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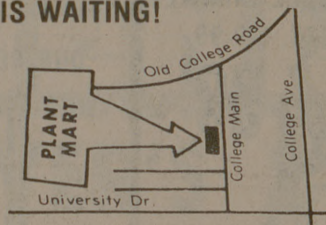
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## Marine secretary to wish Farewell to Texas Clipper

Robert J. Blackwell, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Marine Affairs, will be on hand Sunday morning to help launch the summer cruise of the "Texas Clipper," 15,000-ton training ship operated by Texas A&M University.

The converted oceanliner will carry about 200 students on a two-month island-hopping cruise around the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. About half the students will be Texas Maritime Academy cadets and the other participants in TAMU's "Summer School at Sea."

For the second year the crew will include some adventurous coeds.

Fifteen are currently signed up for the jaunt.

Secretary Blackwell will be aboard the Clipper from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to wish the departing students a good trip. All parents, relatives and friends of the students going on the cruise, as well as other persons, are invited to come aboard the ship for coffee and a visit. The ship is scheduled to sail at 4 p.m.

At 9 a.m. Blackwell will be the guest speaker for a cruise breakfast for the senior cadets of the academy and Galveston civic leaders in the Flagship Hotel which is sponsored by Mrs. Mary Moody Northen. Mrs. Northen along with Jacques Cousteau are honorary commandants of the TMA.

Blackwell received the highest award, a gold medal, from the Department of Commerce for helping in the creation of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970. The act is credited with helping foster a \$3 billion ship building boom.

While the main job of the converted oceanliner is to train cadets in seamanship, the cadets will also be allowed to participate in scientific research during the cruise.

Many of the students will be upperclass cadets who operate the ship under the supervision of the academy's officers and staff.

Others will be participants in TAMU's "Summer School at Sea" and earn up to six hours credit in mathematics, English, history and geography.

The itinerary for the two-month cruise of the "Texas Clipper" includes Mayport, Fla., where the cadets will participate in a firefighting school. Then it's on to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Caracas, Venezuela; St. Nicolaas, Aruba; Kingston, Jamaica; Miami, Fla., and back to Houston August 3. The final leg to Galveston follows August 4.

presented by  
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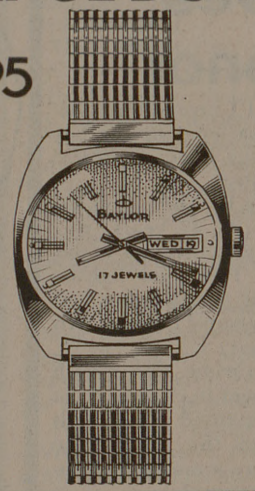
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