

Coast faces storm 'disaster'

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff

A population increase along the Texas Gulf Coast, human nature, and coastal geology would all make for a heap of trouble in the event of a major hurricane, a Texas A&M University geologist said Monday. Dr. Christopher C. Mathewson, associate professor of geology, led an oceanography seminar "what we're really looking at is a planned disaster."

The seminar was co-sponsored by the oceanography department and the Texas A&M Marine Fellows.

The great influx of northerners into the Texas Sun Belt has contributed greatly to the potential casualty numbers in the event of a major storm, Mathewson said.

"The storm surge of Hurricane Carla today would affect 150,000 people in the Houston-Galveston area, and would inundate Interstate 45," Mathewson said.

Interstate 45 is the only thoroughfare leading inland from Galveston Island, and Mathewson said this would hinder evacuation.

"I don't think they could do it," he said.

Human nature runs contrary to the idea of a hurricane evacuation, Mathewson said. People mentally rebel against storm warnings in different ways, he said.

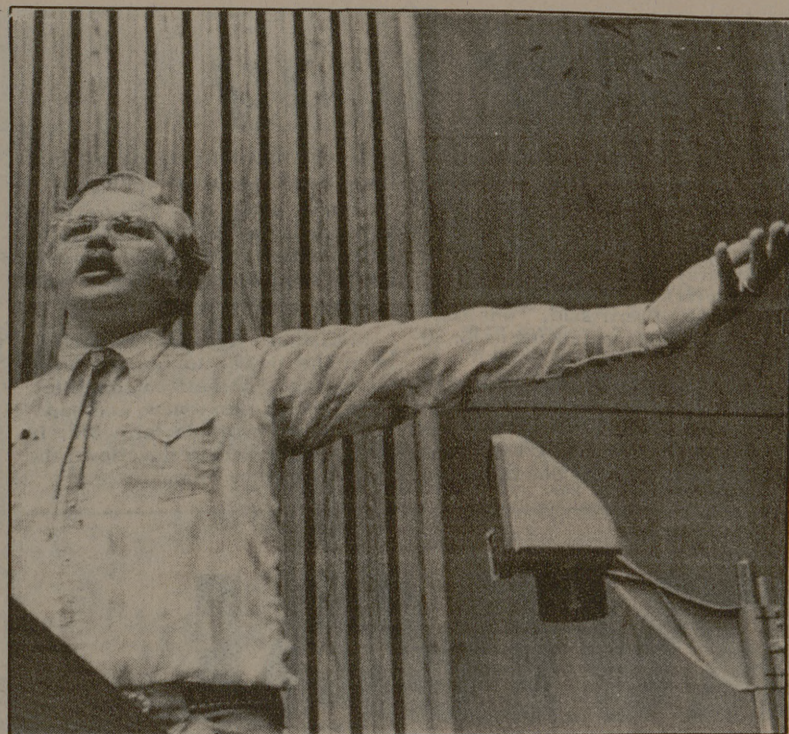
Some think, "I paid \$75,000 for this home, so it's not going to blow away, while others take the attitude that 'it's happened here once, it won't do it to me again."

The most potentially harmful attitude is that of people who think they've survived a big one, like Carla. "The fatal fallacy, Mathewson said, is that people who think this generally were 150 miles away from a storm's landfall.

Texas's coastal geology would also be responsible for some of a hurricane's damage, Mathewson said. However, a hurricane's effects sometimes alter the coast for up to 40 years.

Mathewson used as an example an area near Corpus Christi hit by hurricanes in the 1930s.

By 1973, a hypothetical land development, not hurricane-



Dr. Christopher C. Mathewson warns the damage of a "good" hurricane could do along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

destroyed, would in fact be destroyed by a process that was initiated after the hurricane cleared the land," he said.

Mathewson said hurricanes have four major means by which short-term damage is caused. Some hurricanes display only one major damaging aspect of the four: wind (Carla, 1961), waves (Celia, 1970), rain (Beulah, 1967), and tidal surge.

"However, if we ever get a hurricane that puts Celia, Carla and Beulah together, we're going to have one marvelous planned disaster," he said.

fewer country boys are enrolled in ag colleges, survey shows

Cultural schools are not full of country boys anymore. Today, city boys are in the majority.

Texas A&M University survey of 382 students at 14 of the largest agricultural schools in the state showed a large influx of metropolitan school graduates into agricultural schools.

Researchers say 35 percent of all agricultural students come from metropolitan areas which have populations of 50,000 or more while only 15 percent live on a farm or ranch.

The remaining 50 percent of the students are from small cities with populations of 50,000.

The study also showed that the majority of students were not influenced to study agriculture by their school counselors and teachers, but rather by family tradition.

Most of the students were attending agricultural schools without the aid of scholarships. Almost one-third of the students felt they would go on to a college or get a professional degree.

More than 75 percent of the students reasoning their starting salary would be less than \$13,000 per year.

The explanation for the trend of students entering agriculture is the young adult's desire to escape from life in the city, according to Texas A&M researchers.

Dr. Arthur Cosby, a rural sociologist and study leader, says there is a clear preference of country life to city life. The vast majority of the agricultural students, (more than 85 percent), ranked living in the country as being important in their life after graduation.

Less than 3 percent wanted to return to living in a city of more than 500,000, even though originally 12 percent had grown up in that environment.

"It seems to be part of agriculture's appeal," says the researcher.

"When asked why they went into agriculture in the first place, 60 percent said it was because they wanted to live in the country," Cosby added.

At Texas A&M, which has the largest single-campus agricultural school enrollment in the country including 5,382 agricultural majors, approximately 22 percent were raised on farms and ranches. However, 21 percent came to the University from cities of over 500,000 population.

There was a similar enrollment pattern at other universities in the South and Southwest.

Cosby says agricultural enrollments remarkably follow a normal cross-section of demographics in the United States.

"Agriculture is literally becoming a mass-culture phenomenon. It certainly is no longer under rural domination," Cosby said.

In the study, the 2,382 students were tested and interviewed from the following universities: Auburn, Clemson, Louisiana State, North Carolina State, Mississippi State, Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Virginia Tech and Georgia.

High school background or family owning land was not an overriding factor in going into agriculture, researchers reported.

The study revealed that more than half of the students majoring in agriculture never had an agriculture class in high school.

"It's interesting, but not surprising," Cosby said. "You wouldn't expect a wide selection of agriculture-related courses being available in Dallas or Houston."

"Objective listeners" Area hotline operating

By KAREN ROGERS
Battalion Staff

A Crisis Hotline, sponsored by the Brazos County Mental Health-Mental Retardation Center, will go into partial operation this week in the Bryan-College Station area.

Persons who need to talk to someone about their problems may now call the hotline at 779-2000. Eight volunteers who have completed an 18-hour training session staff the hotline.

The hotline is state-funded through the Alcohol and Drug Abuse program at the MH-MR Center. Along with alcoholism and drug abuse, the phone operators have also been trained to respond to problems dealing with rape, child abuse and suicide.

"It's designed to help anybody that's in some sort of life crisis that wants someone to talk to," said Ralla Spotts, coordinator of the project. "We will refer them to some other agency such as Planned Parenthood

or the Department of Human Resources in the case of child abuse, if it is necessary.

The persons answering the phones are more or less just objective listeners.

"The trend at the Mental Health-Mental Retardation Center now is crisis prevention. We try to get to people before the crisis gets too severe," she said.

"Volunteers are better than professionals, she said, because "when a person is feeling kind of down, we think he would feel better if they could talk to a regular person." She emphasized that the volunteers are not professional counselors and that they are only there to listen and make referrals if necessary.

Volunteers attend six three-hour sessions where they are trained in crisis intervention, communication and listening skills, and community resources. Representatives from community agencies such as Planned Parenthood and the Texas A&M University Personal Counseling

Center lecture at some of the sessions. The students also participate in role-playing where one is the caller and the other the phone operator. They are given a hypothetical situation and are asked to respond to it.

Twenty to 25 volunteers are signed up for the next training session scheduled to begin Jan. 24. Another session will be scheduled if more people volunteer, Spotts said.

"When they have completed the training program, we hope to have the hotline operating 24 hours, 7 days a week," Spotts said.

Several of the volunteers are psychology students at Texas A&M who say they want experience working with people and their problems before graduating.

"I enjoy psychology a lot and the hotline provides the perfect opportunity to work with people. It'll also provide me with some experience for when I graduate and go looking for a job," one volunteer said.

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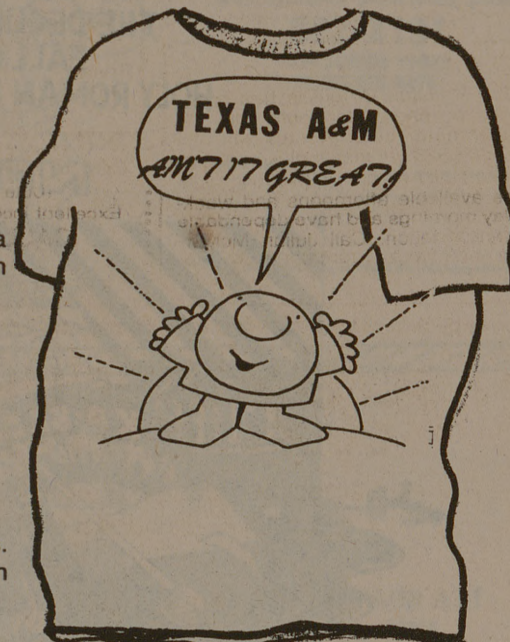
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SPECIAL CREATION — OR ORGANIC EVOLUTION???

How did man get to be man? Some say an omnipotent, omniscient God "specially" created mankind "in His image" — ex nihilo creation, fiat creation. Others say man is the result of millions of years of evolutionary development — the accidental product of chance and environment. Sir Julian Huxley once commented that Charles Darwin, through the theory of organic evolution he advocated, had "removed the idea of God from the sphere of rational thinking." The Bible says "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Who is right?

What are the evidences (scientific, philosophical, etc.) for or against organic evolution and special creation? Does either theory purport to substantiate itself with sound evidences which can be investigated by an open-minded person? Or are these "open and shut" cases with little left to be said? If you are a person who thinks organic evolution to be true; if you are a person who thinks special creation to be true; if you are a person who wants to link the two together as truthful through "theistic evolution"; if you are a person who is withholding judgment until more evidence is available — then perhaps this is for you.

On January 17, 1979 a new course on **Christian Apologetics and Christian Evidences** is being offered for people who are looking for answers to questions about God's existence, Jesus' Sonship, the Bible's inspiration, Special Creation vs. Organic Evolution, and many other such questions. This course, which is taught on the college level, meets each Wednesday evening from 6:00 until 8:00 P.M. It is not a course in church doctrine; rather, it is a course designed to investigate and examine the evidences which stand behind the Christian faith. It is a course for anyone who would like to see these evidences presented in an objective manner.

The course meets each week of the regular TAMU semester (except holidays) at the building of the A&M church of Christ (across the street from the A&M Consolidated High School Building) at 1001 West Loop South. The course lasts 15 weeks. There is no charge whatsoever for the course. A textbook is provided free of charge to each participant, as well as a large volume of written handout materials. There are no term papers required, or oral presentations. The class is conducted in the discussion/lecture format, with ample time given for discussion.

The teachers are: Bert Thompson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Veterinary Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, TAMU, and Ken Lawrence, sophomore Biomedical Science major. We invite you to join us as the course begins on January 17, 1979 at 6:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome! For further information feel free to call Dr. Thompson at 696-7513 after 5 or Mr. Lawrence at 845-3439.

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