

Board OK's Artificial Grass

The A&M Board of Directors has decided that artificial turf, football's magic carpet, will be laid goal-to-goal in Kyle Field by next fall.

Acting on the recommendation of the university's Athletic Council, the board announced plans Wednesday to finance the new playing surface for the 48,000-seat football stadium.

The bright green grass-like carpet also will be used on the Aggie's practice field, making A&M one of only a few institutions in the nation with such facilities.

Board President Clyde Wells Granbury said bids for the project will be accepted in February, with the turf expected to be in place about 90 days later. Wells said the practice field also will be used for such activities as intramurals, Corps of Cadets drills and Aggie Band practice.

According to head football coach and athletic director Gene Stallings, the estimated cost of the project would be in the range of \$500,000.

In other action, the board adopted a statement on academic freedom, responsibility and ten-

ure. The statement, covering all the academic institutions in the A&M system, follows the general guidelines of the previously endorsed policy of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.

The board also gave the university permission to initiate action to establish a sociology and anthropology department and offer four new degree programs.

Board members also appropriated \$569,448 for a variety of system projects, awarded contracts totaling \$380,430 and authorized the university to establish the Moody Marine Institute at Galveston.

In seeking to establish a new department of sociology and anthropology, A&M will ask for Coordinating Board approval to transfer a portion of the curriculum now offered through its Agricultural Economics and Sociology Department. The new department would be administered by the College of Liberal Arts, with the Agricultural Economics Department functioning through the College of Agriculture.

A&M also will seek Coordinating Board approval for a Ph.D. program in health and physical

education and B.S. programs in industrial safety, engineering technology and biomedical science.

The board awarded a \$229,916 contract to R. B. Butler Inc. of Bryan for construction of a central campus mall. Charles W. Scott & Son Inc. of San Antonio received a \$21,432 landscaping contract for the same project.

Two other Bryan firms, M. Lawrence Parker Corp. and B-W Construction Co., were awarded \$42,975 and \$36,686 contracts for installation of storm drainage at the veterinary medicine complex and renovation of the flight mechanics laboratory at the university's Research Annex.

Other contracts included \$25,953 to Curtin Scientific Co. of Houston for modifications at the Biological Sciences building and \$23,468 to Otis Elevator Co. of Houston for installation of a new elevator at the YMCA Building.

Appropriations included \$200,000 for detailed design of the proposed Memorial Student Center addition and \$200,000 for similar design work for an adjoining auditorium complex.

The board also appropriated \$54,934 for construction of a new

swine management and waste-handling facility, \$15,460 for modification of the mechanical engineering shops, \$15,000 for the preliminary design of utilities and streets in the MSC-auditorium area and \$3,000 for design of a 1,000-car parking lot.

In designating A&M's marine activities at the new Mitchell campus in Galveston as the Moody Marine Institute, the university honors the late William Lewis Moody Jr. of Galveston.

The Moody Foundation awarded Texas A&M a \$1 million grant for construction of facilities at the new Pelican Island campus and also has provided financial support for numerous other university programs. Construction is under way on the new campus.

Included in the Moody Marine Institute will be the Texas Maritime Academy, Marine Laboratory and all of the university's Sea Grant program and Oceanography Department projects conducted at Galveston.

Bats literally sing for their food. Their squeaks hit food and echo back, helping them to zero in on a morsel.

Tobacco Road Cast Enters Last Week of Rehearsals

By Bob Robinson
Aggie Players are entering their final week of rehearsals on the Broadway show that ran seven years, "Tobacco Road."

Jeeter Lester, a southern farmer during the depression years, is described as an untidy, but American Hamlet in the Dec. 15, 1934 issue of Letters and Art.

The magazine also commented on the legend that a mother used to gaze upon her son's cradle and dream of the day he would become President.

"That gentle dream appears now to have been crushed," it said, "and, it is said, the cradles of infant boys from Eastport, Maine, to San Clemente in California are hovered over by ambitious mothers hopeful that, in

each case, the child will grow up to play the role of Jeeter Lester in 'Tobacco Road.'"
Jeeter Lester, the character, and "Tobacco Road," the book, was created by Erskine Caldwell while living frugally by himself in a room on the lower east side of New York.

C. K. Esten, director of the Aggie Player production, said Caldwell saw Jack Kirkland's original script and okayed it before Kirkland put it into rehearsal.

"Although they didn't actually work together, Caldwell sat in on some of the rehearsals and gave advice when it was requested," Esten added.

"Tobacco Road" is the story of Jeeter Lester's fight, even in

the face of death, to save the land that has been lived on by generations of his family. Ada, his wife, is sarcastic of her husband's fight, thinking him too lazy to work so that she could have food in the house, and snuff. Grandma is seen, but not heard, throughout the play.

Of the Lesters' remaining children, Ellie May is a harelip, too ugly to find a husband. Pearl is a child bride who has run away from her husband. Dude is sarcastic and disrespectful, and is taken as a husband by Sister Bessie, a woman of God who is more interested in the needs of the flesh than of the divine.

Esten said the story could have taken place anywhere because it has to do with the basic facts about man.

"This is the story of illiterate people, in the sense of the amenities of life," he said. "They loved the land because chances are that's all their social group knew."

"Tobacco Road" is a sad show, interspersed with a kind of humor," Esten said. "It is one of America's greatest plays."

The show opens Dec. 9 and runs through Dec. 13 at Guion Hall. Admission is \$1. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

Campus Briefs

Soil Chemistry Prof To Speak Thursday

Dr. Willard L. Lindsay, professor of soil chemistry at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, will give a colloquium lecture at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the A&M Library, Room 226.

The Department of Soil and Crop Sciences lecture is entitled "The Important Role of Chelating Agents in Soil Chemistry and Plant Nutrition."

Dr. Lindsay also will speak at an informal seminar at noon Friday in Room 105, Agronomy Building. His topic will be concerned with phosphate chemistry in soils.

Dr. Lindsay is internationally recognized for his contributions in the area of soil chemistry, soil fertility and plant nutrition.

UT Geologist Here For Wednesday Meet

Dr. Virgil E. Barnes, University of Texas geology professor, will discuss tectonics at the Wednesday meeting of the Brazos Valley Gem and Mineral Society.

W. N. Williamson, society president, said the meeting, open to the public, will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 105 of the Geology building.

Barnes, described by Williamson as a world renowned authority on tectonics, will have several of the unusual stones on exhibit. He also will have a slide presentation.

The UT professor became interested in tectonics in the mid-1930s and has since traveled

throughout the world studying them. He is now director of tectonic research at UT.

Central Texas — particularly areas around Grimes County — is a popular hunting ground for tectonics, Williamson noted.

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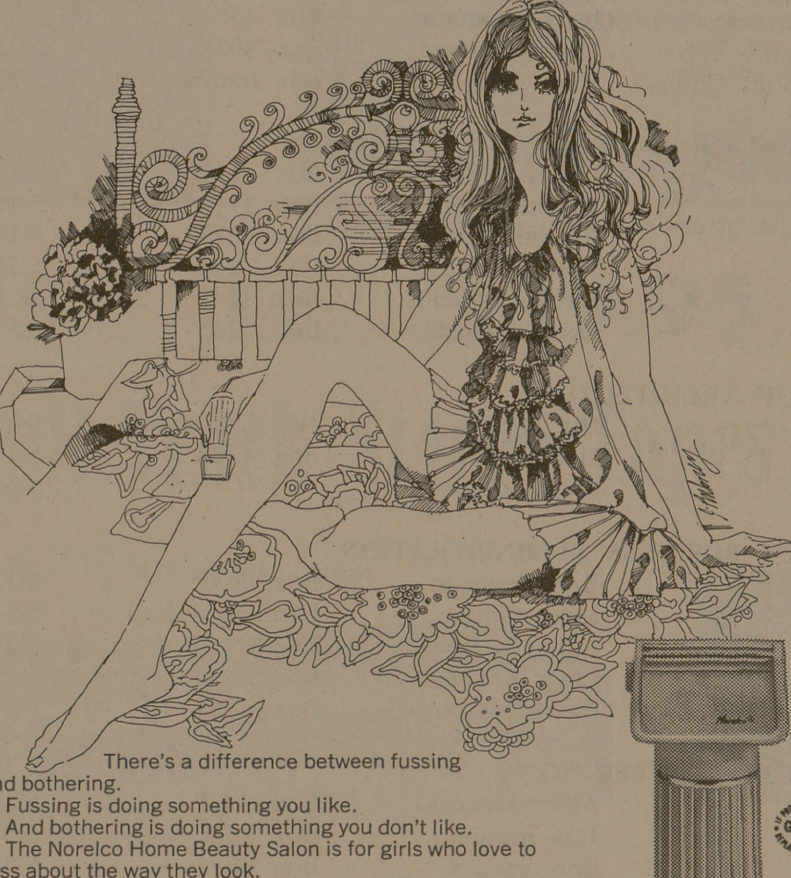


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