

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



A&M enters computer chess match

A&M and seven other institutions across the U. S. will square off over the chess board next weekend, with computers programmed to play chess calling the moves.

The third U. S. Computer Chess Championships will be held Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in Boston, in conjunction with the national conference of the Association for Computing Machinery.

A&M participation is co-sponsored by the Data Processing Center and Industrial Engineering Department.

Heading the TAMU team will be Rolf C. Smith and Frank Ceruti, graduate students who created the A&M program in 1969 as part of the graduate project. They are Air Force officers assigned here for graduate studies in computer science.

Dr. Udo W. Pooch said A&M "has a reasonable chance for a good showing, though the competition is better this year."

A member of the industrial engineering faculty, he is advisor to the Memorial Student Center chess committee and the two graduate students.

Other teams in the U. S. Chess Federation-sanctioned tournament represent Northwestern, Carnegie-Mellon, Minnesota, Columbia, Harvard and two institutions of the University of California system.

Play will originate in the Sheraton-Boston Hotel, with Ceruti phoning instructions for TAMU's IBM 360/65 computer to Smith at the Data Processing Center.

A large chess display board showing progress of the games

will be set up and maintained at the DPC by the MSC chess committee, according to Recreation Chairman James Goode.

Dr. Pooch said computer chess programs tie into a computer science sub-branch known as artificial intelligence, in which programmer's "try to make the machine exhibit behavior that, if demonstrated in humans, would be called intelligence."

"The best computer program around plays chess at the low master's level," he remarked. "The computer doesn't play that well because, from the computer science aspect, we don't know how to tell the computer to play well."

Economists' articles published

Four economists with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station have had articles published in a book entitled "Symposium: Vertical Coordination in the Pork Industry."

Dr. Donald E. Farris and Dr. William R. Masch contributed "Vertical Coordination in the Pork Industry in the Southwest."

Dr. Vance W. Edmondson contributed "The Danish System of Swine and Pork Production and Marketing" and Dr. John A. Hopkin contributed "Financing a Technologically Modern Coordinated Production-Marketing System."

All four are members of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at A&M.

A&M scientists make report on effects of shell dredging

An interim report was made Tuesday by A&M scientists on studies they have under way to determine environmental effects of shell dredging on San Antonio Bay.

The bay southeast of Victoria forms part of the shoreline of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, which contains endangered species such as the whooping crane.

The San Antonio and Guadalupe Rivers empty into the bay. Sitting in on the interim report were representatives of environmentally-concerned groups and state and federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency.

The meeting was conducted by Col. Nolan C. Rhodes, District Engineer of the Galveston District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps is responsible for an environmental impact statement on the effects of shell dredging in the bay. To be written from data and findings of the TAMU scientists, the statement forms the basis of extending or denying state and federal permits to shell dredgers to continue operations

in San Antonio Bay. Provision is made for immediate stoppage of dredging operations if detrimental effects are found.

Studies by A&M personnel for one annual cycle of seasons is performed under contract with Corps of Engineers and the dredging firms. The latter provides for collection of data and field operations.

Cost of preparing, assembling earlier studies and writing the impact statement is borne under the Corps contract.

"No influence nor control is exercised over the data or results," Colonel Rhodes said. "Our intent is to keep the tests totally objective."

Studies continue through Oct. 1. Dr. Arnold H. Bouma, oceanography professor who works with nine other TAMU faculty members in biology, wildlife and fisheries sciences, geology, meteorology and oceanography, said the interim report serves as a guidance device for the San Antonio Bay study.

"Reactions to data presented may turn up other areas or questions that need consideration," he explained. "Our goal is the most

accurate possible determination of the effects of shell dredging on the San Antonio Bay environment."

Plant and marine life in the shallow-water bay are important in the food chain that supports animal life in the Aransas Refuge.

A&M was selected for the study on the basis of Corps of Engineers interviews with sports and environment protection groups. Several institutions were considered in narrowing the selection to the TAMU group.

Working on the San Antonio Bay project are Dr. Sewell Hopkins and Dr. Jack Anderson, biology; Dr. Reznat M. Darnell, oceanography and biology; Dr. Wayne M. Ahr, geology; Dr. George L. Huebner and Dr. Dennis Driscoll, meteorology, and Dr. C. Wylie Poag, Dr. Clarence Dineen and Bouma, oceanography.

Coordination is provided by Dr. Don Harper, biology lab coordinator; Dr. H. D. Irby, wildlife and fisheries sciences; C. A. Bedinger, biology field coordinator, and Barry W. Holliday, geology, circulation and chemical coordination.

VA continues research funds for car controls, artificial limbs

Continued research into artificial limbs and a new study to design automobile controls for severely disabled persons have been funded by the Veterans Administration to A&M's bioengineering program.

Dr. Paul H. Newell, associate dean of engineering and bioengineering head, said the artificial limbs research is funded for the third year. The auto mobility aids program included in the 1972-73 grant brings total VA funding for the past three years to \$263,000.

Currently bioengineers at TAMU are conducting clinical trials in Houston on a new artificial leg which attaches to the hip.

Dr. Newell said under the new grant the researchers will concentrate on producing an arm to attach to the shoulder.

"This technology has produced a new hip prosthesis that weighs eight pounds and has better functions than a prescription device weighing 16 pounds and with less function," Dr. Newell said.

He noted a Houston veteran is being used in the hip research with a prototype being prepared for personal use outside the VA Hospital.

Dr. Newell said the automobile driving controls study will look at what type of controls can be prescribed for various levels of disability.

For example, a person paralyzed from the waist down has a problem getting in and out of a car. Once inside he must be sta-

ble and able to work the brake, accelerator and light dimmer.

Dr. Newell reported the research will include a variety of disabilities as they relate to safe driving and driver safety.

The TAMU research will be conducted in cooperation with the Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Lewis A. Leavitt, chairman of Baylor's physical medicine program, will be the medical consultant for the work.

Refrigerator program seeking business manager

Applications are being accepted now by the Student Government for the job of manager of the refrigerator program.

Vice President Randy Ross explained that this is a part-time position with pay.

It will be necessary for the manager to start working Aug.

21. Ross pointed out that the main part of the job is promoting and selling the program to the students.

Forms may be picked up in the Student Government Office, and they must be turned in by 5 p.m. Monday.

The Battalion

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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

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The Associated Press, Texas Press Association The Associated Collegiate Press

Mail subscriptions are \$2.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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