campus



Marine biologist Dr. David Owens will use this elaborate hotoelectric network known as the Kleerekoper tank system

to study Atlantic Ridley turtles. The project is funded by Texas A&M's Sea Grant Program.

&M biologist heads study

Ifforts joined to save turtles

ne ocean is now spearheading rch that will be used in the rative international effort to the world's most endangered ies of sea turtle, the Ridley Fewer than 2,000 adult Ridley tles are believed to exist today, Dr. David Owens, and their at near Rancho Nuevo in naulipas, Mexico, has been eatened even more by oil from runaway Campache Bay spill.
Several turtles have died from rently mistaking globs of oil for fish they sometimes eat, he said. although many of the current turconservation projects utilize the omenon of imprinting, in which

animal instinctively recalls its e of birth, no scientific study has confirmed that Ridleys, or any rtles, use imprinting to find their y back to the Mexican nesting aches, Owens said. Nor has imprinting been proven a factor in the United States reinduction and preservation project

CIAL

Texas A&M University marine will obtain special permission from other fish and turtles.

gist who was 21 when he first the United States and Mexico to Developed by Texas bring Ridleys to College Station for

owens indings are aimed at telling federal conservation programs in both countries whether imprinting plays a role in the turtle's return to its nesting site.

If it does, Ridley eggs can be transplanted to Padre Island and, theoretically, those animals that survive will come back to Texas to nest and reproduce where scientstists can watch them. If imprinting is not present in Rid-

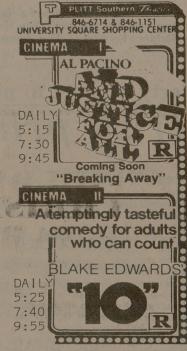
leys, new methods must be mapped out to protect their breeding, said In the past the economic value of

the turtle has caused thousands of Ridleys to be slaughtered as they

came ashore 200 miles south of Texas' tip to lay eggs, Owens said. In nature only two or three turtles might survive from an estimated five-year production of 1,500 eggs per female, underscoring the potential value and need for protection during breeding and the first weeks

Developed by Texas A&M biology

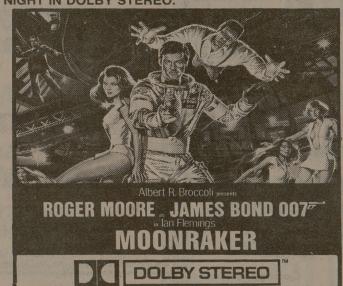
professor emeritus Herman Kleere-





MANOR EAST 3 THEATRES

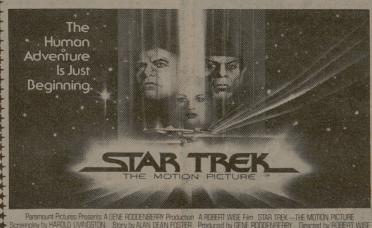
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ing place on Padre Island and of life, he said. veston where Owens will borrow Owens will conduct a number of turtles for his special research behavioral tests on the Ridleys as they mature in the Kleerekoper tank Under a \$36,000 Sea Grant Colge program, Owens is attempting efirst such study of imprinting and system here that is used to study swimming species such as sharks. Tolls urged for Texas roads Toll roads can alleviate the problem of declining highway maintenance in Texas and adjoining states, says Texas A&M University's vice resident for engineering and non-renewable resources Fred J. Transportation of both people and goods in Texas and the nation is with the exception of long range travel by airplane, almost completely dependent on highway vehicles," Benson said. Studies have shown that highway industry costs have increased at a rate in excess of inflation. Federal and state gasoline tax increases have been discussed as a solution, as has users bearing the cost of highway construction and **AGGIES' LETTERS TO SANTA** PRESENTED BY MSC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM THAT YOU NEED BY FRIPAY (DEC. 7) COME TO OUR PROGRAM AT AND SEE WHAT SOME AGGIES ASKING FROM HIM. MSC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

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