

CS council approves oil drilling agreement

Mineral deposits lie under local cemetery

By Reagon Clamon
The Battalion

A lease allowing drilling for oil and gas underneath the College Station Cemetery should not worry residents who have loved ones buried there, said a professor of petroleum engineering.

"There shouldn't be a problem with this type of drilling going on," said Hans Juvkam-Wold, a professor in the Department of Petroleum Engineering.

"The only problem might be a little noise from the operation," he said.

The lease that was awarded at last night's College Station City Council meeting will allow Inco Oil Corporation to drill horizontally under the 32.31 acres occupied by the cemetery.

Juvkam-Wold said the process of horizontal drilling can be safely done up to a mile from the actual site where minerals are being pumped out.

"As long as the cemetery isn't a mile wide — and I doubt it is — the equipment would not even have to be on the property," he said.

Cathy Locke, city attorney for College Station, said the oil company would not be able to touch the cemetery because they have only been awarded a mineral rights lease, not a surface rights lease.

"This lease does not allow access to the surface," Locke said. "They'll drill a horizontal well about 10,000 feet below the cemetery."

Locke said the city will receive 22 percent of all royalties plus a bonus of \$205 per acre — about \$6,600 — which will go into the College Station general fund.

Locke said the practice of awarding mineral leases to oil and gas companies for horizontal drilling is not uncommon.

"The city has already leased the mineral rights to the land the police station is on, the Municipal Court, the Public Service Center, Central Park and several other tracts," Locke said. "But none of the leases are surface leases."



ORTRUN GINGERICH/The Battalion

One size does not fit all

Kristen Gisler tries to decide which style she wants as she orders her A&M senior ring Thursday afternoon

in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center. Today is the last day to order rings this semester.

PARENTS' WEEKEND 1992

Parents of the Year award, other honors highlight activities

By Julie Polston
The Battalion

Parents' Weekend begins today with activities that both students and parents will enjoy.

The Aggie Parents of the Year, a prestigious award that dates back to 1959, will also be announced during the awards ceremony.

Monica Moses, sub-chairman for the Parents of the Year Subcommittee, said the selection process for this award is based on past and present community and family involvement, as well as involvement at Texas A&M.

"Nine times out of ten, the parents do not even know they were nominated," she said.

The Aggie Parents of the Year participate in various campus ac-

tivities such as judging the Miss TAMU Pageant as well as the Bevo Barbecue held during Parents' Weekend.

"This is an honor," Moses said. "We don't want the parents to feel obligated or anything."

The 1991-92 Parents of the Year award went to Ted and Barbara Coughran, Class of '53, and his five children all attended A&M.

"I think it's a marvelous thing, especially for such a large university, to have that kind of interest in the parents," Barbara Coughran said.

"It is really difficult to say what the award has meant to us, but it has made us feel so special and is something we will cherish forever," she said.

The All-University Awards Ceremony will take place Sunday

morning at 9 a.m. in Rudder Auditorium. Corps awards will be announced, along with the Weirus Spirit Award, the Thru Gathwright Award and the Aggie Parents of the Year.

A reception will follow the ceremony in the Rudder lobby area.

Four events in particular are being sponsored by the Parents' Weekend Committee of Student Government. However, students can pick up a complete schedule of events for Parents' Weekend at the MSC hallway Friday afternoon.

The Ol' Army Yell Practice will take place Friday at midnight in Kyle Field.

The newly elected yell leaders, along with several former yell leaders will lead the crowd in the

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Corps, frats face off in game

By Matari Jones
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and the Inter-Fraternity Council will participate in a scholarship fundraiser baseball game Saturday at 7 p.m. at Olsen Field to cap off Parents' Weekend.

The main purpose of the game is to bring the Corps and fraternities together, said Mike Freeman, chairman of Corps-Fraternities Relations for the Inter-Fraternity Council.

"We've always been seen as rivals," he said. Highlights of the baseball game include the Texas

A&M Skydiving Club, which will "deliver" the ball for the first pitch. The skydiving team will "jump" into Olsen Field and land on the bases, Freeman said. The 1990-91 Parents of the Year, Dick and Pat Bruner, will throw the first pitch of the game.

Stacey Hendrix, second runner-up for the 1991 Texas A&M Pageant, will sing the national anthem.

Freeman said more and more members of the Corps are joining fraternities since these organizations are giving each other more respect and support.

"We tend to forget that we are all Aggies," said Craig McPike, coach for the Corps baseball team. "We're here to promote good relations between the Corps and fraternities," he said.

Department name change causes friction

By Julie Polston
The Battalion

Students and faculty in one department in the Texas A&M College of Engineering are in disagreement over a recent proposal to add the words "industrial distribution" to the name of the Department of Engineering Technology.

The proposal has upset several engineering technology students.

Brian Mueller, a senior engineering technology major, said students are unhappy with the proposal for three reasons.

One reason students are angry is because A&M's industrial distribution major is not accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Mueller said.

Secondly, integrating an unaccredited major with the accredited Engineering

Technology specialty would lessen the integrity of the department, Mueller said.

Industrial distribution is not an engineering major, but rather a business-based major with a technical background.

"We don't want to step on anyone's toes," Mueller said, "but combining the two will alter the image of the department in the outside engineering world."

The proposal would incorporate both the engineering technology major and the industrial distribution major into one department, called the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution.

"Name changes are never easy," Department Head Dr. John Weese said. "The University should change it in a deliberate fashion, and not on a whim."

Mueller said he heard rumors about the proposal Tuesday morning.

Mueller verified the proposal with the

department head Wednesday morning and by Wednesday afternoon Mueller and several other students were circulating a petition against the name change.

"We don't want to step on anyone's toes, but combining the two will alter the image of the department in the outside engineering world."

— Brian Mueller, a senior engineering technology major

By Thursday afternoon, the students had 146 signatures.

In response to this confusion, Weese held an informal meeting Thursday evening to explain the proposal and answer any questions from the students.

Weese said there are several reasons

why the department is considering the proposal. He said the industrial distribution program at A&M is the oldest and strongest in the country, and other universities such as Purdue are planning their new industrial distribution programs after A&M's.

Industrial distribution students make up about half of the students in the Department of Engineering Technology, and Weese said he feels industrial distribution should be better represented.

The Engineering Technology specialty will still remain accredited, and diplomas will remain the same, regardless of whether or not the proposal is approved.

"Maintaining accreditation of the engineering technology program is not something we need to worry about," he said.

Weese said he hopes a final decision will be made within the next month, and changes may be made before the fall semester.

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