

campus & city

Aggies help clean Galveston beaches

By CINDY COLVIN
Battalion Reporter

Since Nov. 1 oil from the collision of two oil tankers off Galveston Island has been washing up on Texas beaches and three men from Texas A&M University have been assisting in the clean-up.

Roy Hann, Harry Young and David James have been in Galveston since the collision helping the Coast Guard and local volunteers in clean up operations.

Oil from the collision has been washing onshore in the form of sticky lumps and heavy liquid mousse, said Young. Since the distance between the ship and the beach is only 4 or 5 miles, Young said that the oil stayed on the beach for three days before crews were prepared to clean it up.

In most cases, Young said, it is not a good idea to let oil sit on the beach that long as it tends to be soaked up by the sand. In the case of the Galveston oil spill, the hard-packed sand slows soak-up.

Liquid mousse, an oil and water emulsion, is most dangerous to the beach, as it picks up sand when it becomes involved in any motion, like tidal cycles, said Young. As the oil becomes heavier with the sand, it will be carried offshore and sink where it could be toxic to oceanic life.

In addition to oil hitting Jamiaca Beach and West Beach on Galveston Island, current meters placed near Freeport by the Strategic Petroleum

Reserve Project, also of Texas A&M, registered an oil slick moving toward the south, said David Smith who works on the project. Smith observed the seven mile-long oil slick which varied from five to 30 feet wide as it hit the Texas coast at San Jose Island on Nov. 9. San Jose Island was heavily inundated by oil from this year's oil well spill off the Mexican coast.

As far as liability for the collision and its aftermath, Young said that because the collision occurred outside U.S. waters, it cannot be settled by using the Clean Water Act. And two international laws won't help either, because the U.S. is not signatory to them. Only international private insurance organizations will help, said Young. One in particular, Tanker Owners Voluntary Agreement Concerning Liability for Oil Pollution, will apply in this case involving the two tankers of Liberian registry.

According to Young, 98 percent of the world's tanker fleets subscribe. TOVALOP uses its own standards for insurance and standards for the vessels.



Battalion photo by Doug Graham

Burrito Supreme

When the Horsemen's Association gave a presentation on donkeys and mules Wednesday night, one member found herself burdened with a pocket-sized beast of burden. The baby Sicilian donkey and other long-eared cousins of the horse were shown in the Animal Science Pavillion.

Power focus said to hurt business

Too many corporate executives are refusing to delegate the power and responsibilities they scooped up on their way to the top, says a Texas A&M University business analyst.

Dr. John Reynolds, professor of management, said upper echelon managers often look back over their shoulders at their roots in the corporate structure.

"Some simply refuse to change their style as they moved up through the chairs. They are afraid to let go of the things they do well," he said.

The result: The executive loses sight of some of the major responsibilities of his job by being trapped into the day to day decision-making responsibilities of his subordinates.

The sales manager who is promoted to general manager — instead of devoting all his time to the overall operation — will try to run the sales division, too.

Reynolds says much of the problem is effective time management. "There aren't really any new based on daily business experience," explained the professor. "All theories that do work rely heavily on

delegation of responsibility, however."

One useful technique, Reynolds said, is to sit down after a routine day to review the tasks one has done and ask:

— Did that job need to be done at all? "If not, the appropriate action is obvious."

— Did I need to do it? "If not then delegation is called for."

— Did I spend too much time on the job? "If so, then a review of personal work habits is needed."

The professor admits it is easier to adopt new management habits in the first few days on the job. But, he says, there are ways out of the mire, even for a manager who has already been on the job for some time and has slipped into bad habits.

First, realize that a change needs to be made. Second, explicitly yet gently let the employees know change is in the wind. "Make it clear that you are no longer going to accept the responsibility for their jobs. In some cases it may mean redesigning jobs and some additional training, but it can be done," said Reynolds.

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