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Oxides produced by power plants called harmful to plants, crops

By BRIAN BLALOCK
Campus Reporter

Chemical oxides produced by power plants and other sources are a major air pollution problem in the United States, said a North Carolina State professor of plant science.

Speaking before a plant science seminar Tuesday, Dr. Walter Heck said sulphur and nitrogen oxides in the air are a major problem affecting crops and other vegetation.

Sulphur dioxide itself is very toxic to plants," he said. "Sulphur dioxide gas and it will enter the plants and cause destruction of tissue. In enough concentrations, it will kill the plant."

Heck is the chairman of the agricultural committee of the Technical Council for the Air Pollution Control Association, and has been involved in the study of atmosphere contaminants and their effect on crop productivity.

Heck said oxides are caused by burning materials.

It's caused by almost anything a man puts into the environment,

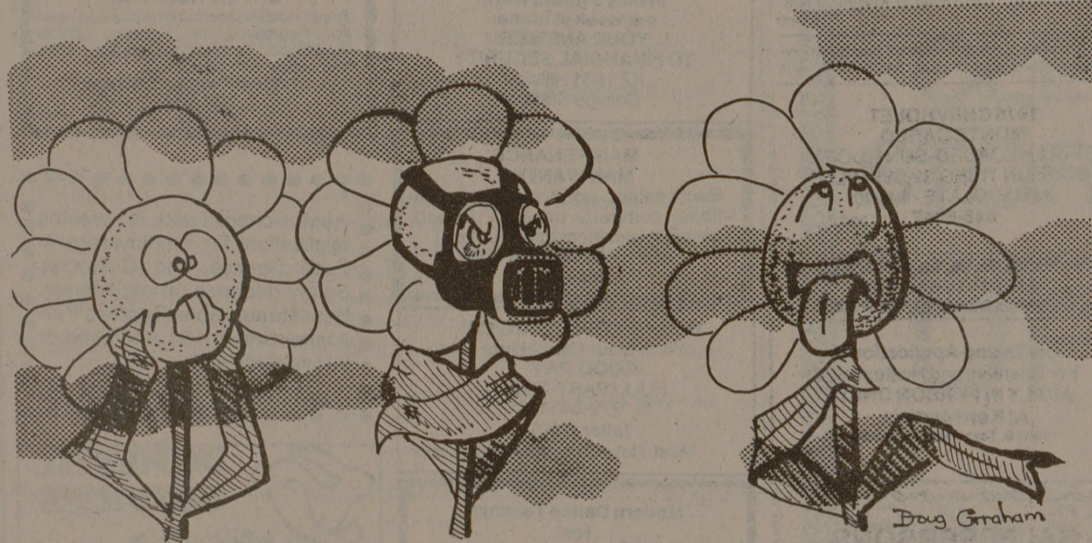
any type of burned things," he said. "It is known to cause a reduction in crops."

The Environmental Protection Agency has come up with a solution to the problem of oxides in the air, Heck said, by requiring all new factories and power plants to have scrubbers attached to their smoke stacks.

These scrubbers clean the exhausts from smoke stacks and remove oxides before they can escape into the air. However, he said, a drawback to the EPA solution is that large amounts of chemical waste are produced by the scrubbers and disposal of the waste may be a problem.

Heck, a one-time Texas A&M University professor, said too many people in the United States and the world do not understand the problems of air pollution. Pollution is a subtle problem that has no regional boundaries, he said. Because people are used to living with pollution throughout the nation, they do not realize the damage it does until it is too late, he said.

Heck added the Europeans are



also concerned with the problem of air pollution, but are more interested with monitoring pollution effects rather than determining its causes.

Aggie selected editor of political forum paper

By TIM JASEK
Campus Reporter

A Texas A&M University business major has been appointed editor of the Texas Forum, a political newspaper for college students.

John Friend, 20, succeeds Mark Lam who edited the politically conservative newspaper for three years. Friend is from The Woodlands and transferred to Texas A&M last fall from the University of Cincinnati.

He was selected as editor after serving as apprentice last semester under Elam, a former Texas A&M student.

The fact that Friend is a sophomore is part of the reason why he was chosen, he said, since Texas Forum looks for longevity in its editors.

"I have to write the editor's page, do the layout and edit," said Friend, "it does take a lot of time."

Texas Forum is published at least once a semester, Friend said.

The main reason for the paper's regular publishing is that it depends entirely upon contributions, said Friend.

Though Texas Young Americans for Freedom covers much of the cost, Friend said, many contributions come from first-time readers.

"Despite the obvious financial constraints," Friend said, "we still manage to distribute over 20,000 copies of each issue statewide."

Texas Forum has been distributed at major college campuses throughout Texas since October, 1970 when it was known as Right-On.

In the spring of 1976, Right-On changed its name to the present one, along with the name change, the paper changed its policy, "serving as an attack vehicle and more a journal of public affairs," according to a past edition.

In 1978, headquarters were moved from the University of Texas at Austin campus to Texas A&M where the paper is presently published.

Texas Forum's goals are to help "preserve individual freedom and eliminate big government," Friend said.

Besides college students, the paper attracts many businessmen, high school students, professors and politicians.

Such notables as Texas Representatives Phil Gramm and Ron Paul

compose the Texas Forum Board of Advisors.

The Board of Advisors works with the Texas Forum staff in deciding future story topics and arranging interviews with personalities like Ronald Reagan, TV anchorman Mike Wallace and Gov. Bill Clements, Friend said.

Past editors have traditionally been successful, Friend said, pointing out Texas Forum founding father Terry Quist is now a Rhodes Scholar and Elam is presently serving as an aid to Paul.

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