

STATE AND LOCAL



Look But Don't Touch Photo by MELINDA PETO

Carol Hager and Suzanne Ricca examine the architecture students design projects. The projects are in the gallery of the Langford

Architecture Center and will be displayed at the Water Resource and Food Policy conference in May.

# Middle East to be topic of 31st annual SCONA

By ANN CERVENKA Staff Writer

After discussing more than 30 possible topics, the Middle East has been chosen as the subject of the 31st annual Student Conference on National Affairs, said Linda Thomas, SCONA chairman.

The committee narrowed the topic list to five. The pros and cons of each were discussed before the decision was made, Thomas said.

"I think we ended up with the best topic for this year," Thomas said. "There's so much we can do. In fact, it's hard to limit it."

The topic of SCONA 30 was "The Emerging China," which primarily dealt with U.S./Chinese relations and domestic China. Thomas said discussion of the topic was limited because many people were uninformed about the country.

However, because the Middle East is a group of countries and each has

domestic and international interest, many people are informed about the issues of the new theme, she said.

"We do know more about the Middle East because it's always in the news," Thomas said. "There are so many different tracks we can take."

Although a specific topic has not been chosen, several sub-topics have been suggested including the political and religious wars, the Iran/Iraq crisis, economics in the Middle East and U.S. aid, terrorism, and the U.S./Soviet balance of military power in the area.

Thomas said the conference is for international students as well as American students. Delegates from various states and countries are chosen to participate in discussions with representatives who are at the top of their field.

Last year, 80 international students attended the conference, Thomas said.

The committee already has sev-

eral contacts helping to select speakers for the conference. Contacts include George Comnas, a 1935 graduate of Texas A&M who is a former chief executive officer of ESSO Africa, a parent company of Exxon; Frank Muller, former owner of a sulfur company in Saudi Arabia; Craig Buck, an expert on Egypt and Turkey; and Weldon Kruger, president of ESSO Middle East.

In preparation for the conference, a suggested summer reading list will be compiled for SCONA members.

"It's really important that we know what we're talking about," Thomas said. "The best thing we can do is watch for current events."

A file of current newspaper and magazine articles will be kept and will be available for use during the conference.

Thomas, the first female SCONA chairman, said the conference will be during the second week of February 1986.

# Symposium to discuss one cause of earthquakes, surface features

By WAYNE L. GRABEIN Reporter

Intraplate deformation, one of the causes of earthquakes and surface features throughout the world, is the topic of the seventh annual Geodynamics Research Symposium today and Friday on the seventh floor of Rudder Tower.

The plates of the Earth, similar to pieces of a shell, move in relation to each other. Scientists have studied surface deformities, such as deep-sea trenches, volcanoes and fault lines, which occur at the boundaries of these plates.

Yet movements within the plates, intraplate deformation, which is unrelated to plate boundaries, is not as familiar to today's scientists.

Although the symposium is technical, the presentations are free to any interested student. They can register at Rudder Tower, Dr. Bran Johnson of the Geodynamics Research Program at Texas A&M says. Others must pay a \$35 registration fee.

Thirty-five presentations on the characteristics, processes and causes of intraplate deformations will be given during the two day period, Johnson says.

"The symposium is one of a few of its type in the nation," he says. "It's an international meeting."

More than 200 research scientists, students and graduate students are expected to attend the four half-day sessions.

More than one-third of the speak-

ers are from outside the United States and represent various universities, research laboratories and industrial institutions from Japan, Taiwan, France, England and the Netherlands, Johnson says. Two abstracts from Soviet researchers also will be presented although the authors are unable to attend.

The rest of the speakers have traveled from across the United States and include a large number of experts.

Presentations made during the sessions will be compiled into a special issue of the Journal of Tectonophysics once the articles have been gathered, Johnson says. He added that a synopsis of each research lecture will be given at the individual sessions, creating a miniature version of the special journal.

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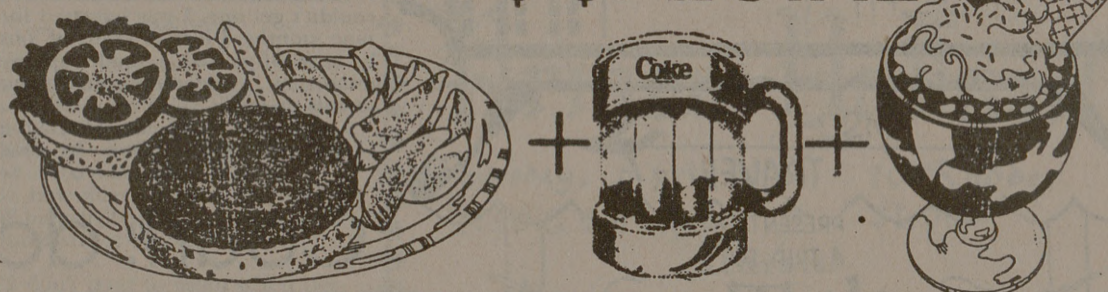
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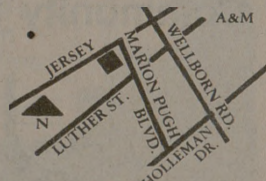
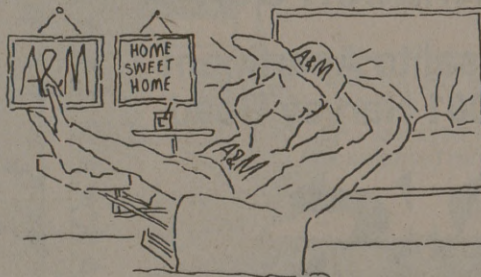


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