

Hooves moves



Dr. Martha Vogelsang lectures on horse jumping technique in Animal Science 312 class at the Parsons Cavalry Complex on Monday afternoon.

GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

Treasury department seeks dollar alternative

WASHINGTON (AP) — The familiar phrase "paying with plastic" may take on an entirely new meaning. The government is testing new materials for the nation's folding money — including a tough but flexible plastic.

Advocates say plastic, or polymer, bills last longer than paper, are more difficult to counterfeit and don't get all wrinkly if you accidentally leave them in your jeans on washing day. They're less prone to rejection by change machines and, when worn out, can be recycled into other plastic products.

Skeptics worry the public would reject them, that they would force an expensive retooling of currency-sorting and counting machines and that such a radical change could subtly undermine confidence in the U.S. dollar.

The Treasury Department already is in the midst of a multiyear redesign of the nation's currency, the first in nearly six decades. It introduced new \$100 notes in 1996 and new \$50 bills last year and plans new \$20s later this year.

The new paper bills feature enlarged portraits, watermarks, a numeral in color-shifting ink and a polymer security thread. Officials aren't sure they want to take another big step.

"We're pretty far down the road from making any decision about proceeding," said Treasury Assistant Secretary Howard Schloss.

Nevertheless, the department's Bureau of Printing and Engraving is running extensive tests on a variety of materials, including a plastic developed by the Reserve Bank of Australia and a paper-plastic sandwich produced by a Canadian company, Domtar Inc. of Montreal.

"We and every other bank note printer in the world are taking a look at this material," said Thomas Ferguson, the bureau's acting director. "We've run some print trials and we'll be running some more."

The government won't say when the timetable is, but industry officials say a change wouldn't occur before 2001.

Australia issued the world's first polymer currency in 1988 — a \$10 note celebrating its bicentennial. It has since converted all of its notes to the new material in 1996.

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The level of printing detail is finer than a paper note. And it has a small clear window, embossed with a numeral 50, aimed at preventing counterfeiters from using home computers.

Secret Service officials have been particularly concerned about the growing use of computer ink-jet technology to make fake U.S. bills. They're relatively easy to make but some have been passed off as real cash.

"A polymer note incorporated into the current design would definitely deter counterfeiters from using personal computer ink-jet printers," said Rep. Michael D. DeLoach, who has scheduled a hearing Tuesday to examine the growing use of ink-jet technology.

"I am hoping to book more bands for three days next year," said Bennett. "With this being such a successful year, I always want to invest in regional music in the area."

Bennett said increasing the number of bands and spreading the performance over Thursday, Friday and Saturday could increase attendance at the North by Northgate.

WHAT'S UP

Tuesday

TAMU Water Ski Club: A general meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. Contact John at 695-8843 for details.

Alpha Phi Omega: Meet to go to the Crestview Retirement Home at 3:30 p.m. in 133 Koldus.

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 Dr. Call Nikki at 694-0084 for information.

Aggie Lutherans: A meeting will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Treehouse, Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Call 694-6663 for details.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF): There will be a general meeting at 5:30 p.m. at All Faith's Chapel. Please call Susan at 847-2073 for details.

A.W.A.R.E.: There will be a general meeting tonight from 7 to 8 p.m. in MSC 205. Call Isai at 696-7366 for details.

Biomedical Science Association-Veterinary Medicine Branch: Dr. Payne will speak about family life and vet school at 7 p.m. in Rudder 308. Call Lindsay at 695-1759 for details.

Latter-Day Saint Association: Come learn more about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint at 7 p.m. in Rudder 302. There will be a guest speaker speaking on the Book of Mormon and Jesus Christ.

Center for Academic Enhancement: There will be a GRE Verbal Review in Blocker 526 today. Call 845-2724 for more information.

TAMU Career Center: There will be a salary negotiation seminar at 6:00 p.m. in Rudder 301. There will be a placement orientation at 4:30 p.m. in Rudder 302.

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 Dr. Call Nikki at 694-0084 for information.

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.

Phi Eta Sigma Meeting: There will be a general meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. in 292A MSC.

What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit student and faculty events and activities. Items should be submitted no later than three days in advance of the desired run date. Application deadlines and notices are not events and will not be run in What's Up. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-3313.

Golden Key National Honor Society

Will be having a meeting
Wednesday, April 1st • 7:00 p.m. Rudder 510
Study Abroad Representatives will be giving a presentation

FISH BALL!!
Freshman Mixer
Friday, April 3rd
9:30pm - 1:00am at Sbisa

Door Prizes • Free Food and Party Pics
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IN THE SBSLC OFFICE in MSC 137.

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