

Texas universities express interest in ocean research



"... Wouldn't you think that a student going through registration would bring at least a pencil?"

Bulletin Board

Thursday
Freshman Class Council will meet in room 146 of the Physics building at 7:30.
Sophomore Class will meet in room 145 of the Physics building at 7:30.
San Antonio HTC will meet in room 321 of the Physics building at 7:30.

Cepheid Variable will meet in the physics building at 7:30.
Williamson HTC will meet at the Memorial Student Center at 8. Pictures will be made.

Friday
Arab Student Organization will meet in room 3D of the Memorial Student Center at 7.

Marine PLC program gets additional benefits, money

Stipends of \$100 per month and free civilian flight training are now being offered to students enrolled in the Marine Corps' Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) Program for officer candidates. These new aspects of the PLC Program were explained to members of Texas A&M University's Semper Fidelis Society Tuesday night by Captain W. E. Lucas, who heads a Marine officer selection team on campus this week. The team will operate an information booth in the Memorial Student Center through Friday. Captain Lucas also noted the Marine Corps has altered its basic service agreement to require two and one-half years of active duty instead of three years. PLC students qualify for the \$100 monthly allotments, for a nine-month scholastic year, upon successful completion of one session of summer training. The PLC

Program includes two six-week periods of summer training at Quantico, Va. Students accepting the funds must agree to spend an additional six months on active duty for each college year they accept the money. Captain Lucas emphasized students participating in the PLC Program are not required to accept the funds, but rather may continue in a non-pay status and have only the basic two-and-one-half-year obligation for active duty. In addition to now including \$100 monthly stipends, the PLC Program retains its unique feature of giving participants longevity and retirement advantages, Captain Lucas pointed out. Under the new flight training program, the Marine Corps pays all expenses for qualified students at an approved civilian flight school. The training includes

Twenty-six Texas colleges and universities have expressed interest in participating in A&M's new program to share use of its seven research vessels.

An organizational meeting for the cooperative program, to be known as Mini-NOLS, was held Monday with representatives attending from most of the institutions planning to participate.

Mini-NOLS is patterned after the new University-National Oceanographic Laboratory (UNOLS), of which TAMU is a charter member, noted Dr. Richard A. Geyer, head of the university's Oceanography Department.

The statewide Mini-NOLS program is designed to serve institutions which have qualified scientists engaged in oceanographically related programs but have no sea-going capabilities. TAMU is the only institution in the state with deep sea-going capabilities.

"All the participants seemed pleased with the potential for the concept," Dr. Geyer said.

Most of the institutions were interested in "getting time" on TAMU's smaller vessels, he added.

Among the institutions expressing interest in the program are Angelo State, Austin College, Baylor, Corpus Christi, Del Mar, Houston, Lamar, Lee, North Texas State, Pan American, Rice, Sam Houston State, SMU, Southwestern, Stephen F. Austin, St. Thomas, Sul Ross, Texas A&I, TCU, Texas Southern, Texas Tech, Texas Wesleyan, Texas Woman's University, Trinity and

the University of Texas System. Representatives of the institutions attending the Monday session agreed to meet semi-annually to arrange additional scheduling and analyze the program's progress.

The National Science Foundation's annual grant to TAMU for ship operations included limited additional funds to provide ship support for other institutions meeting special criteria.

The TAMU Sea Grant Program also is participating in the project.

The Sea Grant Program includes a variety of activities to develop the nation's marine resources.

The Oceanography Department operates four vessels, ranging from the 186-foot R/V Alaminos used in deep ocean programs to the 36-foot La Mer II used for closed-in operations. The Environmental Engineering Division of the Civil Engineering Department operates three craft suited for studies in bays and estuaries and on the Houston Ship Channel.

1971 wetter than average, 1972 to be around normal

The year 1971 closed with more than average moisture, but not enough to make up for the relatively dry January to July period.

December's 4.49-inch average of 38 observers in a Texas A&M meteorology research program ranked as the year's third best. May, with 5.17 inches, and August's 4.61 surpassed it.

The area fell about 10 percent short of the annual rainfall average.

An average start for 1972 is expected, according to a 30-day outlook issued by the Meteorology Department weather station. Near normal rainfall of three inches and below normal temperatures are in the 30-day outlook.

Lower temperatures between mid-January and mid-February will be due primarily to lower afternoon temperatures and near normal morning lows, according to meteorologist Jim Lightfoot of the TAMU department. He said the mean temperature will be 51 degrees, 1.5 below normal.

A higher than usual number of cloudy days also can be expected, he added.

December rain ranged from 5.99 inches in the Mobile Avenue area to 3.7 south of College Station. Last month's temperatures peaked at 79 degrees on Dec. 27 and dropped to a 37 low on Dec. 6. The mean temperature was 56.9 degrees.

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By Charles M. Schulz