



### Scholarship established for Steve Gruver

The **Steve Gruver Memorial Scholarship** has been established at the **Colorado School of Mines**. Mr Gruver was **ENSCO International's** North American Manager, based in Lafayette, Louisiana. He and his wife were pilots. They were flying home after a Labor Day holiday visit with relatives in Vermont when shortly after take off his airplane lost power and hit several trees, which ignited the plane's fuel. Mr

Gruver, his wife Julia, their three daughters and Julia's parents were aboard the airplane, one of two privately owned by Mr Gruver. There were no survivors.

ENSCO committed \$50,000 to the memorial fund. Contributions can be mailed to Steve Gruver Memorial Scholarship, Colorado School of Mines, P. O. Box 4005, Golden, Colorado. Please note on your contribution the name of the fund and Fund #6-30752. ■

### Hurricane Lili damages several rigs

Hurricane Lili, a Category 4 storm as it made its way through the center of the Gulf's oil patch, caused damage to several mobile rigs as well as numerous fixed platforms. **Rowan Drilling's** jack-up **Rowan Houston** was involved in what appeared to be a collision with another vessel. The hull was found 1,750 ft away from its location while the rig's legs were still on the seafloor at the rig's original location. Rowan said the hull's port side was severely damaged, indicating a collision occurred. Rowan said it is developing a plan for wreckage removal, investigation to determine

"who done it" and preparation for the anticipated litigation "Bit Time".

**Noble Drilling's** jackup **Noble John Sandifer** received leg and hull damage, and **Diamond Offshore's** semisubmersible **Ocean Lexington** was broken from its moorings and drifted about 45 miles before grounding in about 35 ft of water. Following inspection of the top-sides and hull, the rig was towed to its drilling location and began operations.

**Nabors Offshore's** jackup **Dolphin 105** was toppled by Hurricane Lili in about 40 ft of water. ■

### Noble awarded contracts in Mexico

Four of Noble's jackups in the US Gulf were contracted by Pemex for work offshore Mexico. The **Noble Gene Rosser** commenced a 917 day contract on September 29. The **Noble Sam Noble** is under contract for 1,082 days. That contract was set to begin by late October. The **Noble John Sandifer** and **Noble Johnnie Hoffman** received letters of intent from Pemex for contracts for 960 days and 981 days, respectively. Both offshore contracts were set to begin by the end of October. However, that date for the **Noble John Sandifer** will be delayed as a result of hull and leg damage to the rig caused by Hurricane Lili. These rigs will bring to five the number

of Noble jackups operating for Pemex.

Additionally, Noble said that the drillship **Noble Leo Segerius** under contract to **Petrobras** offshore Brazil, was expected to recommence operations in late October rather than early October following a refurbishment and upgrade. The delay was the result of a strike by Brazilian customs personnel that impaired importation of key components while the vessel was in the shipyard. The rig was undergoing commissioning and acceptance testing by **Petrobras** in early October. The rig is being outfitted with Noble's proprietary aluminum alloy riser systems. ■

### Atwood rig communication

**Atwood Oceanics** selected Schlumberger's **DeXa.Net** communications system for its offshore and onshore rigs worldwide. The system provides links between Atwood's offshore rigs in the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and Gulf of Mexico to their respective land office. Schlumberger also provided a connection link from Atwood's Houston headquarters to its Singapore office. ■

### H&P transactions

**Helmerich & Payne** completed the spin-off of **Cimarex Energy** and the completion of the subsequent merger with **Key Production Company** and a subsidiary of **Cimarex** to create a new US-based independent oil and gas company, **Cimarex Energy Co.** ■

### Contract for Atwood rig

The contractor's jackup **Vicksburg** received a two-year contract from **ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Malaysia** for operations offshore Malaysia. The rig's dayrate is \$64,500 and the operator also has an option to extend the contract one year at a mutually agreed rate. **ExxonMobil** has the right to terminate the contract after one year with a 120 day notice. The contract provides for **ExxonMobil** to reimburse **Atwood** for approximately \$3.6 million for certain modifications and equipment upgrades, which was expected to take about 18 days. The dayrate during that period was \$52,000.

### Rowan Gorilla VII contract

Rowan's Super Gorilla class jackup **Rowan Gorilla VII** was contracted by **Tuscan Energy (Scotland) Limited** for a simultaneous drilling and production program in the **Ardmore** field in the UK North Sea. The contract includes a firm period of 18 months and drilling of up to four wells plus options for an additional 42 months. Operations are scheduled to begin in the late second quarter 2003. ■

### More Pride rigs to Mexico

**Pride International** said that its **Pride Alaska** and **Pride Nebraska** jackups were contracted by Pemex for an aggregate of 2,123 days with a total contract value in excess of \$79 million. Operations are expected to begin in mid-November. ■