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period," DeStefano said. "They are on the endangered species list and the statement of their origin has

He explained that there must be

proof of where either the animal or

its parents came from before a per-

mit can be issued. The jaguars must

A Texas A&M University veteri-narian, Dr. Charles Dean Brown,

who teaches exotic animal care,

said, "We have taken over anything

involving the animals' health and to

see that they are taken care of prop-erly." The vet school will continue

this service until the animals are

be donated to a zoo, he said.

# Salty sea slows oyster growth

GALVESTON--A Texas A&M University marine scientist de-cribed the devastating oyster losses in Galveston Bay in recent years s "a natural phenomenon

From 1976 to 1977, the Galveston Bay system produced a limited wster set. The young oysters, for reasons unknown at the time, were not attaching to the reefs.

Ovstermen believed there was something affecting the reproductve systems of the oysters. Also, there was the possibility there were ot enough setting surfaces for the young oysters to attach them-

Neither theory was correct, said Dr. Sammy Ray, director of the School of Marine Technology at Moody College in Galveston.

"We are dealing with a natural phenomenon," said Ray. "I think it was a matter of salinity. Oysters can live in a wide range of saline conditions. However, the natural enemies of the oyster are much more prevalent in high salinity water," he said.

Like crops on land, there are wet and dry years for oysters. In this case, their survival is dependent on the fresh water flow into Galveson Bay from the interior of the state.

Ray's research team cooperated with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and local oystermen, using Texas A&M Organized Reearch funds to conduct the one-year study. Organized Research is a state appropriation to fund research of benefit to all Texans.

Ray said the primary difference between a good year and the two bad years was in the concentration of salt in the water during the spring of this year and the springs of 1976 and 1977. In 1976 and 1977, there had been flooding on the Trinity River

which resulted in depressed salinity during the usual spawning seaon in May. In 1978, a drought condition existed during winter and arly spring which Ray believes helped produce a good spring oyster

Ray said that after a year of study the scientists know the bay's systers did develop reproductive cells in 1976 and 1977. They did lischarge the cells. The larvae did develop.

This spring there was a tremendous oyster set which was great for the oystermen, but it made the task of tracking down the cause of the revious oyster set failures much more difficult.

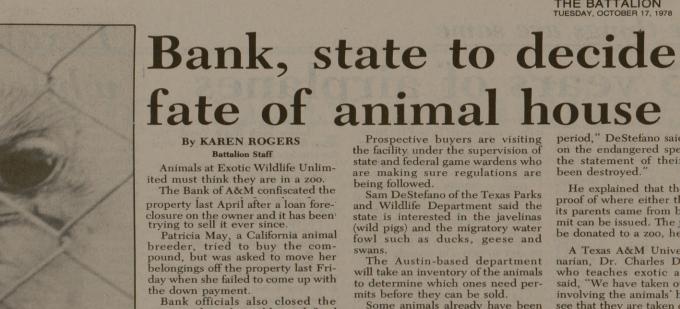
This year it seems the good set was due to the reduced amount of resh water coming into the bay, Ray said. The reduced fresh water low caused by drought conditions favored the development of a new rop of oysters, said the director.

It does point out that Galveton Bay, as well as other bays in Texas, are all part of a dynamic system," said Ray. "The chance for a perfect oyster set every year is questionable. There are just going to be some wet years and some dry years. "The survival and growth of the oyster industry in Texas will be

dependent on the weather as long as matters are left up to fate. There will be good years like this one, but there is some likelihood that there could be poor years, as we had in the two years previous," he

The solution is better management of the resources already there, said the Galveston-based scientist. One suggestion the marine researchers are examining is to move oysters in the fall to areas of low subinity where their natural predators and diseases are not quite so

"I realize Texas is known for its shrimp industry. But with the right management, the oyster production could be stabilized and a more reliable market could be developed," he said.



compound to the public and fired the zoo staff that day, saying they could no longer afford to keep it open.

Prospective buyers are visiting the facility under the supervision of state and federal game wardens who are making sure regulations are

Sam DeStefano of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said the state is interested in the javelinas (wild pigs) and the migratory water fowl such as ducks, geese and

The Austin-based department will take an inventory of the animals to determine which ones need per-

Some animals already have been sold and moved to a park in Missouri. But DeStefano said there are many animals remaining. "The jaguars cannot be sold,

sold. The Bank of A&M has hired workers to feed the animals.

been destroyed.

## First joint expedition

# men scale Everest

## **United Press Inter**

KATMANDU, Nepal - Two separate parties from a French-German team climbed 29,028-foot Mount Everest within hours of each other in the first suc-

cessful ascent by a joint expedition. Four French climbers, including a 49-year-old former cabinet minis-ter, scaled the world's highest mountain Sunday only hours after three Germans conquered the Himalayan peak.

The Nepalese Tourism Ministry said it was the first conquest of Everest by a joint expedition and the fifth in the fall climbing season. The expedition took the normal

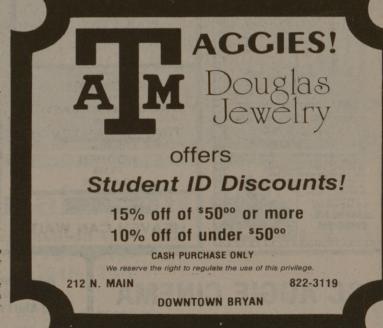
southeast ridge route. The French climbers were Pierre Mazeaud, former minister of sports and culture, photographer Kurt Deimberger and Alpine mountain guides Jean Afanassieff and Nicholas

Jaeger. Mazeaud is one of the oldest mountaineers to climb Everest. He failed in two previous attempts.

What began as a joint attempt to scale the peak broke up Saturday when Mazeaud and two other partners had to separate from the German group and turn back when they discovered their oxygen supply was insufficient

Afanassieff, 25, was the first Frenchman to reach the summit, and was followed by Jaeger, 32. Mazeaud, accompanied by Deim-berger, reached the top about 10

The German climbers who reached the summit Saturday were Hubert Hillmaier, Josef Mack and Hans Engl.



## nusual ailments reported United Press International

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"Deranged knees" and "enraged nsils" reportedly made some mericans see a doctor last year. Others saw a physician for "al-gany in both eyes" or "confusion in the nose" or "post-natal drip" or semimental conditions."

"Ingestion of the intestines" and stomach clamp" are two more of 1977's bothersome medical condi-

Those unusual maladies are ong patient descriptions of ailents as reported to interviewers in ne \$18 million Medical Costs Sury under way for the government by Research Triangle Institute, Re-search Triangle Park, N.C.

The biggest ever health survey is person reported having "molds re-

expected to produce millions of bits moved of information for planners of Na-tional Health Insurance.

The funny-sounding conditions

were "vibrating eyes," "eyes matter- persons.

ing" and "flashing eyes." One person sought medical care for "heart hemorrhoids."

An update on the survey in "Hypotenuse," a Research Triangle Institute publication, notes that one

Health problems cited by other individuals included a recluse spider bite, Indian fire and chicken

are among 110,000 descriptions of ailments fed into the survey's com-puter for future reference. The in-ventory of unusual conditions also includes "high-pertension," "blue venus," "be-nine tumor" and "splite" bite, middan free and chicken mails. One respondent's condition was listed as "smashed." During the household survey spanning 18 months, the field staff traveled nearly two million miles and spent 298,960 hours, including the surveying an estimated Among eye conditions reported 13,500 households involving 40,000

The project leader, Dr. Daniel ing to medical expenses.

Horvitz, said a chief motivation behind the massive research undertak-ing is to provide information needed to estimate costs and benefits of various proposals for national health in-

Government officials will have uses for the survey results other than assessing health insurance plans, said Horvitz. The many applications may include determining the impact of possible changes in federal income tax provisions relat-

## **ALPHA ZETA TURKEY SALES**

Once again, AZ, the National Agricultural Honor and Service Society, is selling delicious smoked turkeys for your Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. To order turkeys, call: 845-5380 or 822-2088

Monday-Friday, 7-11 p.m. October 12-November 2 8-12 lb. range \$1.50 per lb.

Proceeds will be used for student scholarships and community service projects.

This ostrich looks a bit bewildered, and he has good reason. He and his friends at Exotic Wildlife Unlimited don't know what their future holds, and neither do their keepers. The Bank of A&M has taken over the park and is trying to sell it. Meanwhile, veterinary students at Texas A&M University have been helping take care of the animals.

TOKYO STEAK HOUSE

