

It's easy on the pros

Studying molecules over TV

Scientist and his associates have been watching a lot of television lately on company time.

What they are staring at so intently isn't likely to win any Emmy Awards, but the images they see represent another valuable tool in the basic study of matter.

Dr. Edgar Meyer and some of his colleagues in the Biochemistry and Biophysics Department have hooked up a special kind of television set to a computer. The result is a diagrammatic, 3-D picture of one of the smallest units in inner space — the molecule.

Meyer calls the apparatus a "three-dimensional computer graphics display." No matter what the name, the instrument allows the viewer to see through and examine nooks and crannies in the molecule picture.

The project has been helped considerably with a recent National Science Foundation grant of \$51,000 to develop routines to

help understand the structure of molecules.

Meyer says the TV-computer combo can enlarge a certain part of a molecule for examination, or focus on certain atom within the molecule.

When a molecule's diagram is first flashed on the screen, the viewer sees an eye-teasing double image. This is corrected by looking through red and green colored lenses similar to those issued to 3-D movie fans in the early 1950's.

Aside from the three-dimensional effect, the apparatus also serves other purposes. It can give a quick survey of scientific literature on molecular structure.

For example, information can be retrieved from the library of the Crystallographic Data Center at Cambridge, England.

Meyer says the apparatus is a handy teaching aid. Students can see a 3-D display without having to build complex and bulky molecular models.

Still another purpose is to provide a method of drawing 3-D electron density maps.

Why study molecules?

These units are the building blocks of matter. Different arrangements of atoms within molecules are what determine the nature of substances. To know how a molecule is put together is to

know its chemical behavior.

"We are trying to devise techniques for solving molecular structures of biologically important materials," Meyer pointed out.

The scientist cited the discovery of Vitamin B-12 in sewage sludge, a revelation made possible through study of molecular structures.

Computer programming contest begins Saturday

Teams representing 15 Texas colleges and universities will compete here Saturday in the 2nd Annual Texas Computer Programming Championships.

The event, which originated

last year here, is believed to be the only competition of its type in the nation.

Eight schools which competed in the first tournament, including the University of Houston, the defending champions, and second place Baylor, will be represented in the contest. Other returning schools are the University of Texas-Austin, East Texas State, Southwest Texas State, LeTourneau, Wharton County College and A&M.

Participating in the competition for the first time will be Rice, Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin, Tarleton State, West Texas State, Texas Lutheran and San Antonio College. Dr. Roger Elliott, A&M industrial engineering professor who is coordinating the event, said the schools will field a total of 20 teams consisting of as many as four students per team.

The teams will battle each other and the clock to find solution to three problems using the university's big IBM 360/65 computer. Contest judging will be based on the elapsed time required for successful completion of all three assignments.

Position

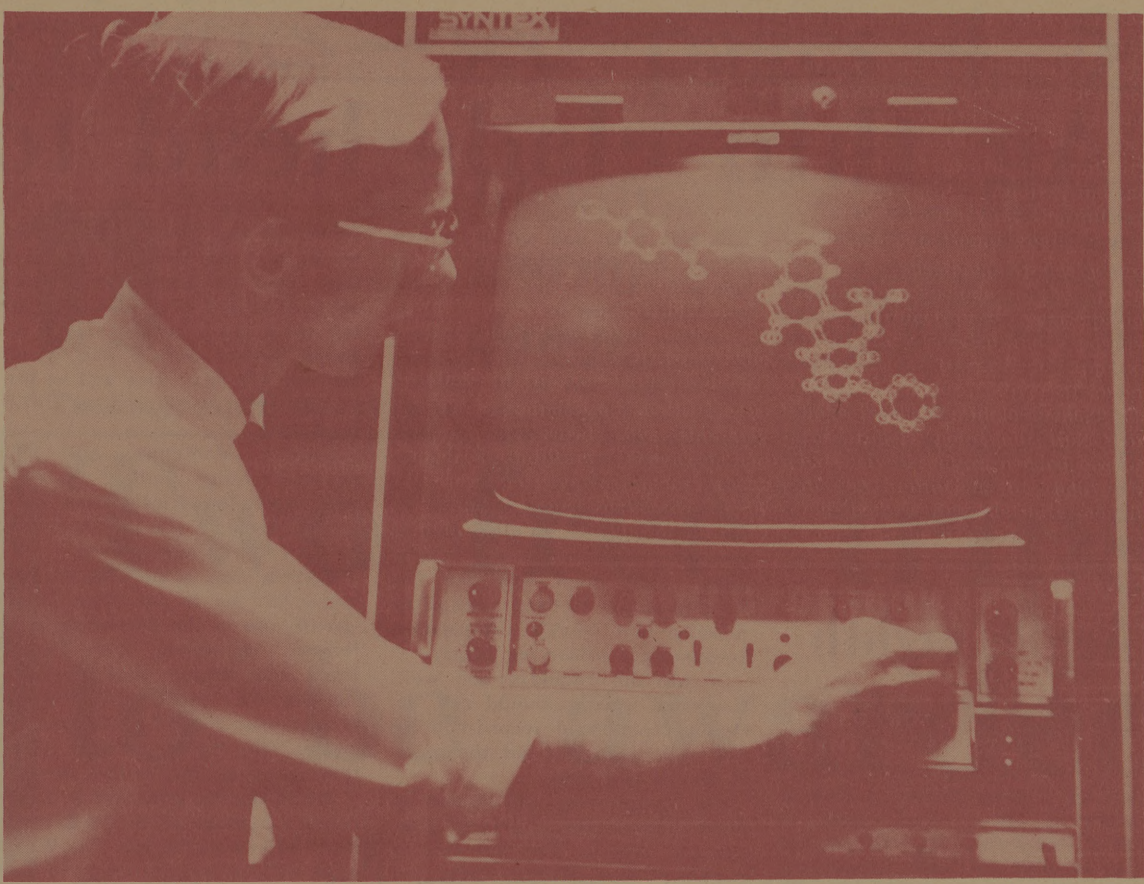
(Continued from page 1)

sets the "legion of former students, whose fierce loyalty to this university is no less material than it is vocal. This being a formal way of saying that Aggie alumni put their dollars where their mouths are."

He added that these days alumni have an enlarged perspective of the universities' problems and are able to act as "invaluable allies."

Williams also commented that a major point in today's education is that no university can be politicized and remain free.

He said that the idea that a university should determine right and wrong, become action oriented, and divine and solve problems is incorrect as far as activism goes.



An A&M researcher studies molecules with a new 3-dimensional TV set.

White, black youths see military in same manner

Who is more receptive to military service — a lower class youth who wants to get somewhere in life, or a youth of higher class status who wants to get somewhere?

If the question appears too easy, try this one: Who would have a more positive attitude toward the service — a rural Negro youth who lives in the traditional South, or a rural white youth who lives in the same community?

Most readers will probably go along with the first part of each question because they assume that the lower class youth would view the military as a way out of his predicament or a means to get training or a career.

In either case, the assumption

would be wrong, according to a study reported by Dr. William Kuvlesky and Jane Dameron in the January issue of the "Journal of Vocational Behavior."

The research team from the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Department found that Negro and white boys were "more alike than different in their orientations and projections for military service." In their study of 218 high school sophomores in three all-rural, nonmetropolitan counties of East Texas, they also could not find support for the assumption that lower class youth are more positively oriented toward military service than youth of higher class status.

Kuvlesky and Dameron evaluated the students' attitudes toward military service by measuring their agreement and disagreement to such statements as "Every American male should want to serve in the military"; "One should not complain if he is drafted"; and "Anyone who enlists in the service is foolish." They found that both Negro and white rural boys similarly desired military service, had strong positive attitudes about it, and "almost expected to be involved in some type of military

status," although a majority were uncertain about their expected involvement.

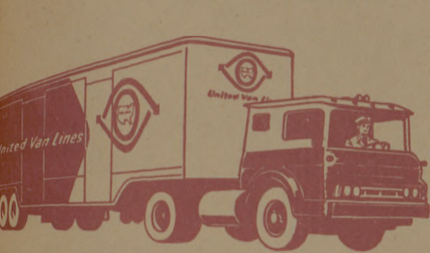
The major difference between Negroes and whites is in their expectations of how they're going to be involved. Many more whites think in terms of either no military involvement or part-time commitment in the Reserves than did Negroes. Also, more Negroes than whites expected to either enlist or to enter officer's training in college.

Lower class youth with high aspirations to get somewhere are not necessarily more positively oriented toward military service than others, the team learned. They, as well as other respondents, are equally positive in their orientation toward the military, although other studies indicate very few youth view the military as an occupational goal.

It is possible, Kuvlesky and Dameron conclude in the article, that "projection of participation in military service and a positive orientation toward it approximates a cultural universal among boys in their middle teens." The researchers point out that more extensive study is needed because of the limitations of their sample before any definite conclusions can be drawn.

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THE GRADUATE COLLEGE Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree Name: Lyons, Carter George Degree: Ph.D. in Mathematics Dissertation: ENDOMORPHISM NEAR RINGS. Time: April 23, 1971 at 8:00 a. m. Place: Room 433 in the Library Bldg. George W. Kunze Dean of the Graduate College

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree Name: Bergen, Frank Edmund Degree: Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering Dissertation: PERIPHERAL AND PUNCTUAL INFORMATION DECODING CAPACITY OF THE HUMAN EYE UNDER INTERMITTENT PHOTIC STIMULI. Time: April 22, 1971 at 1:00 p. m. Place: Room 201-H in the Engineering Bldg. George W. Kunze Dean of the Graduate College

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'Earth Day a year later' panel topic

A panel discussion on "Earth Day One Year Later" is the topic for the Monday evening meeting of the Bryan-College Station Branch of the American Association of University Women.

Mrs. W. Kennedy Upham, information officer, said members are urged to bring guests and the public is invited to the 7:45 p.m. Hillel Building meeting.

The program is an appraisal of earth day progress on the student, local, national and international levels. Speakers are A&M graduate student Jonathan Young, Dr. Cornelius H. M. van Bavel and Dr. Reznat M. Darnell.

Mrs. David Mellor, active in the AAUW "This Beleaguered Earth" study group and the Environmental Action Council, will serve as moderator.

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