

Air Pollution in Texas Cities: How Much Time Do We Have?

By Bob Peek
On Dec. 1, 1930, a dense, wet fog descended on a rural valley near Liege, Belgium. The fog seemed permeated with stinking soot, but the valley's inhabitants were not alarmed, for the wind often blew clouds of smoke from the factories of Liege into their valley.
The fog settled closer during the next two days. On the morning of the third day, gasping farmers emerged from their houses to see their livestock die writhing in agony. The people felt as though their lungs were on fire. In the nearby town of Engis, all those not dead or dying were in flight. Within 48 hours 63 people were dead as a direct result of air pollution.
Later, an official board of inquiry said that more than three days of the same combination of weather and pollution could cause the same disaster in any industrial area in the world.
The rapid industrialization of

Texas since the end of World WarII has brought with it an air pollution problem of tremendous proportions. In an article for the "Texas Business Review," Otto Paganini, chief engineer of the Air Control Program of the Texas State Department of Health, mentions the existence of more than 10,500 manufacturing establishments which contribute to Texas air pollution.
Industry in Texas has been slow to adopt methods of reducing the amount of air pollution. Many Texas industries continue to pour into the air tons of the same materials that caused the Belgian disaster.
In Liege, the steel foundries emitted sulfur dioxide which was trapped in the valley by a "roof" of cold air known as a temperature inversion. Other fumes added an excess of oxygen which combined with the sulfur dioxide to become sulfur trioxide. This combined with water in the air to become a literal fog of sulfuric

acid.
Texas has a multitude of plants which still produce these waste gases. The state also has large urban areas which often witness similar temperature inversions.
El Paso, Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth all experience frequent temperature inversions. Luckily, these inversions have lasted only for short periods of time. These periods have been long enough to make the cities' inhabitants keenly aware of the amount of waste in the air, but not long enough to result in such extensive emergencies as that suffered in Belgium.
Industries have taken steps to curb pollution, but the expense has discouraged many industries. In the November, 1965, issue of "Fortune," Edmund K. Faltermayer estimated that it would cost some \$3 billion a year to simply reduce pollution by two-thirds. However, he also points out that this figure is less than

one-half of one per cent of the 1965 gross national product, and is far outweighed by the \$11 billion property damage which air pollution causes each year.
The federal government and the Texas Legislature have been reluctant to pressure Texas industries into cleaning up their production methods. Both the Federal Air Quality Act of 1967 and the Clean Air Act of Texas depend largely on actions of city and local governments for the effective enforcement of their provisions. So far, local governments have lacked the political power necessary to combat the powerful petroleum, steel and logging industries of Texas.
Unless the public can pressure industry into initiating broad anti-pollution programs, it seems likely that the only effective answer to the air pollution problems of Texas and the nation will lie with strong federal legislation. One thing is certain, air pollution cannot be ignored.



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Orders for these rings will be taken by the ring clerk between November 24, 1969 and January 6, 1970. The rings will be returned to the Registrar's Office to be delivered on or about February 20, 1970.
The ring clerk is on duty from 8:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday, of each week.
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Attention juniors and seniors in education. THE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION, required for graduation in the College of Education, will be administered for the fall semester on Friday, November 7, in Room 402, Academic Building. There will be two testing periods: 1:00-3:00 PM and 3:00-5:00 PM. Students should sign up for the testing period that best suits their schedule on the sign-up sheet posted outside Room 409, Academic Building. The examination consists of a 30-minute standardized test of spelling, punctuation and usage, and a 90-minute essay. Students should bring a pencil for use on the standardized portion and a pen and several sheets of paper for the essay.
Any further questions about the examination should be addressed to Dr. Robert Schuess, Room 409E, Academic Building.
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Off The Record by Gary McDonald

ROCK & ROLL—VANILLA FUDGE
The Vanilla Fudge, obviously firm believers in caveat emptor, have put out an album, that from its title and appearance would lead one to believe that it is still another of those albums that is returning to simplicity and roots. But, to coin a phrase, you can't judge an album by its cover. Do not be deceived, Vanilla Fudge has not changed their style. That old "Fudge sound," consisting of inane falsetto rituals, trite dramatics and pretentious, sluggish tempos, and unmitigated monotony remains intact.
Because their original material is of little consequence anyway, the worst tragedy of this album is the arrangements they perpetrate on the otherwise excellent off-recorded tunes, "Windmills of Your Mind" and "If You Gotta

Make A Fool of Somebody." These they butcher mercilessly. Even the worst versions of these songs previous to the Fudge's attempt, always had some redeeming quality to them. After this new transfiguration of these tunes, they are almost beyond recognition.
Music lovers should avoid this album like the plague. Die hard Vanilla Fudge fans: die hard. I hope the uninitiated will not judge rock & roll by this album. If this were what rock & roll were all about, I, too, would cancel my subscription to the "resurrection."

WORD OF MOUTH—Merryweather
This is not a review, this is a warning done as a public service. The cover of this record proclaims it a two record super-jam with Steve Miller, Barry Goldberg, Charlie Musselwhite, Dave Mason, and Howard Roberts. It is no such thing. What it is, is a double album from a mediocre group named Merryweather with some big names helping out a

very little bit. With the exception of Roberts, the appearances of the guest stars are brief and unobtrusive. Roberts does do a little bit of solo work but it's negligible unless you're a stone Howards Roberts freak. By all means pass this one up, unless mediocre rock is your thing.
Pre-Law Students Invited to Baylor
The dean of the Baylor University School of Law, an Aggie-Ex, has invited Texas A&M pre-law students to Baylor's annual pre-law program Nov. 22.
Dean Angus S. McSwain, a 1944 civil engineering graduate, noted the students will participate in a guided tour of the law school, visit classes and confer with law school personnel.
The students will be guests of the law school at a luncheon and attend the Baylor-SMU afternoon football game.
Dr. J. M. Nance, History Department head, is in charge of registration on the campus. The registration deadline is Nov. 14.

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