

\$16 million puts guard up Gulf patrols increased

In an effort to cut down on leaking from off-shore oil rigs and tankers, the Coast Guard is planning to spend an extra \$16 million a year on pollution patrols.

Lt. Cmdr. James L. O'Brien told the Texas Coastal and Marine Council meeting at Texas A&M University Friday that the Coast Guard intends to visit each of the 2,300 drilling platforms in the Gulf

of Mexico twice a year. One of the inspections will be unannounced.

While there, they would inspect for saety and possible sources of pollution.

"I can't tell you that 'X' amount of tar on the beaches is natural and 'Y' is from tankers. I don't know and I don't think anyone else knows," said O'Brien.

The patrols will include an over-

flight of the entire Gulf once a week, four more surface vessels to help inspect each platform four times a year and aircraft that would have infrared capabilities to detect oil spills or tanker discharge at night.

O'Brien said about a third of the 1,500 oil spills that occur in American waters each year take place in the Gulf of Mexico.

The pollution patrol efforts will mean an addition of 1,200 Coast Guard personnel to man the aircraft and surface vessels and to act in support.

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Stop and sniff the flowers
Besides looking pretty, the Texas A&M Floral Test Garden is useful for course work. Adrian Correa spends a little time identifying flowers in the patch on Houston Street. He is in a horticulture class.

Battalion photo by Paige Beasley

Students handle 'real' problems Engineers visiting classes

Twice-a-semester "professors" in an engineering course at Texas A&M University term the payoff excellent, for the student and the visiting "prof."

Raymond Roesner, Dan Lindsey and Tom Garney of Houston speak from experience in both roles.

The three men, all Texas A&M graduates, are on campus this week in the Visiting Engineers Programs of the Engineering Design Graphics Department. They work for Dresser Atlas Industries and Entex.

Lindsey and Garney were once on the other side of the drawing tables from visiting engineers in the department's classrooms.

Already a "real life" experience through student team handling of product design problems, the course gains added realism from the visiting engineers.

"It was the only real world course I had as an undergraduate," commented Garney, who graduated in 1977. He is a mechanical engineer with Dresser Atlas.

Coursework requires student teams to design a practical solution to a given problem, such as a gate opener or garbage compactor, and near the end of the semester the teams present an oral report, using graphics, on their solution.

The visiting engineers, who serve in a consulting capacity in a first visit early in the term, return to evaluate the presentation.

"It's a highly practical course," commented Lindsey, 1973 civil engineering graduate and Entex general engineer.

Garney said its practical aspects range from emphasis of six basics of design — "I use what Dr. (James) Earle and the department faculty teach every day" — to team basis of design solutions and communication work.

The communication methods taught are probably the most important, from a practical standpoint, Garney added. "The team approach is realistic too."

Roesner said he gains from the student interchange. The four-time visiting engineer and 1967 graduate said, "I can better relate to the younger engineers in our company. My participation has helped me better communicate with them."

Lawrence Elling, like Lindsey from Entex, said the student-engineer exchange "helps the student get squared on theory and practice. That's highly important during the first couple of years in the engineering curricula."

A Texas A&I graduate who taught at Del Mar College, Elling has been

Texas farms all active harvesting

Pecan harvesting is in full swing over Texas as cool fall weather continues, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service says, but the crop generally will be short due to the season-long drought.

Early pecan varieties are harvested in western, southern, central and eastern areas, the extension service said recently.

Peanut harvesting continues to be a major farm activity during the week, with generally good crops harvested in west central and southwest Texas along the coastal bend, agricultural officials said. However, recent weather in the coastal bend caused some losses.

Meanwhile, cotton harvesting continues in north central Texas and is being stepped up in the rolling plains and trans-Pecos extension service noted.

Harvesting of corn and sorghum remains active in the Panhandle south plains, with good yields.

Farmers are also harvesting state's sugar crops: sugar beets in the high plains and sugar cane in the Rio Grande Valley.

Small grain planting remains active over much of Texas although conditions are once again limiting growth, especially in central and eastern areas. Armyworms are causing extensive damage in areas.

Early planted fields are now grazing for livestock in many areas, but rain is needed for growth.

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Daydream away your troubles

NEW YORK — A noted psychiatrist says that when you fantasize about your boss, fantasizing him dropping dead.

Such fantasies are marriage safety valves, according to Dr. Lincoln.

Writing in the November Science Digest, Lincoln says fantasies or daydreams can be not only extremely pleasant, but therapeutic.

Lincoln, the corporate director of Union Carbide Company, says fantasies can occur while people are busy, giving them "time alone" and "escape" while doing other things.

"While pushing cereal into an infant's mouth," he said, "you fantasize that your son grows up to be a strong, handsome young man with great affection for you."

And when things are not well at the office, Lincoln has suggestion:

"When your job performance is down because you're jealous and angry at your boss, fantasize his sudden demise and your promotion to his job can help you to dispel hostile feelings and return to socially acceptable attitudes."

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