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Eskimo Roll

John Parker, a research associate in Physics department at Texas A&M University, demonstrated his eskimo roll technique in a kayak at the Wofford Cain outdoor

pool last Thursday evening. Parker is a member of the MSC **Outdoor Recreation Committee** which periodically sponsors kayaking instruction sessions.

ining office A&M tests mailbox hazard be, not just with car crash simulation

rsity are using automobile crash tests to reduce the iving hazards created by roadside mailboxes.

In 1979 seven people were killed in Texas when eir automobiles collided with standing mailboxes, ys a state highway department official. Many more sons were injured and thousands of dollars in perty damaged resulted as well.

Now, smaller and lower cars are increasing the sk of injury even more, said Irl Larrimore, senior engineer with the safety and maintenance divion of the State Department of Highways and Public

Under contract with the highway department, searchers for the Texas Transportation Institute at as A&M University perform periodic testing of ious mailbox support materials and placement of supports. Principal investigator on the mailbox ject is Dr. Hayes Ross Jr., a professor of civil

Wooden posts have been widely used as mailbox pports," Ross said. "But as a result of our investigation during the past three years, we have found that ere are safer and less expensive ways to support

Transportation researchers at Texas A&M Uni-mailboxes." He added that the height of mailboxes - 42 inches - lines up at windshield level on most

In collisions, the mailbox can crash into the windshield, causing the driver to lose control.

Larrimore said the use of a 2-by-6 beam on which several mailboxes are mounted is being discontinued because the beam can become a lethal lance that pierces the car's windshield and strikes the driver's

Chevrolet Vegas were used in recent tests performed on several mailbox support designs at the TTI proving grounds located at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center near Bryan.

The crash test is recorded by high-speed cameras near the site, while other data on velocity and impact are received at a computer center about a mile away from antennaes attached to the vehicle.

'We learn from each crash," Ross said. "In a series of tests on metal posts, we found that the Vega could withstand a collision with four in a row fairly well. But in the next test when we tried eight posts in a row with mailboxes attached, the car rolled on impact."

Nature provides clues in sea pollution study Nature's methods for dealing with a natural brine (high-salt) Bright and Powell coordinate strength brine collects. But in the the study of marine life in the

seep in the Gulf of Mexico may provide clues for dealing with man-made discharges into the

oceanography department are exploring marine life and chemical aspects of a brine pool and over-flow canyon on the East Flower Garden Bank 115 miles southeast

Brine discharges are becoming more common as offshore oil production increases, with the de-velopment of a strategic petroleum reserve system by dissolving cores of salt domes and from desalination efforts. The effects of this naturally occurring brine on the ecosystems of the ocean may have implications for the manmade pollutants as well.

Dr. Thomas J. Bright discovered the seep in 1974 while exploring the reefs from Texas A&M's submersible research vessel, the Diaphus. The shimmering mass of highly saline water at the overflow looked like a stream running underwater, he said.

The water in the pool, which presumably flows up from a dis-solving salt dome, is about six times as salty as sea water. It contains no oxygen and has a high concentration of hydrogen sulfide.

a highly toxic compound.

Since the discovery, Bright,
Dr. Eric Powell and Dr. Richard Rezak from Texas A&M have revisited the brine flow several times, each time bringing samples for de-

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brine seep ecosystem. Rezak is attempting to determine the physical mechanism by which the seep is driven. All are interested Ecologists from Texas A&M's in the present and potential im-

> Dr. Thomas J. Bright discovered natural brine (high-salt) seep in 1974 while exploring the reefs from Texas A&M's submersible research vessel, the Diaphus.

pact of the seep on animal and plant life and geological structure of the bank.

"We've found that the short term effects of the brine seep are limited to the immediate vicinity of the seep," Powell said. "As the brine runs out of the basin and down a sill into the canyon, we find it mixes with seawater and the salinity decreases rapidly. No-thing but bacteria are able to live in the brine lake where the full bank without it," Bright said.

canyon, where oxygenated sea water mixes with the brine, a more diverse, yet specialized, assembly of organisms has developed."

An interesting feature of the seep, Powell said, is a whitish mat of plants made up of bacteria and algae which covers the floor of the canyon. These plants appear to thrive in the high sulfide environment, he said. A specialized community of organisms, called thiobios, are able to live in the sulfide-rich canyon stream and feed directly on the plants grow-

Fish and other animals generally cannot tolerate the sulfide of the canyon, but some fishes such as angel fish, butterfly fish and cot-tonwick are able to swim in and out of the mixed canyon brine to feed, Bright said. Large red snappers and groupers often swim very, close and even "dive" into the full strenth brine of the lake.

The brine flow is impacting not only the physical and chemical environment of the bank, but also, the local biology. We have found organisms that depend on the flow and that might not exist in the



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Man breaks into home seeking friend

United Press International FORT WORTH — Police said a -year-old "spaced-out" man oke into the \$6 million Cullen Davis mansion Monday and was found lying on a couch with a coke and an apple in his hands.

The man, who reportedly told lice he was looking for his girlend, went to the mansion's front plate glass door and threw a rock

through it, police said.

Karen Davis, another woman and four children in the house locked themselves in a room and called Cullen Davis and police. When officers arrived, they found the "spaced-out" man lying on the living room couch, sipping a coke

and eating an apple.
The Davis mansion in 1976 was the scene of a shooting spree that left two people dead and two others wounded, including Davis' the state of then-wife Priscilla, and began sev-

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dn't happe s because eral years in and out of court for the Fort Worth industrialist.

He was acquitted of being the 'man in black' who shot his stepdaughter. Two years later he was arrested for allegedly trying to hire a hitman to kill his divorce

judge. The first trial ended in a mistrial and the second in ac-

Since then, Davis and his wife have become born-again Christ-



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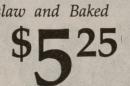
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