



Garbage search valuable

Prof digs up sunken city

by Floyd S. Wiltz  
Battalion Reporter  
Don Hamilton spent most of last summer digging through other peoples' garbage. The "garbage" was almost 300 years old — and underwater.  
Hamilton, a professor of anthropology and archaeology at Texas A&M University, and 13 graduate students in archaeology spent eight weeks conducting underwater excavations for the Jamaican government. Hamilton's main excavation was the harbor city of Port Royal, England's largest 17th-century settlement in the New World.  
The excavations were like going through the people's garbage and finding what the people used by what they threw away, Hamilton said.  
"The significance of this today," Hamilton said, "is that probably the largest collection of intact 17th-century English material goods and culture is located at Port Royal."  
"One's garbage tells you an amazing amount of what went on."  
An earthquake on June 7, 1662, sent two-thirds of the city into the sea. Port Royal, which Hamilton said was once called the "wickedest city in the world," had a population of 5,000 when it sank.  
Since nothing has been constructed over the site of Port Royal and only a gradual amount of silting has occurred,

Hamilton said there are still "tons of material in the harbor."  
He said previous excavations and searches by treasure hunters have been conducted at Port Royal, and poor underwater visibility and sharks have been reported in the area.  
"We were a little bit leery (of undertaking the project)," he said, "but we found out exactly what the conditions were before we committed ourselves."  
Hamilton and his group initially started two excavation sites, each covering an area of 10 square feet. The deepest area in which they worked was about 12 feet under water.  
"The visibility was a lot better than we had been led to believe," he said. "We found that we could, with relatively simple equipment, conduct well-controlled work."  
The determined diggers discovered clay pots and pipes and part of a wall that could be either part of a house or a shop, Hamilton said. In one area, a collection of turtle shells and bits of leather were found.  
"With the amount of leather we found, it could possibly be a shoe shop," Hamilton said. "We found lots of pieces of leather and things that could be made from leather."  
The next objective, he said, is to go back to Port Royal and finish the excavations. All of the artifacts found will be turned over to the Jamaican govern-

ment, which funded the entire project last summer. Hamilton said he hopes the government will do so again, so he can dig through another civilization's garbage.

Pot luck

photo by Carolyn Tiller

Moore, an assistant professor in industrial education, demonstrates throwing techniques on the potter's wheel to Travis McCulley, a sophomore industrial education major. Moore has been teaching ceramics at Texas A&M University since 1970. The department has expanded to offer three levels of ceramics, two general crafts courses and two jewelry and lapidary classes.

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Ant problem fires up

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown told a legislative committee that the seriousness of the ant epidemic in Texas demands that the previously successful aerial spraying be continued.  
Brown told a select committee Wednesday studying the fire ant problem that it was an urgent issue.  
He said the state had 26,000 pounds of the pesticide Amdro purchased by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but he said that was not enough.  
His comments came amid criticism charging that the chemical is either dangerous to the environment or ineffective against fire ants.

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