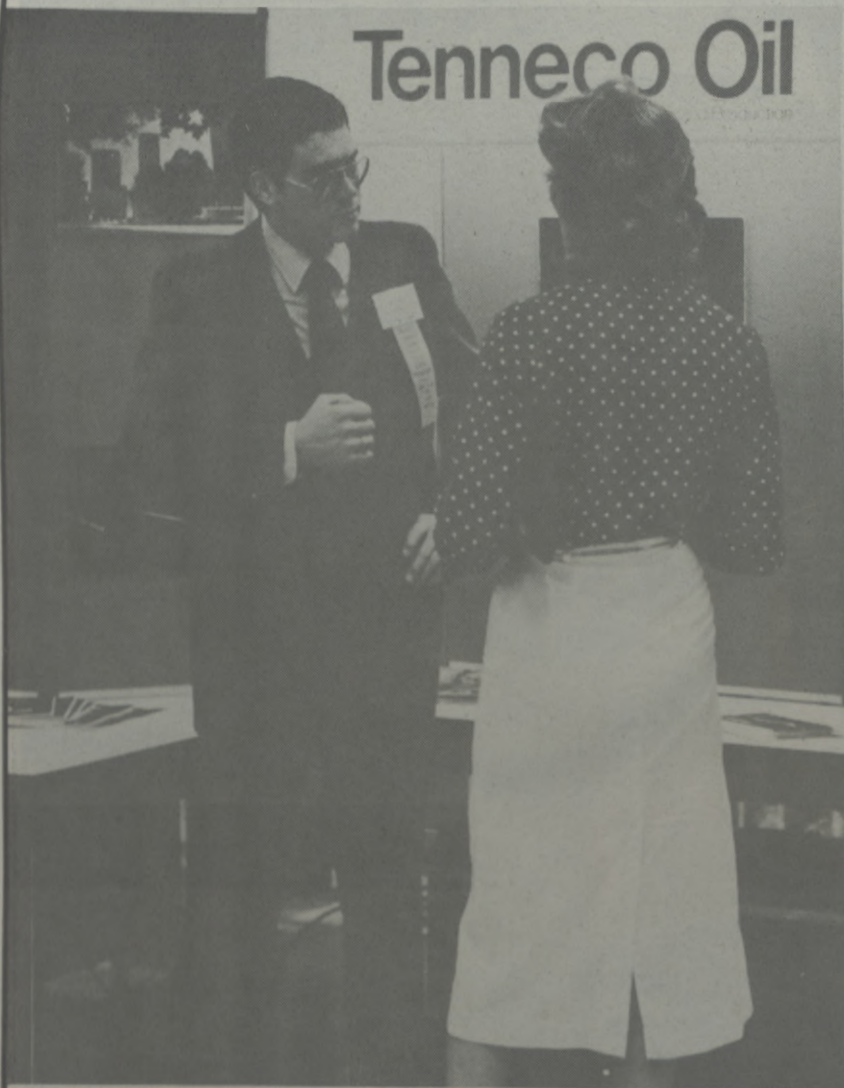
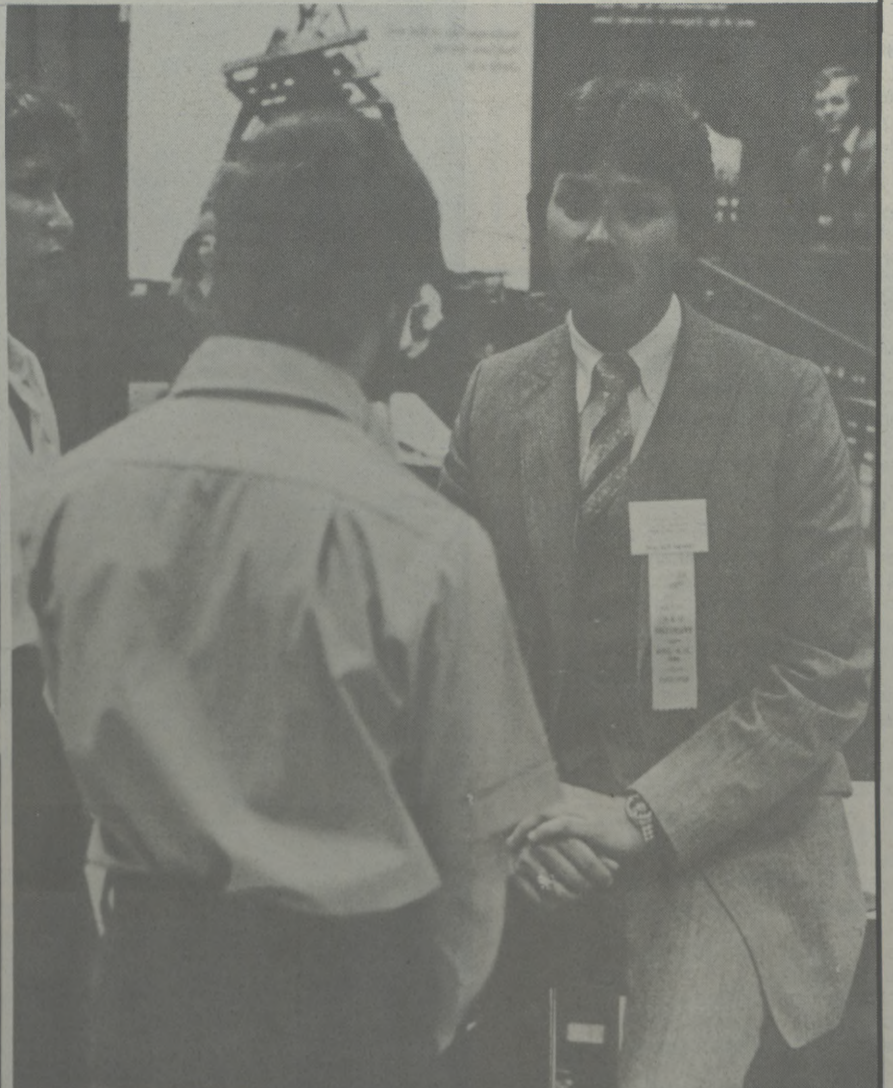


# Career Fair attracts nearly 1000



Mark Janek, a representative of Tenneco Oil, talks with an interested student about the corporation.



A company representative discusses career potential in Brown and Root with several Texas A&M students.

Nearly 1,000 other students spent time last Thursday visiting with the 37 corporate representatives who had set up booths in the Memorial Student Center for the College of Business Administration's First Annual Undergraduate Career Fair. Ostensibly a function catering to business students, the Career Fair attracted students from a variety of majors.

Photos by Kevin D. Higginbotham



Houston Lighting & Power representative, Joyce Brown, explains career possibilities to several students.

## Science vs. Religion

### Local pastor attends conference

by Paul Barton

Ever since Copernicus overhauled conventional notions of the solar system, science and religion have been on uneasy terms with each other — some books have called it warfare.

At least one local minister thinks it is time to change that. The Rev. Hubert Beck, campus pastor at University Lutheran Church in College Station, says scientists and theologians need to cooperate in addressing questions posed by the complexities of the modern age.

Beck recently returned from a consultation on "Faith, Science and the Future" held at Harvard University over spring break. The conference was sponsored by the Center for the Study of Campus Ministry of the Lutheran Church, and Beck was one of the eight campus pastors invited to attend.

At issue was how scientific thinking and technological advances mold and give thrust to people's thought. Churchmen are growing concerned about the effects on humanity of a wide range of technological developments from In-Vitro fertilization methods to nuclear power.

In fact, a conference bearing a similar title was sponsored last July at MIT by the World Council of Churches.

Although religionists are expressing their interest in many sci-

entific issues, not everyone seems willing to listen to them.

"People are afraid of theologians, afraid they are going to preach," said Beck. "But one of our jobs should be to help raise questions. To help point toward decisions concerning values is one of the historic tasks of theology."

Beck feels the prevailing influence of scientific thinking is one major reason for the decline in influence of religion in modern life.

"Because of the tendency to think relatively about things, people are hesitant to say something is right or wrong," Beck said.

He added that the "faith dimension" of reality is ruled out by many because it is not observable or quantifiable. Subsequently, a large number of religious people in contemporary society tend to individualize their faith.

"If they run into other believers, fine, but for the most part they are hesitant to speak out about it," he said.

Similarly, Beck argues that the church as a whole has lost its prophetic voice.

"It's not addressing current thought patterns," said Beck. "To talk about God and heaven means to take an interest in the here and now as well as in the afterlife. The church has tended to isolate itself. You can't read the Bible in a vacuum; it was addressed to a cultural setting.

"It's how you look at reality that is at issue. People in the Middle Ages or even the 1930s had a much different concept of reality than we do."

For example, he points to the communications explosion that has brought world events into the home far faster than ever before.

Beck labels as misconception the idea that science is value-free.

"That's simply not true," he said. "Any set of facts has to be interpreted and that brings presuppositions into play."

Beck himself is the author of several published papers on the relationship between religion and technology and has a book entitled "The Christian Encounters the Age of Technology."

He sees an increasing concern among scientists for values in determining how to use new technologies.

"I think the ecology movement in the 1960s kicked off a lot of this interest," he said. "People started to realize that manufacturing is not value-free."

Beck feels the church must play a role in helping to determine what values shape the use of these advances.

"There is value for the church in seeing the world God made through the eyes of those who set themselves to examine it in scientific as well as in metaphysical ways," he said.