

La Salle's wrecked ship found mile off coast

AUSTIN (AP) — Archaeologists have found l'Aimable, the sunken flagship of French explorer Rene-Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle.

The ship ran aground Feb. 29, 1685, when La Salle mistook the mouth of shallow Matagorda Bay, off the Texas southeast coast, for the Mississippi River.

The ship was located about a mile off Matagorda Island, about 100 miles southwest of Houston, on Feb. 23, said Wayne Gronquist, president of the National Underwater and Marine Agency, or NUMA.

The Austin-based nonprofit group, started in 1978, locates sunken ships and other historical artifacts and is funded mostly by author Clive Cussler.

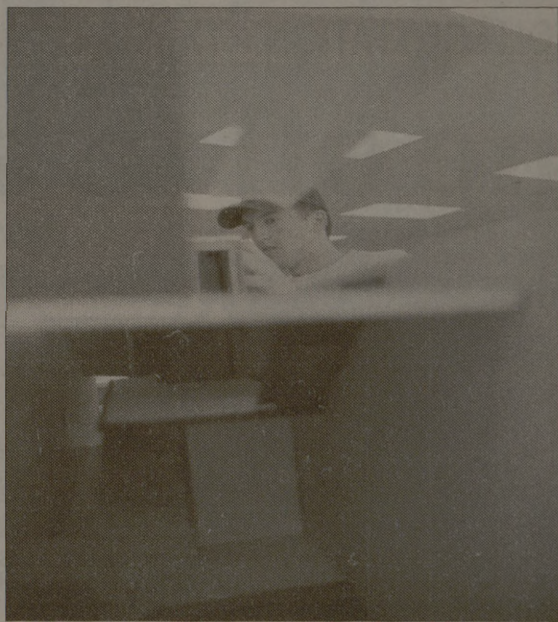
The l'Aimable was a broad-hulled ship called a flute, large enough to haul 11 18-wheelers.

Nearly three years ago, a smaller ship in La Salle's fleet, the Belle, was located by state archaeologists in Matagorda Bay. The Belle was 80 feet long and 19 feet wide when in January 1686 a storm blew it across the bay into shallow water near the peninsula.

In earlier voyages, La Salle had led an expedition down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers and claimed for King Louis XIV of France all the land draining into the Mississippi and its tributaries.

The Belle and l'Aimable were among four ships that carried La Salle and more than 300 colonists to the New World in 1684 on a trip to establish a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi. La Salle missed that destination and landed in Texas, where he was met with a hostile climate, hostile Indians and disease.

Here comes the sun



Keith Cummins, a junior environmental design major, works on his model of a sundial museum for the city of Bryan.

Texas stands to receive \$1.3 billion under highway improvement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas would receive an extra \$1.3 billion over six years to build and improve highways, provide mass transit and fund other transportation programs under a measure approved Tuesday by the Senate transportation committee.

Federal transportation spending nationwide would rise by \$26 billion to \$173 billion over the next six years under the bill approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

The extra funding derives from a plan by Sen. Phil Gramm that would earmark all taxes that motorists pay at the gas pump for transportation. Currently, some of the 18.3 cents in taxes per gallon of gas is diverted away from the federal highway trust fund for use in other government programs, including deficit reduction.

Texas would see its highway funding rise to \$10.4 billion over six years from the \$9.1 billion that had been envisioned before Gramm and Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., secured leadership and committee approval for their plan. The \$10.4 billion would be some 60 percent more than under the pre-

vious highway bill.

The Senate bill makes strides in the unequal funding situation and other so-called "donor" states years have paid more into the trust fund than they've received.

Currently, Texas receives 9.5 cents for every dollar paid into the trust fund in the form of gasoline taxes. Under the bill, every state would be guaranteed 9.1 cents on the dollar.

Texas transportation officials are pleased at the Senate's action, although the bill remains far from completion. The Senate, which has a bill seeking more money for Texas, has not yet brought it to the floor and is unlikely to do so before the end of the session.

But Texas Department of Transportation policy analyst David Soileau says the state action is important because it sets a framework for increasing Texas' share out from the trust fund. "We have to get I think, to further improve our situation," he said. "And, we've gotten a spending highway trust fund that is the rate they are coming in."

WHAT'S UP

Wednesday

ATM Womens Rugby: Come join! No experience needed. Practices are from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the pitch on the corner of Texas Ave. and University. We will host a tournament on March 7 at 9 a.m. Be there to support your women's athletic club sports, and catch the men's game against UT at 2 p.m. Call Nikki at 694-0084 for information.

Reformed University Fellowship: There will be a large group Bible study in Rudder 301 from 8:30-9:45 p.m. For details call Jud at 695-0675.

TAMU Snow Ski Club: A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder 410. Call Chuck at 694-2726 for details.

Catholic Students Association: "Hot Topics" discussion session from 6 to 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center Library, followed by Newman Mass at 7:15 and a Bible study in Rudder Tower.

Study Abroad Programs Office: An informational meeting to promote the Italy Spring '99 program will be held from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in Room 154, 161 Bizzell Hall West.

ATM Roadrunners: Will run three to four miles starting in front of G. Rollie White at 5:30 p.m. All students and skill levels are welcome. Call Steve at 847-7905 for further information.

United Campus Ministry: There will be an

Aggie supper tonight at 6:00 p.m. at Texas A&M Presbyterian Church. Rev. Woody Berry will speak. All denominations are welcome.

Phi Eta Sigma: There will be a general meeting tonight in 501 Rudder at 7:00 p.m. for current members. Officers meet at 6:30 p.m. in the cube.

English Language and Literature Society: A literary panel "What is literature for?" will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 150 Blocker.

TAMU Scuba Club: A general meeting with a guest lecture and class specials will be held at Paradise Scuba at 7 p.m.

AMSA Pre-Med: A guest lecturer will

Dr. Jane Cohen, PhD, will speak on the Role of Nutrition in Medicine in Room 410 of Rudder Tower at 7 p.m. E-mail Patricia at par0779@unix.tamu.edu for details.

Texas Aggie Brew Club (TABC): There will be a general meeting and product sampling at 7:30 p.m. at Carney's Pub. Call Joe at 696-7375 for details.

Life Savers Bible Study: Join us at the All Faiths Chapel from 6-7:30 p.m. for a stimulating Bible study and stay to hear the VOP Choir rehearsal. E-mail Donna for details at dmw@tamvm1.tamu.edu.

Muslim Students' Association: At 7:00 p.m. in MSC 342 we will be holding Islam

101 - an informal discussion about beliefs, practices, and culture. Come. Call Iqbal at 693-7669 or lam101@tamu.edu for details.

TAMU Sailing Club: There will be a general meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Rudder 301. Anyone interested in sailing, whether you are a beginner or an experienced sailor, is invited to attend.

What's Up is a Battalion service to the non-profit student and faculty organizations. Items should be submitted later than three days in advance of the desired run date. Application deadlines are not events and will be in What's Up. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-0569.

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★ Early Voting thru Friday, March 6 ★

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