemp's Ridley turtles — have been found dead in a stretch from Galveston to Matagorda County. NMFS has not completed necropsies on the animals, but environmentalists are convinced the turtles became ensnared in shrimping nets and drowned.

"As soon as the Texas shrimp season opened, those turtles began floating in," Carole Allen, founder of Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles, said. "That's certainly one of the indicators to me."

Some shrimpers at the meeting said they would cooperate with authorities to see that members of their industry cooperate with the TED regulation.

"We are all interested in the survival of the sea turtles," Lucy Gibbs, president of the Texas Shrimp Association, said. "We are supportive of trying to do everything we can to protect these turtles and NMFS has very graciously agreed to continue to work with us."

Suzanne Montero, special agent in charge of NMFS' southeast region, said another 10 agents will be brought Wednesday to beef up enforcement along the Texas coastline. Already, six additional agents had been assigned to the Texas coast because of the opening of shrimp season, she said.

Likewise, the U.S. Coast Guard is adding additional boats and manpower in the area.

"We're going to increase our number of boats and man hours down there, and we're sending about twice what we'd normally send," Cmdr. Jim Force, chief of law enforcement for the Coast Guard's regional office based in New Orleans, said. "I would expect this to help compliance."

Force said he hoped to increase the use of TEDs on shrimpers from a 60 percent compliance on the Texas coast to 80 percent by the weekend.

Kemmerer said the criminal conviction under the federal Endangered Species Act carries a possible \$25,000 fine or six-month jail term. "Prior to this time, we made all our citations on a civil basis and that carries a fine of up to \$12,000."

Gibbs said the \$25,000 fine "is liable to put (a shrimper) out of business." She said TSA had suggested other methods to increase compliance with the TED regulation, including a possible closure of inland waters where the turtles are more likely to be found. But officials said they will not take other measures before meeting again with the shrimpers.

"We have all agreed to work on this problem," Gibbs said. "We're just not willing to take full blame for this."

Williams 'talks tough' in small-town campaign Richards gets 'bashed' in speech

RUSK (AP) — Republican Clayton Williams, starting a two-day small-town campaign tour, Tuesday called gubernatorial rival Ann Richards a liberal out of touch with Texans' concerns.

Williams used some of his toughest talk of the election year to bash Richards on issues ranging from abortion to the state's law against sodomy.

"Ann Richards said she will repeal the Texas sodomy law," he said. "I'm against sodomy, and I want to keep that law on the books because it's a statement of the true values of the people of Texas," he said.

"And Ann Richards says parents don't have the right to know if their teen-age daughter is about to receive an abortion," he said. "Don't let Ann Richards tell you that your child's future is none of your business."

Richards is pro-choice on abortion and has said government should not interfere in peoples' private lives.

Williams has said he opposes abortion except in cases of rape, incest or danger to a mother's life. He also said he favors a law requiring notification of a minor's parents and parental consent before an abortion could be performed.

A spokesman for the Richards

campaign was not immediately available to comment on Williams' remarks Tuesday afternoon.

Making speeches in Rusk, Carthage and Center, Williams aligned himself with President Bush and U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm. Richards, he said, represents the same thinking as defeated presidential candidate Michael Dukakis.

"The choice is crystal clear," he said. "Texans can vote for the Bush-Williams-Gramm team — a team that understands the values of most Texas families, or they can vote for the Dukakis-Richards-Parmer team — a trio that's trying to sell you an old, discredited and tired liberal bill of goods," he said.

State Sen. Hugh Parmer, D-Fort Worth, is challenging Gramm in November.

As his campaign staff in Austin criticized Richards for raising funds outside of Texas, Williams attacked her ties with entertainment industry celebrities.

"Ann Richards is an East Hollywood Democrat, not an East Texas Democrat," Williams said.

Richards, in an appearance in Houston, said she would be a tough-on-crime governor.

Act Now

DON'T MAKE IT EASY!

Lock your bikes and leave them in a safe place.

There were 275 bikes reported stolen on campus in 1989, worth a total of \$60,041. Only 29 of these stolen bikes were recovered.

The majority of these bikes were secured with poor-quality locks, cables or chains. Some may not be locked at all.

The worst months for bike theft are May through September.

The following are tips about how to save your bike:

- Use operation identification. Record the bike's serial number and engrave your driver's licence number on the bike. These are proofs of ownership.
- Register your bike with A&M's Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic. It's free, and it's a way of returning your bike should it be recovered.
- Buy a sturdy, case-hardened steel U-shaped lock and lock your bike to a bike rack. Small chains and cables easily can be cut.
- Immediately report to the University Police anyone suspiciously loitering around bikes. UPD's number is 845-2345.
- For more information on bike locks and Texas bike laws, call the University Police Crime Prevention Unit at 845-8900.

Safety board finds driver at fault in bus accident

Associated Press

The driver of the truck that hit a Texas school bus last fall, sending it into a water-filled pit and killing 21 students, should have been able to stop despite faulty brakes, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday.

Forty-nine other students were injured in the Sept. 21 accident near Alton. It was the nation's worst school bus accident since 1976.

The lack of emergency exits — there were only two — contributed to the number of deaths, the board said.

NTSB Chairman James Kolstad said that there were "clear deficiencies" in the truck's brakes but that driver Ruben Perez "did not respond soon enough and he did not respond aggressively enough."

Investigators found the truck's brakes were operating at about two-thirds strength, which should have been enough to stop the truck. Perez had said he began applying the brakes 300 feet before the collision.

Perez said that the brakes failed and that he began to use those on the truck's trailer, then downshifted gears to try to stop.

Perez' attorney, Bob Binder of Austin, said the board was "compounding a tragedy by putting the blame on the driver when he was given a truck with bad brakes."

"The brakes were failing," Binder said. "They were not in complete failure but they were failing. So he (Perez) downshifted, which is the proper procedure, and applied the trailer brakes by hand."

Perez watched the NTSB hearing impassively. Binder would not let Perez talk to reporters, citing a lawsuit Perez has filed against Valley Coca-Cola Bottling Co., which owned the truck.

The NTSB urged the bottling company to improve its driver-training and fleet-maintenance programs.

Most of the victims drowned because they couldn't get out of the submerged bus, the NTSB said, calling for more emergency exits on school buses.

It made a similar recommendation last year in its report of the May 1988 bus and truck collision in Kentucky that killed 27. That accident involved a school bus converted for use by a church.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the Texas A&M University Police Department between July 3 and Sunday.

ASSAULT:

● A San Antonio girl reported she had been struck twice, once on her right arm and once on her right leg, with a shirt. Then she was slapped several times on her face after an argument with a male acquaintance.

The girl and boy had been participating in the Youth Opportunities Unlimited Program. The boy was dismissed from the program while the girl returned to San Antonio with her mother.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE:

● A Bryan man reported a person entered a University Daihatsu Hi-Jet vehicle and damaged the steering column. Once the wiring was exposed, the vehicle was started by some type of tool and removed from the area. The vehicle apparently ran out of gas and was abandoned near Parking Area 25.

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:

● An officer reported someone had forcibly removed a Sony AM/FM/Cassette/CD player from an office at the Brayton Fireman's Training School.

Unknown persons entered the Fabric Care Service office in Duncan Hall and stole a wall clock, a Panasonic portable radio and seven long-sleeved shirts. Suspects also discharged a fire extinguisher throughout the office area.

HARASSMENT:

● A resident of Keathley Hall reported he had received two harassing phone calls.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS:

● A security officer reported he found two men sleeping in the A-1 Lounge. Both men stated they had been at an area bar and then went to the A-1 Lounge to wait for a ride which never arrived. They were issued warnings and released.

● Two Bryan men were detected trespassing on the ninth level of the press box at Kyle Field.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

● A Bryan man reported the lock used to secure his bicycle was severely damaged.

● An A&M student reported someone had broken the right rear passenger window of his Oldsmobile while the car was

parked on Jones Street.

● During a patrol of campus property, an officer observed two subjects near a recently damaged vehicle. The owner of the vehicle was contacted and verified that his vehicle had not been damaged that night.

● A College Station woman reported someone entered a room of the Chemistry Building and covered her laboratory coat with acid.

● Someone cut out a 4-foot-by-2-foot section of the fence from the Grounds Maintenance compound. Nothing was taken from the area.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION/CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

● A security officer reported he observed a subject tampering with a barricade in Parking Area 3. Investigation revealed the barricade was damaged by a College Station man.

While at the scene, the officer observed a subject getting up from the ground. The officer issued the man a citation for public intoxication.

MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL:

● An officer issued a minor a citation for possession of alcohol

on July 4.

BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:

● A College Station woman reported someone entered her unlocked car and stole her parking hang tag.

THEFT OF SERVICE:

● Numerous long distance telephone calls have been charged to the Engineering Research Center's telephone bill. The calls are being placed to several different numbers in Round Rock.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

● A Bryan woman reported someone stole the left rear hub-cap off her vehicle while it was in Parking Area 55.

● A College Station man reported someone entered a room of the Academic Building and stole his Panasonic black and white television and Sanyo portable tape player.

● Four bicycles were stolen from various areas around campus.

● A College Station woman reported someone removed \$50 in cash from her purse while it was in a room of the Engineering/Physics Building.

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