



Dr. Dennis M. Driscoll, assistant professor of meteorology, is presently researching how weather affects human behavior, both physically and psychologically.

You can sing in the rain!

Weather not mood-maker

by Joe Sloan
Battalion Reporter

John is depressed today. It's Monday. It's wet and cold, and he doesn't feel like going to class or studying. John says he's feeling under the weather.

Being in a gloomy mood sometimes may be justified, but using the term "under the weather" is not, said a Texas A&M professor who is an expert on how weather affects people's behavior.

Dr. Dennis M. Driscoll, an

assistant professor of meteorology who has studied biometeorology for 16 years, believes people use the weather as a universal scapegoat for their complaints.

There is a fundamental need inside man to explain things such as attitude changes, and the weather provides him with an easy — but incorrect — culprit for his complaints, Driscoll said. When people can't find an explanation, they will blame their mood changes on something

that can't strike back, like the weather, he said.

Although it may be true that people usually have more positive attitudes on sunny days, human behavior is too complex to scientifically state that a single factor has a specific, predictable effect upon people, Driscoll said.

"Whatever the effect weather has upon behavior, it is very small compared to the multitude of other factors," he said.

"It is not uncommon to see,

about every other year, some proposed knowledgeable scientist explaining in a Sunday supplement the many ways in which the weather affects us, but these articles are greatly overdrawn."

Some people carry the weather's effect to such an extreme that parallels can be drawn to astrology, Driscoll said. These people believe weather can affect their behavior much the same as astrology buffs believe the positions of the stars can affect their lives.

Murder suspect still sought

by Kelli Proctor
Battalion Reporter

The Brazos County Sheriff's Department is continuing the search for and investigation of new leads in the murder of College Station real estate agent, Virginia Bradford Freeman.

Freeman's body was found the night of Dec. 1 near Greens Prairie Road. She left her real estate office earlier that afternoon to meet a client.

According to the autopsy, the cause of death was strangulation and several stab wounds in the neck, Dick Gulledge, investigating officer, said.

Gulledge said that at this point, all that can be done is to follow-up all leads.

Most of these leads have come from people who have seen a composite photograph of the suspect. The description for the composite was given by a construction worker in the area at the time of the murder.

A police report said the construction worker described the suspect as a heavy-set male with sandy blonde hair, broad shoulders and a protruding chin. He was said to be 30 to 40 years old and wearing a white cotton t-

shirt, a light-colored jacket and sunglasses.

A \$10,000 reward has been offered by the Board of Realtors and the Home Builders' Association for any evidence leading to the arrest and/or conviction of

the murderer, said Karen Young, chairman of the public relations committee for the Board of Realtors.

If anyone has information concerning Freeman's death, they should contact the Brazos County Sheriff's Department at 779-1717 or Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS.

Positions available in Student Senate

Vacancies within the Texas A&M Student Senate for the spring semester have been announced by the Student Government office.

Open Senate positions are: College of Architecture, at-large; College of Business, senior; College of Engineering, sophomore and junior; College of Liberal Arts, junior and senior; College of Veterinary

Medicine; and College of Medicine.

Positions also are open for dorm senators from Keathley-Fowler-Hughes-Leggett-Clements and from Spence-Briggs-Underwood.

Applications for these Senate positions can be picked up in the Student Government office, 216 Memorial Student Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily.

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Computer helping farmers blitz bugs

by Brenda C. Davidson
Battalion Reporter

Computerized pest control programs developed at Texas A&M University may now enable farmers throughout Texas to make more profitable, decisions on crop production.

BUGNET, an information analysis and delivery system, was developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service insect specialists in cooperation with Biosystems Research of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. The computer programs, which are available to farmers through their county extension services, are adapted to specific area conditions.

Farmers can use the programs to determine the possible effects of spraying schedules, and they can make changes in irrigation to improve crop yields and profits.

"We feel the biggest benefit is in education," said John A. Jackman, a Texas Agricultural Extension entomologist, or insect specialist. The producer can practice different pest management programs and determine economic feasibility instantly by playing games with the computer.

The project, which is funded through the state extension service, has 14 computers located around the state that farmers can use to help control insects in cotton, sorghum, peanut and corn crops, Jackman said.

Variables such as insect density, reproduction, maturation rate and potential growth rate of the crop are considered by the computer, he said.

The computer program also accounts for the effects of temperature, moisture and the number of daylight hours on insects and crop yields, Jackman said. The feasibility of applying insecticide is then weighed against the predicted crop yield and estimated market price at harvest time.

BUGNET was designed to eliminate complicated operating procedures. Questions are displayed for the user to answer when the computer needs information or a decision. In addition, programs are on individual tapes that can be changed like tapes in a tape player, Jackman said. This makes the program practical for the farmer who doesn't have extra time to learn complicated computer procedures.

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