



Treasure from the deep?

staff photo by David Fisher

Dr. Don Hamilton, assistant professor of anthropology, displays seabed concretions, or chunks of coral and minerals, which may contain relics from a 16th-century shipwreck. Texas A&M University researchers will X-ray and dismantle the concretions. (See related story, page 4.)

Texaco to eliminate about 1,000 refinery jobs in Port Arthur

PORT ARTHUR — Texaco announced Monday that it will permanently reduce its work force of 4,000 hourly employees at its Port Arthur refinery by one-fourth. The 1,000-employee reduction will be made through normal attrition, company spokesman Charles Rentz said Monday.

"We have no plans for layoffs," Rentz said. Rentz cited lower demand for petroleum products and improved efficiency as primary reasons for announcing the reduction, which came just hours before the six-month anniversary of the day nearly 4,000 workers walked off their jobs in an ongoing strike at the refinery.

Rentz said no deadline has been set for the reductions since the strike is a factor in those calculations.

"A major factor is how many employees return after a long strike," he said. "We know from experience that not the same

number of people who left will return."

Rentz said 900 of the 1,000 jobs that will be phased out will come from the 3,400 member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-23.

The remaining 100 jobs will be scattered among the refinery's other unions.

Larry Stefflen, spokesman for the OCAW Local 4-23 main plant group, said he was informed by Texaco that the reduction was not a result of the work stoppage.

"The company two months ago had mentioned there would be cutbacks," Stefflen said. "I asked specifically if it was on account of the work stoppage and they (Texaco) said 'No.'"

In a related move, OCAW attorneys asked the Texas Supreme Court Monday to clear the way so that striking workers could receive unemployment benefits. Texas Employment Commission officials estimate that if all 4,000 workers were to receive benefits, it could cost Texaco \$8 million to \$23 million.



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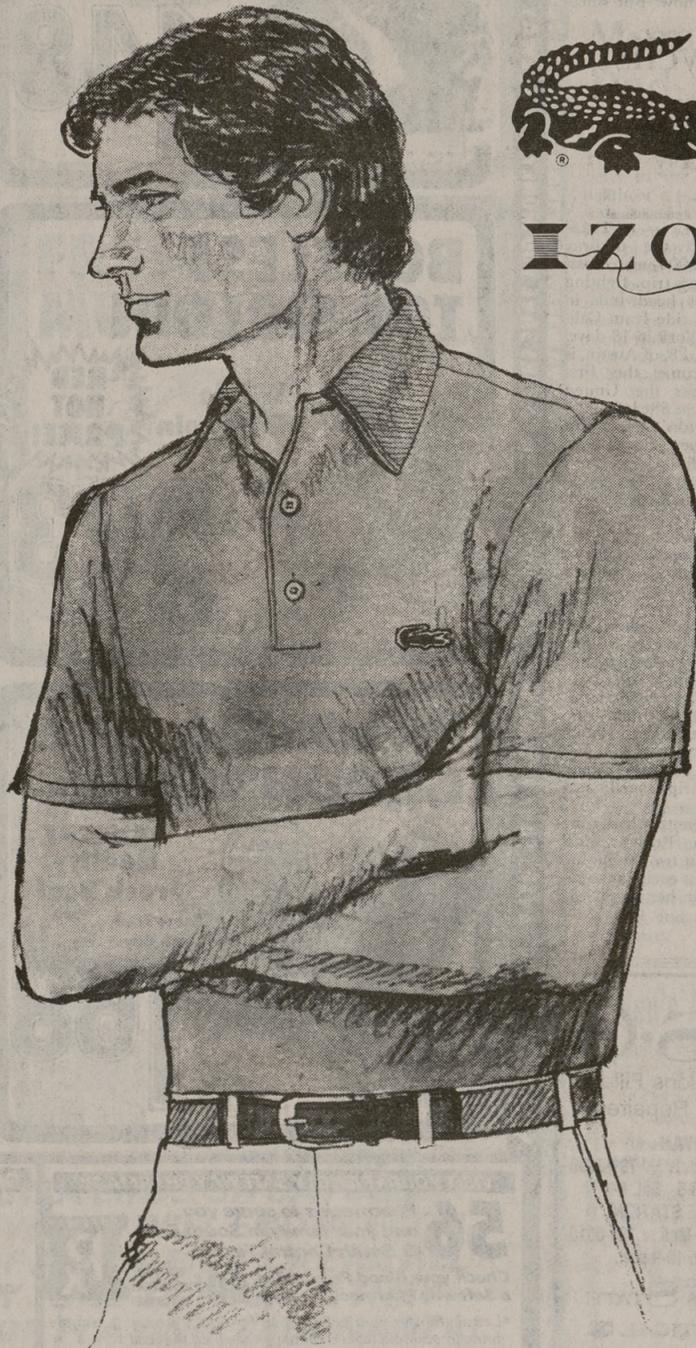
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