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Wet Weather Index to aid highway safety

By JON HEIDTKE

Campus reporter
A Wet Weather Safety Index (WWSI) has been developed by a Texas A&M University engineer to aid in improving highway safety during wet weather.
Dr. Don Ivey's WWSI uses predictive equations to relate tire-road friction, traffic, highway rainfall characteristics in providing increased highway safety.
The WWSI, which has garnered national attention, has been two years in the making, but the material research has been under development since 1968.
The biggest tendency for wet weather accidents occurs in urban

areas because most of the traffic conflicts occur here," said Ivey, who is also the assistant director of the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).
Ivey said the state is now in the process of putting the WWSI into programs of maintenance and rehabilitation of the highways.
"The objective of these programs," said Bob Lytton a researcher with TTI and a civil engineer at the University, "is to keep the highways in good condition and to provide a smooth ride."
The WWSI can also be used to determine which road elements need priority repairs, so limited maintenance funds can be spent to maximize wet weather accident re-

duction, said Ivey.
A family of computer programs known as the Rehabilitation and Maintenance System (RAMS) has been employed by the TTI to combine all these elements to see if the maintenance cost of highway repair can be reduced.
With the help of RAMS, Lytton said that the 10 percent increase in the use of state funds could cut \$25 million off the annual budget of \$250 million.
So in one year the TTI, whose main office is located on campus in the Highway Research Center, can justify its existence, if the programs are used and used properly, said Lytton.



Slippery roads may become safe to drive on with the institution of a Wet Weather Safety Index developed by Dr. Don Ivey, a Texas A&M University engineer.

Craft Workshop registration begins today

By TIM JASEK
Campus Reporter
The Memorial Student Center Craft Shop will begin registration for spring workshops today.
The workshops, which begin Feb. 1 and run until April 7, offer classes in everything from glass etching to wood carving and will be taught by members of the craft shop, Texas A&M University staff and the Bryan-College Station community.
Most classes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. one day each week and will vary from one class meeting for the bicycle clinic to eight meetings for the cake decorating class.
Enrollment fees range from \$3 for the bicycle clinic to \$36 for the class in guitar construction and must be paid upon completing a registration

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Last day to register for crime prevention program—Project I.D.

Today is the last day for on-campus students to register for Project I.D., a crime prevention program sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega (APO).
APO, a national service fraternity, is working with local police departments to engrave students' Texas driver's license numbers on personal property to aid in recovery and return, if stolen.
Barry Deutsch, pledge master for APO, said they had only enough engravers and people to cover on-campus this year, but hoped to extend the service to off-campus students next semester.
Interested students can sign up for the service through today at the Memorial Student Center, Sbis Dining Hall, and the Commons, or they may call APO at 845-1515.

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.73	Brilliant	AA+	1475	.97	Brilliant	AA	2400	.70	Marquis	AAA	1680
.73	Brilliant	AA+	1195	.21	Marquis	AAA	375	.75	Emerald Cut	AAAA	2250
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