

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



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Gulf Universities will determine effects of petroleum activities

A two-year, \$1.5 million study to determine what effects, if any, petroleum activities have had on the marine environment off Louisiana will be undertaken by scientists of the Gulf Universities Research Consortium (GURC).

Scientists from 10 institutions, including Dr. Sayed Z. El-Sayed of A&M, will make the investigation. TAMU is a member of the 23-institution consortium.

The study of Louisiana's coastal and continental shelf region is funded by more than 50 companies in the petroleum industry.

Sponsoring companies will have no control over either the collection or interpretation of data, according to Dr. James M. Sharp, president and principal investigator for the Galveston-based GURC.

Findings of the comprehensive study will be made public.

El-Sayed, who has conducted oceanographic research in the Gulf of Mexico and Antarctic Ocean during his 11 years at TAMU, shares organizational responsibility with three other scientists for the study. They are GURC council members.

He also will investigate primary productivity and the standing crop of phytoplankton in the gulf.

The study will be of a 10 by 40 mile area including Timbalier Bay in the Louisiana delta country. The area will extend to about the

90-foot depth contour on the continental shelf.

"Particular attention will be given to comparisons between relatively undisturbed sectors and those which have experienced extensive drilling and production over many years," Sharp said.

Collection of samples in the area will begin in August.

El-Sayed, Dr. Robert J. Menzies of Florida State University; Dr. C. H. Oppenheimer, University of Texas/Port Aransas, and Dr. James Morgan, Louisiana State University, are in charge of selecting sample sites and determining the frequency and periods of sampling. Dr. El-Sayed chairs the sampling sub-committee.

He will bring data to the investigation from previous Gulf of Mexico research when no drilling was going on in the area. It was obtained in 1964-66 through National Institutes of Health-funded studies.

The TAMU oceanography professor participated in a recent Alaminos cruise which occupied stations in the area while enroute

Page tells inspectors

City building codes becoming uniform

The various building codes used by municipal governments throughout the nation are moving toward a universal code, report officials at the Municipal Inspectors Training School here.

Building, electrical and mechanical inspectors from every part of the state are attending the five-day program at A&M, where the main interest is a series of code workshops held every afternoon.

T. Hoyt Page, Richardson building official and president of the Building Officials Association of Texas (BOAT), said Thursday the codes are moving toward national uniformity. Exceptions are based on geographic and climatic differences.

Page noted the recently-formed Councils of American Building Officials have organized to bring continuity to the municipal codes.

Houston building official Dude Parmley, BOAT first vice president, and Sherman official Jim Andrews, BOAT second vice president, voiced the opinion that most municipal inspectors want uniform codes, standardized inspections and a certification program similar to the educational requirements for police and firemen.

Parmley stated most large cities have training programs and

the high salaries to attract inspectors from the craft trades.

"In smaller areas, without the budgets, cities hire one or two men who may not have the proper backgrounds in all the inspection areas," Parmley said.

Among the building problems of interest this year are multi-family code requirements and the fast-growing manufactured building industry.

Page said how cities work with apartments, townhouses and condominium projects is of major interest. He explained while apartments are rented, the townhouses and condominiums are sold, with the buyer owning the structure or part of the structure and grounds.

Different codes apply, he added, with the problem that an apartment house can become a condominium overnight.

Another interest is new products. Various manufacturing companies send representatives to explain the products and "industry wants that product to be used as it was designed to be used," Page insisted.

Improved building products are also examined. For example, Parmley related the 2 by 4 board is now a standard 1 1/2 by 3 inches.

The training program is in its third year, and Page believes BOAT's recent acceptance as the

sixteenth department in the Texas Municipal League will be of benefit to the cities and inspectors.

The building inspectors organization also began a seminar program this year, with five held in the geographical regions of Texas.

Page said recent court rulings that cities can be held liable for improper inspections has put add-

ed pressure on the cities to have properly trained manpower.

In addition, the "key rate" insurance benefits, including credits and penalties, have a direct effect on the insurance premiums paid by the entire community.

"A lack of knowledge of the codes is no excuse in either liability or the key rate insurance areas," Page reported. "And the agencies have started inspections

to make sure municipal inspectors are doing the job right."

The officials feel association with the Texas Municipal League will be a big factor in future success making the inspector's job more professional.

"It puts us in the classroom with the city fathers," Page insisted.

The program continues through Friday at the Ramada Inn.

Bulletin Board

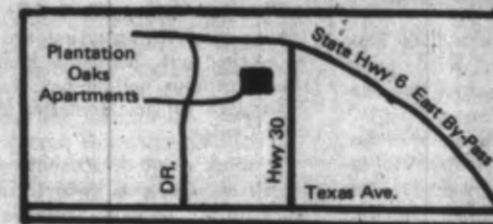
Thursday
The Cepheid Variables Science Fiction Club will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 146 of the Physics Building.

Monday
The Wildlife and Fisheries Science Wives Club will meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Sidney Caldwell, 4003 Windomere, Bryan. Plans will be made for the "Get Acquainted Patio Party."

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Those who wish these benefits

must come as soon as possible to show the number of hours they plan to take. Twelve hours per semester is considered full-time attendance for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The Battalion

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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