



POLITICAL FIGHT

Lyn Nugent grabs the glasses of Sen. Everett Dirksen as Grandfather Johnson chats with the Senate minority leader at a reception honoring the former chief executive in Washington. Glasses fell to floor but were not broken. AP Wirephoto)

New Institute Aids Study Of Environment

Man's conquest of the sea moved a step closer to reality Saturday with dedication of The Marine Biomedical Institute, jointly sponsored by The University Medical Branch and A&M.

"The institute will combine for the first time under a single program the fields of marine medicine, marine biology and the physical sciences to provide life sciences support to man's conquest and full use of the environment of the sea," noted Frank C. Erwin Jr., chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents.

A&M President Earl Rudder said The Marine Biomedical Institute will encompass the first "multi-disciplinary approach to the biomedical problems encountered as man ventures farther into his new environment."

ASSOCIATED WITH this approach, Rudder added, is the quest for greater knowledge of fundamental biomechanisms in man through the study of simple marine organisms.

"When fully developed," pointed out Dr. Truman G. Blocker Jr., president of the Medical Branch, "The Marine Biomedical Institute will provide many of the answers to existing questions about life beneath the sea and will contribute materially to the research and teaching capabilities of both The University of Texas Medical Branch and A&M."

Objectives of the new institute, as stated in the dedicatory proclamation, include advancements of man's knowledge of the marine environment and use of this knowledge to enhance the practice of medicine in all environments.

THE FACILITY also is assigned the task of accumulating new data to assist in the development of systems to support man in the sea. It also will provide consultation from medical and related fields to scientists, engineers and managers regarding application of the data to environmental problems associated with underwater exploration and exploitation.

Industry Gap Narrows

Closing the university-industry gap is a prime goal of Dr. Charles D. Holland, head of chemical engineering and an authority on multicomponent distillation, one of industry's many operations.

In the interest of promoting a closer relationship between universities and industries, he has established certain department programs which provide specific ways the two giants may cooperate.

"It is hoped that these examples will lead to the generation of other means of cooperation," he said.

Holland, a consultant with Esso Research and Engineering Co. and author of several books, finds A&M's working relationship between students and practicing engineers beneficial.

INITIALLY, freshmen are motivated "toward wanting to make something of themselves" by visiting nearby industry shortly after arrival on campus.

"Most of our entering freshmen have the ability to handle the program in chemical engineering, but they may not necessarily have the desire and will to

do so," Holland emphasized. He feels the trip helps build a foundation.

Sophomores also take a trip to give students an overall picture of industry. One such trip, scheduled Feb. 12, will take students through Humble plants and Enjay Chemical Corp. in the Houston area.

Juniors maintain a conventional three-day trip. A cooperative program in which the student works in industry and attends the university on alternate semesters is available too, Holland said.



STARS IN "RED, WHITE AND MADDOX" Jay Garner, star of "Red, White and Maddox," which opened on Broadway, applies makeup just before the performance. The play, a sharp-edged satire about segregationist governor of Georgia, moved to New York intact from Atlanta and is the first production from a regional theater transferred in to a Broadway show. (AP Wirephoto)

Vets Given Cobalt Teletherapy Unit

The College of Veterinary Medicine has been presented a cobalt teletherapy unit by the M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, announced Dr. W. C. Banks.

Dr. Banks, head of radiology clinic, said the addition of the unit will place the veterinary hospital here among the best equipped in the nation.

The \$51,000 five-year-old unit was in use at Anderson immediately prior to being presented to A&M. The unit was replaced at the Houston facility as part of a change to equipment of all one make.

BANKS SAID the unit will be a multi-purpose machine, used for treating animals, but also available for research. He pointed out

it also can radiate plants. The professor said he believes the unit is the only one of its type in a veterinary hospital.

It will complement an older 250,000-volt x-ray unit presently used for therapy.

The unit is expected to become operational within the month. Banks added he "anticipates a great deal more therapy," much of which will be referrals from veterinarians in the field.

Noting the unit's advantages over the x-ray unit, Banks disclosed that treatment in a shorter length of time will be possible. He said this is important since animals, unlike humans, must be placed under an anesthetic for treatment.

"THE REAL value is doing therapy for malignancies. You do less damage to superficial tissues of the body because of its higher energy output. It allows deeper penetration of tissues," said Banks.

The unit is housed in a 30-inch walled room for protection purposes, he added.

The unit will be on exhibit for hospital personnel Thursday with representatives of M. D. Anderson on hand to examine facilities.

Man And Ape Share New Genetic Code

Ape, mouse and vegetable are terms often applied to persons held in particularly low esteem, but a biologist here says anyone has lots in common with those three forms of life.

Man and ape share some 85 percent of the newly discovered genetic DNA code, notes Dr. Johannes van Overbeek, director of A&M's Institute of Life Science.

"It is no longer a question of 'man or mouse,' but we are both man and mouse — 25 percent of us," Dr. van Overbeek maintains.

He adds that we also are "a few percent vegetable."

"IT IS not surprising that we share DNA code with plants," the biologist explains, "because, after all, cellular respiration in the roots of grass is exactly the same as cellular respiration in our own heart muscles."

Dr. van Overbeek, in a paper entitled "Biology and Society," emphasizes that the fact man shares 85 percent of his DNA code with apes does not make us "naked apes."

"Wine contains 85 percent water and no one would confuse wine and water," insists the professor, who owns a California vineyard. "It is the 15 percent difference that counts."

The difference between man and ape lies largely in brain development, van Overbeek points out.

HE NOTES the degree of complementarity between the DNA strands of man and other forms of life can be determined by using radiotracer techniques.

Dr. van Overbeek considers discovery of the precise nature of the DNA code one of the greatest intellectual achievements ever made by man. Drs. James D. Watson of Harvard, Francis H. C. Crick of Cambridge and Maurice H. F. Wilkins of the University

of London won the Nobel Prize for the discovery.

"What has yet to be achieved is realization of the significance of the genetic code among men, so that its principles can be applied more fully to the planning of our society," the professor observes.

VAN OVERBEEK points out that just as the Morse Code consists of a sequence of dots and dashes, the DNA code consists of a sequence of four kinds of chemical units, nucleotides.

"Just as in the Morse Code, the sequence of dots and dashes translates into words and messages," he explains, "so in the DNA code the sequence of nucleotides translates into a sequence of amino acids." The amino acids form the proteins that catalyze the biochemistry of the body.

Batt Editor Wins Writing Award

John W. Fuller, editor of The Battalion, won honorable mention laurels in an editorial contest sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

The San Angelo senior was awarded a foundation scroll for his Dec. 11 Battalion editorial, "Will The Real SDS Please Stand Up?"

An Air Force ROTC Distinguished Military Student and a member of Second Wing staff in A&M's Cadet Corps, Fuller was twice named the Journalism Department's outstanding student.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fuller of San Angelo.

Fuller's award marked the second honorable mention for a Battalion staff member in a Hearst contest in three months. Staff writer Tom Curl of San Juan won in the news reporting category in October.

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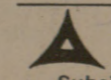
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