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## Byers calls Gulf 'American sink'

The Gulf of Mexico is the "great North American sink," observed Dr. Horace R. Byers of A&M in opening a symposium on the Gulf at the autumn meeting of the National Academy of Sciences.

The A&M academic vice president noted his "sink" reference was made more in the hydrody-

namc and sedimentation sense but pointed out the Gulf is the "ultimate dumping place of unpleasant or toxic materials collected by an exceptionally large river drainage system."

Dr. Byers emphasized, however, the Gulf of Mexico is not a stagnant body of water. He said the Yucatan Current flows into it from the Caribbean and the Gulf Stream flows out of it.

"To the left of this current system," he said, "a loop penetrates into the more central Gulf."

Byers, A&M's first dean of geosciences, said other circulations, responsive to the winds, inshore seasonal temperature extremes and storms, characterize the water motions.

Two A&M oceanography professors, Drs. William R. Bryant and Worth D. Nowlin Jr., elaborated on the Gulf's geology and circulation in later presentations.

The Gulf has long been an important feature of the earth's crust, Dr. Byers told fellow members of the prestigious scientific organization. He said that at one time—50 to 100 million years ago—the Gulf's shoreline was in what is now southeastern Missouri.

"In looking at the shoreline and delta formation of today," Dr. Byers observed, "we realize that this depression on the earth has been filling with sediment for a long time and that the geology of the present Gulf must be studied in terms of a large part of the continent."

He said the Gulf basin receives the drainage from a large part of the United States and Mexico. "With this large watershed dotted with large and small cities, industries and land uses which in the past have had little regard for the manner in which they disposed of their wastes, and with urban and industrial locations on and in the Gulf itself," Dr. Byers continued, "it is no wonder that there is considerable worry about pollution and despoliation of the Gulf environment."

From the viewpoint of a meteorologist, he said the Gulf of Mexico is a "source" rather than a "sink."

"It is the primary source of moisture for the eastern half of the United States," said Byers, who also holds the rank of distinguished professor of meteorology.

During the growing season in the middle and eastern portions of the United States and Canada, he explained, the water vapor sweeps up from the Gulf and gives the air a thermodynamic instability which results in showers and thunderstorms, even in scattered areas not associated with fronts. He said heavy rains accompany frontal activity involving this moisture-charged air.

"The northers that sweep across the Gulf in winter are profoundly affected by the Gulf and produce marked effects in the temperatures and currents of the underlying waters," Dr. Byers told the NAS group. "Extreme instability in the air, leading to waterspouts and violent thunderstorms, is characteristic in these outbreaks."

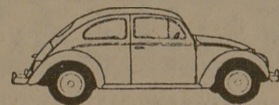
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## Campus Briefs

### Science foundation sets guidelines

Guides for preparation of proposals for student-originated studies under National Science Foundation funding are now available at A&M.

NSF programs coordinator Coleman Loyd said the proposal-writing guides can be picked up in Room 18 of the YMCA.

Proposals, due Nov. 30, must suggest projects devised and directed by students, preferably undergraduates, Loyd added. Projects will be conducted during the summer of 1971 in 10 to 12 weeks with five to 15 student participants.

### Dean Benson to speak on ROTC and defense

Engineering Dean Fred J. Benson will speak on "ROTC and the National Defense" Thursday at A&M in the National Strategy Information Center ROTC En-

richment Program. The main purpose of Benson's presentation will be supplementation of the university's military science instruction, but the lecture is open to the public, announced Co. Jim H. McCoy.

The program starts in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom at 8 p.m., the commandant said.

### Schell attends sensing conference

John A. Schell, engineering research coordinator at A&M's Remote Sensing Center, has returned from a three-day remote sensing conference in Philadelphia, Pa.

Schell represented the university at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Inc. Systems for the Seventies Conference.

Sensor characteristics will be considered for the satellite scheduled to launch in 1972.

### Sea vet

sicker than a dog. "I expect the profession to grow. But why must we repeat what has gone on in other food animal industries?" Klontz questioned. "It appears, however, we are following in the other industries' footsteps, making many of the same mistakes in production and disease control."

A&M's basic goal is to develop basic understandings of the nature of some of the diseases of marine animals.

In addition, the university has funded research to determine the levels of pesticides and heavy metals from industrial sources in wild game fish.

The College of Veterinary Medicine will graduate specialists with advanced degrees in aquatic animal medicine.

Klontz serves as a consultant at Sea-Arama in Galveston, not a part of his regular duties. However, Sea-Arama makes marine mammals available for student use.

He has published over 20 technical papers on fish diseases and care of killer whales, and speaks throughout the country.

In August Klontz brought an 11½-foot killer whale from Seattle to Galveston's Sea-Arama aboard a jet transport, a story covered widely on the West Coast and Gulf Coast.

## Prosecution rests in My Lai case

FT. HOOD, Tex. (AP) — The government abruptly cut short its assault case Tuesday against S. Sgt. David Mitchell, veteran of the alleged My Lai massacre. Only three prosecution witnesses appeared at his court-martial and none was able to say that the defendant shot a single Vietnamese civilian.

The defense tentatively was scheduled to open its presentation Wednesday providing it could collect its witnesses on short notice. Defense attorney Ossie Brown told newsmen: "I think everybody was caught by surprise."

The government had seven witnesses still on call when the prosecutor, Capt. Michael Swan, announced at the outset of the afternoon session on the second day of testimony: "The prosecution rests."

"I felt like it was advantageous to my case to do so," the captain said later.

"Have you talked to Washington about this?" he was asked. "Negative," Swan replied.

None of the three witnesses for the government was able to say definitely that Mitchell actually cut down with rifle fire any of the more than 100 unarmed Vietnamese civilians said to have been slain by rampaging American troops at My Lai in 1968.

The first two witnesses, Charles Sledge and Dennis Conti, civilians now but GI comrades of Mitchell in Vietnam, said only that they saw the sergeant firing his M16 rifle into a group of older men, women and Vietnamese children, cowering in a ditch, reloading his weapon at one point.

The final witness, Gregory Olsen, a machinist in Mitchell's platoon, testified that from a new vantage point, the sergeant then took fresh aim at the civilians, many of them by then wounded. But Olsen was unable to swear that Mitchell actually pulled the trigger on them.

"He raised his M16 rifle to the firing position at his shoulder and aimed it into the ditch," Olsen told the court-martial jury of seven Army officers.

"I then heard M16 shots." Q. How many shots did you hear?

A. I would say 10 or 12 — in that area.

Q. Were the shot you heard loud?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Were they coming from the direction Sgt. Mitchell was standing?  
A. Yes, they were.  
Mitchell, 30, is the first My Lai veteran to be brought before a court-martial.  
Maximum penalty upon conviction is 20 years in prison.

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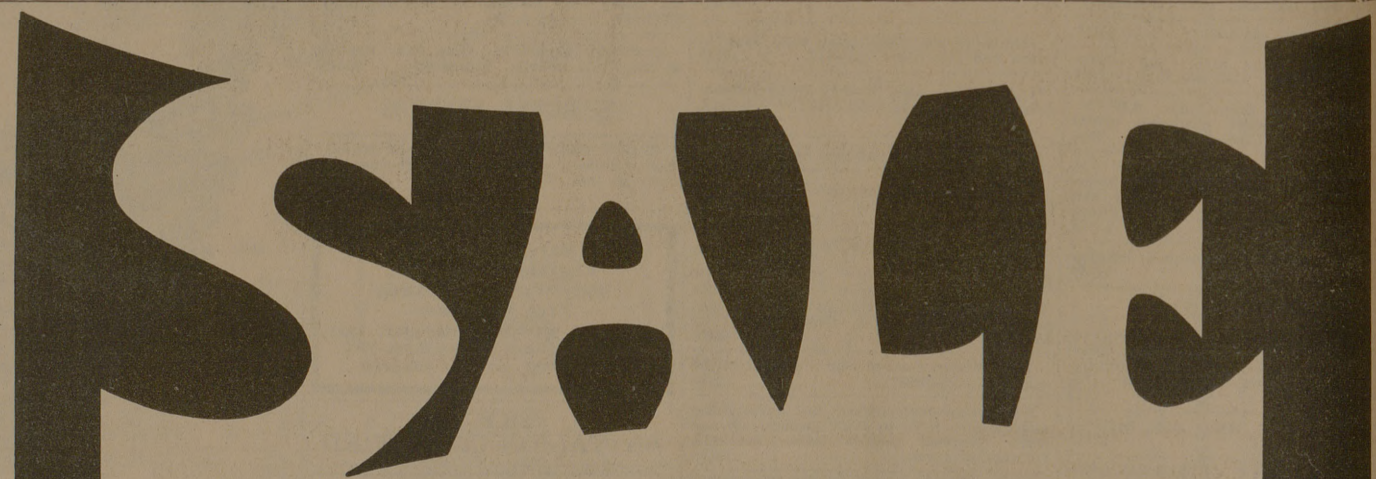
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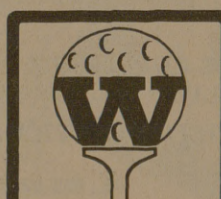
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