

G. ROLLIE WHITE COLISEUM Dance Lessons 8PM - 9PM Live Concert & Dancing 9PM - 1PM Sponsored by MSC L.T. Jordan Institute and MSC Town Hall

special assistance are reques

Environmental agency admits to toxic mistake

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HARLINGEN (AP) - The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission said it made a mistake after a chemical spill in Brownsville last month by failing to give the Coast Guard updated calculations on what levels of the chemical furfural were safe for fish.

The Coast Guard, operating on TNRCC figures that put the threshold around 7 parts per million, released water from the "We know our spill that had furfural levels of 2 to 2.5 parts per million, said Capt. community. We know how Adan Guerrero, federal on-scene coordinator for the spill. sensitive our marine life is

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A TNRCC memo dated two days after the spill determined that .53 parts per million was a safe level for "the most sensitive organism." That memo came from Austin to a regional office in the Rio Grande Valley, but the information was not immediately forwarded to the Coast Guard.

"I can't really tell you that we know exactly what happened and

we'll correct it in the future ... but there is an acknowledgment that the information should have been passed on," said TNR-CC spokesman Patrick Crimmins. "It was just a mistake.

The released water ended up in San Martin Lake in Brownsville, where several million fish died. The Coast Guard is investigating whether the released water killed the fish.

On Jan. 25, a truck from Mexico carrying about 9,000 gallons of furfural, a toxic agricultural waste derivative and chemical manufacturing raw material, overturned into a Brownsville drainage canal that flows into San Martin Lake. Officials dammed up the ditch at several places.

On Feb. 4, the Coast Guard released the first of three dams holding back the contaminated water. On Feb. 7, the day after water was released from the last dam, dead fish turned up in the

lake, and the dam was built back up. On Feb. 8, the Coast Guard finally heard about the TNRCC

memo, Guerrero said. Around 5 million fish in the lake died, said Smiley Nava, manager for the resource protection division of Texas Parks and Wildlife. Nava said parks and wildlife officials believe the fish, mostly for-

age fish like the tiny Gulf menhaden, died from the spill. Meanwhile, the Coast Guard,

TNRCC and Cameron County - Gilberto Hinojosa crews continue clean-up efforts. Cameron County Judge Samples taken since Friday have shown no detectable levels of furfural in the ditch. San Martin Lake or the cut leading between the

lake and the Brownsville Ship Channel, the Coast Guard said. Cameron County Judge Gilberto Hinojosa said the memo

mix-up shows that the federal, state and county agencies need-

ed to work together more closely. "We know our community," Hinojosa said. "We know how sensitive our marine life is there. We feel we would have been able to provide some positive input.

New organizations ask judge to open gunfire test to the public

WACO (AP) - News organizations asked a federal judge Tuesday to open to the public an upcoming field test that is likely to resolve the key outstanding question from the 1993 Branch Davidian siege: whether federal agents fired on the compound in the final fiery moments. In a motion filed in federal court,

lawyers for The Dallas Morning News and The Associated Press argued that the public's interest in the case trumps any secrecy claims that the government could assert concerning its conduct during the 51-day standoff.

But the request appears unlikely to be granted by U.S. District Judge Walter Smith of Waco, who last week rejected a request by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to open the test.

'I am advised that for national security and safety reasons, access will be strictly limited," Smith wrote in a Feb. 8 letter. "Neither the media nor the public will be permitted to attend."

The question of government gunfire is the focus of a Waco reinvestigation by Congressional committees, the special counsel appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno and Branch Davidian survivors suing the government.

Branch Davidian leader David Koresh and some 80 followers died in an inferno at their compound near Waco, ending the standoff with members of the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Some died from fire, others from gunshots. The government has said all along that the sect members were responsible for their own deaths.

Smith is presiding over the wrongful death lawsuit, which is due to go to trial in mid-May.

The judge, who ordered the field test, was to meet with lawyers, scientists and special counsel John Danforth on Wednesday in St. Louis to iron out details. The test is expected to take place at Fort Hood early next month.

The government long has insisted that none of its agents fired their weapons. But the Branch Davidian plaintiffs, backed by infrared experts, contend that aerial surveillance footage the FBI filmed captured bursts of light that can be nothing other than gunfire — a claim the government denies

The airplane and infrared camera used by the FBI to record surveillance footage during the 1993 standoff will be used for the upcoming field test, as will

a similarly equipped British Royal Navy helicopter. Weapons like those carried by federal agents and the Davidians during the siege will be fired during the field test. Footage recorded from the two aircraft will then be compared with the 1993 video to determine if the bursts of light represent gunfire.

Issues surrounding the siege and its deadly end continue to be of enormous interest to the public, Dallas attorney Paul Watler argued in Tuesday's filing on behalf of The Dallas Morning News and the AP. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Waco Tribune-Herald also planned to press the case for public access. "Shrouding the test in secrecy serves

only to undermine the public's confidence in any such findings or conclusions," the news organizations said in the filing.

"The public's interest in having an independent and objective source for information about the field test far outweighs any reason that might be offered for prohibiting media access.

The media will be no closer to government equipment during the field test than they were during the 1993 siege, the news organizations said.

State sues insurance companie

Wednesday, February 16.

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AUSTIN (AP) - Attorney eral John Cornyn sued 16 autoir ance companies Tuesday, claimi companies illegally deducted m for repairs from policyholders' e payments.

Cornyn is seeking refunds fora sumers as well as fines. The max fine is \$10,000 per violation.

Named in the lawsuits were Farm, Allstate, Farmers, USAA, M gressive County Mutual, Farm Bu State and County Mutual, Traw Trinity, Nationwide, Old Ameri County Mutual, Home State County Menior for Mutual, Sentry, Maryland Casual

Consumers County Mutual and Ch The attorney general's office still determining how many custo could be affected by the lawsuit or much the fines could total. spokeswoman Heather Browne.

An industry spokesman said surers are properly charging tomers for costs associated restoring damaged vehicles to the pre-accident condition.

At issue is whether it is legal for The Texas Ad companies to keep part of the more n will try to awarded to a policyholder for repar then it takes or when a damaged vehicle is fixed with ouri Tigers at R The Aggies newer parts.

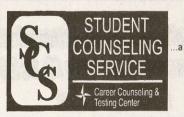
The standard Texas auto policyn ord, 2-9 in the hibits such deductions, and a recentre hoping to ha Texas appeals court opinion says the season's end. the so-called betterment deductionsa A&M wom illegal, Cornyn said. ggie Gillom s

"Deduction for betterment or de important game preciation on policyholders' autorepa plish that go "Yes, we're claims has been an industry customi Texas, but the personal auto insurance alvage the sea policy does not allow it," Comyn said not like it's not "We would certainly disagree with ting record. W

the attorney general's opinion. It is our Hopefully, the g responsibility as insurers to repair that The Aggies vehicle to bring it back to the condition tame losing st [before] the time of the accident," said with a victory Jerry Johns, president of the South- Sophomore gua western Insurance Information Sava after ending the in Austin, a trade group that represent hange in the A several of the companies being sued

Often restoring the vehicle to its previous condition adds costs, Johns said "If we were required to replace a engine in a 1996 vehicle with a 2001 engine that cost is going to be consid

erably higher," and will drive up insu ance rates Johns said. Cornyn said he applauded rece steps by several companies to stop ta ing betterment deductions. "However I intend to make sure that policyhold ers get the refunds they are entitled and that all companies play by the same rules," he said.



.a Department in the Division of Student Affairs Texas A&M Uinversity 114 Henderson Hall 845-4427 ext. 108 scs.tamu.edu

Individual Career Counseling

Students may schedule an appointment with a career counselor to discuss concerns regarding their choice of major and choice of career. Other issues for exploration may include career planning, decision making, and dealing with family pressure.

ACE (Academic & Career Educator) Student Volunteers

ACE student volunteers assist students in the Career Counseling & Testing Center by helping them explore various academic majors, career options, and career information. No appointment is necessary to speak with an ACE volunteer.

DISCOVER

DISCOVER is a multimedia career exploration tool which provides a personalized list of occupations and majors based on responses to questions about interests, abilities, and values. DISCOVER computer time must be scheduled in advance. Personalized information can be saved to a computer disk. (Bring your own 3.5" disk.)

Career Self-help Resources

The Career Counseling & Testing Center contains a variety of books, handouts, and computer programs on career choice and occupational information that students may use at their own pace. The resources are available for use during regular business hours. No appointment is required to use these materials.

+ Career Safari

This workshop will provide you with the tools to track elusive occupational information and capture the right career for you. The focus of this workshop is more comprehensive than Choosing A Major in that skills confidence and work values will be assessed and considered in addition to interests. The focus goes beyond helping you with the immediate task of selecting an appropriate major. The intent of this workshop is to provide you with longrange, life-time career planning skills. Pre-registration and completion of interest inventory five working days prior to the workshop are required.

Feb.	14th	Mon.	4:30-6:00 p.m.
Mar.	2nd	Thur.	2:15-3:45 p.m.
Mar.	28th	Tues.	4:00-5:30 p.m.
Apr.	10th	Mon.	4:00-5:30 p.m.
Apr.	19th	Wed.	3:00-4:30 p.m.
Apr.	24th	Mon.	4:00-5:30 p.m.

Choosing a Major

This workshop will cover the factors to consider and steps involved in making a career decision. Your interests will be matched with appropriate academic majors and occupations. Pre-registration and completion of interest inventory five working days prior to the workshop are required.

7th	Tues.	3:45-4:45 p.m.
29th	Wed.	4:00-5:00 p.m.
4th	Tues.	4:00-5:00 p.m.
14th	Fri.	3:00-4:00 p.m.
25th	Tues.	2:30-3:30 p.m.
	29th 4th 14th	29thWed.4thTues.14thFri.

+ Do What You Are

This workshop is based on the best-selling book and teaches participants how to incorporate their unique personalities in career planning. Profiles will be provided that include a brief personality description, strengths and weaknesses, criteria for a satisfying career choice, careers to consider, and recommendations for the job search. Pre-registration and completion of personality measure five working days prior to the workshop are required.

	Feb.	24th	Thur.	2:30-3:30 p.m.
	Mar.	6th	Mon.	4:00-5:00 p.m.
1	Mar.	24th	Fri.	3:00-4:00 p.m.
	Apr.	3rd	Mon.	4:15-5:15 p.m.
,	Apr.	18th	Tues.	3:45-4:45 p.m.

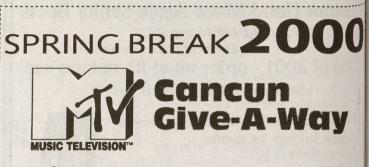
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*Register between Feb. 9-25, 2000.

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