

Although the U. S. is a major health center for rehabilitation, it has "done poorly in preventing many of our problems," a professor claims.

"Too many of our eggs are in the same basket . . . putting together pieces," said Assistant Prof. Donald Merki.

His statements followed a Congressional committee report that 10 to 15 million Americans may be suffering from malnutrition, including 4.5 million children.

The 10-state report included the Texas counties of Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Travis, McLennan and Washington.

A Health and Physical Education faculty member, Merki is also a member of a six-man Texas Education Agency committee writing health education curriculum guidelines for secondary schools.

MALNUTRITION, however, is not the only problem, according to Merki.

Others include sex education, drugs, physical health, tobacco, alcohol and environmental health.

"They are all current problems," Merki admitted. "These are problems which we live with."

Merki pointed out that recent research reveals Texas students in the 12th grade fall "below the national norms for 12th grade students" taking the Kilander Health Knowledge Test.

Another survey, he said, revealed health misconceptions by students in Texas schools, including:

Health is determined by the star under which a person is born.

People were healthier in the 'good old days.'

Charms and good luck pieces influence health.

VENEREAL diseases are largely confined to the poorer underprivileged.

Alcohol is a stimulant.

Drug abuse is restrictive to the lower economic portion of society.

"We see health education as the best answer," Merki emphasized, noting that this approach "gets into developing people professionally."

Emerging on the academic scene is a new health educator developing as a "middle-man between medical science and John Q. Public," he said.

"He is not a physical education major, but a health educator with a strong background in health education," Merki added.

"This is not an attempt to break the close relationship we've

had with physical education," he stressed. "There simply is enough material for two separate curriculums."

PREVIOUSLY, health education has been included as a part of physical education.

"This meant in theory they (physical educators) could teach health education," Merki described, "even though they may have had 21 hours of physical education as compared with only three hours of health education."

Merki also pointed out A&M is "one of four pioneer colleges and universities in the development of health education in the state."

In August, A&M graduates its first four health educators in a master's program.

In a health education survey, Merki said approximately 70 per cent of public school administrators considered health education a subject matter area, separate and apart from physical education, and preferred a health educator, or physical educator with specialized training in health education, to teach health education.

Oceanography Department Receives \$750,000 Naval Research Grant

A \$755,036 Office of Naval Research contract with the Oceanography Department will provide partial support for Alaminos operation and fund seven research projects, announced Dr. Richard A. Geyer.

The department head said a previous ONR award also was earmarked for operation of the Alaminos, 180-foot ship used for oceanographic research in the Gulf of Mexico.

The major Navy contract will enable continuation of research projects by 10 department faculty members.

Circulation and thermal struc-

Elder Takes Ft. Worth Ministry

The Rev. Dr. Lloyd Elder, pastor of College Station's First Baptist Church, resigned recently to become pastor of the Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Gambrell Church is considered one of the strategic Baptist churches in the state due to its proximity to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The seminary is Southern Baptists' largest seminary, offering degree programs in theology, religious education and music.

Dr. Elder said a primary challenge as pastor of Gambrell will be the "multiplying affect of ministering to the many pastors in training at Southwestern who are members of the church."

Dr. Elder joined First Baptist Church as pastor four years ago, coming from First Baptist Church of Princeton, near Dallas.

During his tenure as pastor, College Station's largest Baptist church has grown from a 1964 budget of \$61,000 to a total contribution in 1968 of \$91,000. More than 1,000 persons have joined the church.

Dr. Elder pointed out his leaving was "coincidental" to the resignations of two pastors of Bryan's leading Baptist churches and that his resignation was "in the normal fashion of a pastor accepting a call to another church."



IN THE MIDDLE

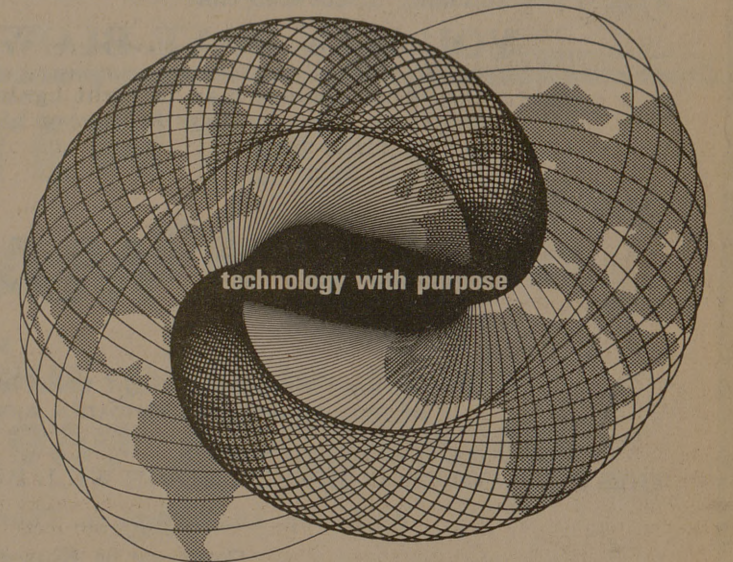
Graduate Student Horace Morgan (standing) of Dermott, Ark., is one of four students scheduled to receive a master's degree next summer in health education, the first at any state university. Asst. Prof. Donald Merki (left) pointed out the health educator's role has come about due to modern man's many misconceptions about health. The new title demands a "middle-man" relationship between medical science and John Q. Public, said Merki.

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