

Oil rig will be fake reef

United Press International
HOUSTON — Fishermen and divers are getting a new playground in the Gulf of Mexico. Tenneco Oil Exploration and Production Co. is donating a retired oil rig to Florida for use as an artificial fishing reef, a company spokesman said. Artificial reefs created around oil rig platforms, sunken ships or pieces of concrete have been popular with divers and fish-

men for years because they attract marine life. "This platform, with so many others, attracted a great variety of marine life during its 16 years off Louisiana," said President Philip Oxley of Tenneco Oil Exploration. "We expect it to be equally effective as a magnet for food and sport fish off Pensacola," Oxley said.

Mentors advise students and help solve problems

by Alison Cope
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M University Mentor Program is designed for students who desire academic and personal help and advice but the director of University Mentors said students are not taking advantage of the program.

"So far, recruiting professors to help in the program has been successful, but getting students to take part is a problem," said Dr. Shirley Black, director of University Mentors.

The mentor program was started about two years ago for students who did not find the help they needed from other campus departments.

"We are not here to replace other departments, and don't want to replace them, but we might be able to give students additional help," Black said.

There are almost 300 teachers in the mentor program who want to help students, but many say they have never been contacted by students.

Mentors try to help students by directly assisting them or by referring them to the appropriate mentors in other departments.

Students needing help can contact any mentor on campus, not just those in their major. Students are often more comfortable speaking with a professor who is not in their major department, Black said.

To make students more aware of the mentor program and who the mentors are, a temporary logo has been designed for the office doors of participating professors, Black said. Posters or mentor identification in building directories also will be used to let students know where the mentors' offices are located.

A network system to help

mentors and students contact a mentor from a specific department is also being designed. A small pamphlet, which will list each academic department mentor representative, will be published for students and mentors. The representative can then guide the student to the mentor who can help him the most.

Black said the network system should eliminate most of the problems on mentors not knowing where to refer students.

"The last thing the student with a problem needs is to be misdirected," Black said.

A program to have mentors in dorms also is in the planning stage. Mentors will be in the dorms for certain hours during the week so students can become familiar with the program and feel more comfortable about seeking help from a mentor.

"Mentors is only one of many ways to demonstrate that faculty and staff sincerely care about Aggies," Black said.

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