

Local More stores set for mall

Seven national chain stores have been added to the list of merchants in College Station's Post Oak Mall still under construction.

The latest stores to be announced are: Zales Jewelers, Great Hot Dog Experience, Carlyle & Co. Jewelers, Giovanni's, Orange Julius, Motherhood Maternity and Corn Dog 7.

Eugene H. Schimpf III, representative of CBL & Associates Inc. of Chattanooga, Tenn. and project manager for the mall, announced the names of the new stores.

Zales Jewelers will offer a wide selection of fine jewelry, giftware and watches, featuring diamonds. The store will open in February 1982 when the mall opens and will be one of over 830 Zales outlets in operation.

Another jewelry operation, Carlyle & Co., will offer diamonds and gold jewelry and watches from such names as Cartier, Seiko and Pulsar.

Motherhood Maternity will feature exclusive designer fashions for the expectant mother. The store will offer sleepwear, lingerie and fashions from Joyce Ewing Bradley, Lester Hayatt, Judy Loeb and other designers.

The remaining four stores cater to shopping-time munchies.

The Great Hot Dog Experience is a hot dog specialty store with a one-price policy and unique store design. Armour hot dogs will be served on poppy-seed buns with a selection of 10 different toppings at no charge.

Corn Dog 7 offers two sizes of all-meat weiners, battered and fried while the customer watches. Side dishes include cheese on a stick, freshly squeezed lemonade and french fries.

Giovanni's will offer pizza whole or by-the-slice, fresh salad and soft drinks.

The last of the new outlets is Orange Julius International, a national franchise which features the Orange Julius, a blend of orange juice and secret ingredients.

The new mall will feature seven national department stores, including Sears, Dillard's, Wilson's and Bealls, and more than 100 smaller stores.

Schimpf announced last week that Gallenkamp Shoes, Kay-Bee Toy and Hobby Shop, The Athlete's Foot and Parklane Hosiery are planning stores in the mall. He said additional stores will be announced as lease negotiations are completed.

Post Oak Mall, located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Harvey Road and the Highway 6 Bypass, is scheduled to open on February 17, 1982.

Scientists fight pests threatening crops

An army of scientists from 16 universities throughout the country has gone to war against weevils, worms, weeds and diseases in a combined effort to defeat the pests that destroy millions of dollars of American agriculture every year.

Supported by \$9 million from the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the assault is being directed from Texas A&M University and commanded by Dr. Perry Adkisson, deputy chancellor for agriculture of the Texas A&M University System and Dr. Ray Frisbie, the program's executive manager.

The scientists say they are looking for a combination of controls against insects, weeds and plant diseases that will integrate biological agents, pest resistant plants, better farming practices and less dependence on chemical controls.

"The world food crisis, compounded by the energy crisis and a genuine concern for maintaining a healthy environment, has placed an enormous stress on our agricultural system," Frisbie said.

Also of concern is the dramatic increase in the use of new and exotic agricultural chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers, and increases in the price of petroleum from which many of the chemicals are made.

"While pesticides have virtually replaced all other tactics of pest control over the last 30 years, their side effects have been well recorded," Frisbie said, "including the development of pesticide-resistant insects, the disruption of natural biological controls, health hazards to humans, and, in some cases, irreversible effects on wildlife and non-target organisms."

In addition to Texas A&M, universities participating in the consortium include: Clemson, Louisiana State, Mississippi State, Pennsylvania State, Washington State and the universities of California, Illinois, Wisconsin, Florida, Arkansas and Kentucky.

Although the development of insect strains that are resistant to chemical agents presents a severe threat to U.S. and worldwide crop production, pesticides will continue to play a vital role in the emerging integrated pest management (IPM) systems, Frisbie said. One objective of the consortium is to determine how chemicals can be used within "an ecologically-based context," he said, and to determine the use of minimum quantities in achieving optimum yields with a minimum impact on the environment.

"We want to develop a system that holds pest populations below crop-damaging densities, is less energy dependent, economically feasible and causes the least damage to the environment," he said.

Much of the research focuses on the management of pests attacking four major crops — cotton, alfalfa, soybean and apple.

"These crops have several things in common," Frisbie said. "Although unique in their own regard, the basic methods of conducting research in an organizational, systematic approach to integrated management can be shared and costs reduced."

Researchers involved are agronomists, agricultural economists, plant breeders, meteorologists, entomologists, plant pathologists and weed scientists.

By polling federal, state and land grant university resources in teams, in collaboration with USDA scientists, the project leaders said they believe a wider variety of resources can be focused on solutions.

"No single agency or approach offers this great potential," Frisbie said. The EPA funded the five-year project in September 1979, followed by a year of academic research and another year of hands-on research at farms. It is presently in its second year of crop production, Frisbie said.



Photo by Janet Joyce

Exception to the rule

No one can yell at this man — it's his job to walk on the grass at the Memorial Student Center. After all, somebody has to mow the lawn.

New heart drug studied

A new class of drugs called "calcium blockers" promises important advancement in treating irregular heartbeat, high blood pressure and the often deadly chest pains that accompany angina pectoris — even though what makes the chemicals work is still somewhat of a puzzle, says a Texas A&M University medical researcher.

The drugs, known more technically as "antagonists" for calcium, open the blood vessels and cause the heart to pump more evenly, said Dr. George C.Y. Chiou, head of medical pharmacology and toxicology at Texas A&M.

Chiou, who conducted privately funded research

on calcium blockers in the past, said the chemicals act to block the influx of calcium into heart cells, an essential ingredient to the pumping of the heart.

The abnormal influx of calcium leads to arrhythmia — an irregular heart beat — which can be prevented by calcium antagonists, Chiou said.

Calcium blockers show great promise in treating angina, a frequently fatal condition marked by severe chest pain caused by the blocking of oxygen-rich blood needed by the heart, he said.

Calcium blockers, he said, relax the coronary arteries to supply sufficient oxygen and nutrients to the heart so that the risky surgery can be avoided.

Study could save sea turtles

A sea turtle's instinct to return to its birthplace to breed may be triggered by hormones reacting to the amount of sunlight received each day, says a Texas A&M University marine biologist.

Dr. David Owens, who has studied reproductive systems of nearly extinct Atlantic Ridley turtles for two years for the Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program, believes the photoperiod could help turtles identify the beaches where they were hatched.

Photoperiod — the proportion of sunlight each day that affects the growth of an organism — has been proven an important cue in the mating of birds, mammals and fish. So, Owens says, it seems likely the same thing could occur in large reptiles.

He believes the key may lie in the secretion of the hormone melatonin (usually associated with changes in skin pigment) by the pineal gland which rests between the turtle's eyes and brain.

The pineal region of sea turtles is among the largest of any vertebrate, said Owens, and his recent findings suggest a link between biological rhythms such as those triggered by the photoperiod and reproduction. His studies at Texas A&M show a definite day-night pattern in melatonin secretion among loggerhead and green sea turtles.

"The pineal body could provide the sea turtle with a system to translate the length of day into an endocrine-based biological clock," said Owens. Turning the lights on in his lab during the night produced a sharp drop in melatonin secretions from the turtles, indicating their pineal system is light-sensitive, he said.

Owens said his theory would give sea turtles advantages over the more widely accepted water temperature cues.

"The thermal environment of an inshore marine animal is going to vary even locally to a consider-

able degree from year-to-year, depending on rain, currents and water depth. The photoperiod system or 'inner clock' would be very regular on the other hand," he explained.

In any case, he explained, the system is highly seasonal. "Turtles have a tendency to stop whatever else they are doing when the time

for reproduction comes along," he said.

Basic studies like the one at Texas A&M may help the embattled Atlantic Ridley sea turtle survive. There are now fewer than 350 female Atlantic Riddleys and the entire population is estimated at less than 2,000.

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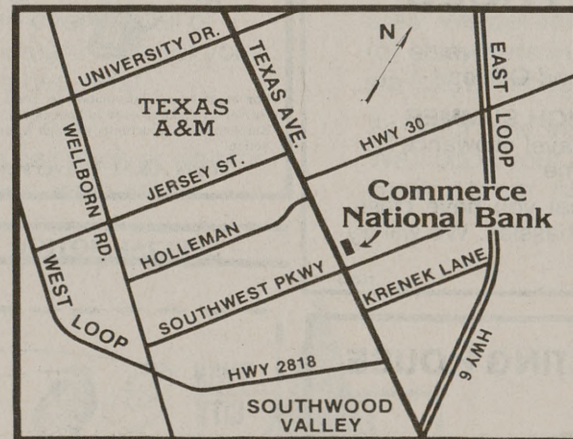
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