

State and Local

A&M prof designs sit/stand chair

inventor predicts postures may be bettered as result

By ANALISA VINSON
Reporter

Dr. Jerry Congleton, an associate professor of industrial engineering at Texas A&M, has designed a sit/stand type of chair that he says may revolutionize America's sitting posture.

Congleton began designing the chair for surgeons while working on his doctorate at Texas Tech University.

"There's an opportunity to have better posture with a sit/stand type of chair," Congleton says.

Congleton decided the chair needed to put the body in a position of neutral posture.

Neutral posture is the form astronauts take while sleeping in weightless environment.

The legs are in a 127-degree angle to the torso and the arms are out in front.

There's no pressure on the vertebrae in this position, he says.

"In space the body automatically has this posture," Congleton says. "It is also the position of the dead man's float."

Congleton has begun to market his chairs with the help of the Institute of Ventures in New Technology.

INVENT was established by the Texas Legislature in 1983 to promote research and entrepreneurship in Texas.

INVENT has invested more than \$20,000 in Congleton Workplace Systems and owns 15 percent of the company.

The institute also helped Congleton refine the original chair by making some functional changes.

The seat pan of the Pos-Chair is a combination of a tractor seat and an English saddle.

It has contour for the buttocks and thighs and leg troughs to keep the person from sliding out.

The seat pan comes in four sizes, two for men and two for women.

Congleton says the differences between a man's pelvis and a woman's pelvis makes different types of contours for the seat necessary.

The seat pan also can be adjusted from a 90-degree angle, the normal sitting position, to an angle of 130 degrees.

"This helps you find what angle is non-stressed for you," Congleton says.

In addition, the seat pan can be lifted from normal sitting to the height of a tall stool.

The chair has a backrest which can be adjusted to the small of the back by being raised or lowered.

It also has an inflatable airbag which, when pumped up, can give extra support to one's back.

INVENT also provided Congleton with marketing and business plans for his company.

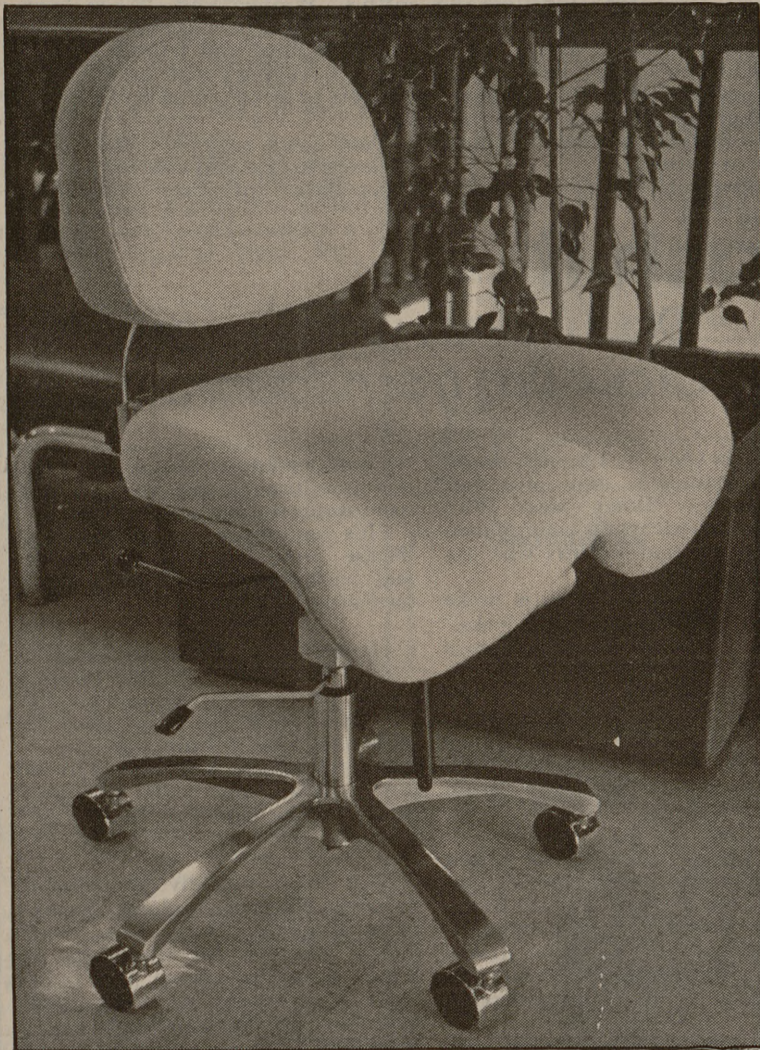
Congleton Workplace Systems had its grand open house on last Wednesday and has sold 140 chairs to date.

Congleton says he is the first faculty member and his is the second completed project to go through INVENT.

The Pos-Chair won a prize as the most utilitarian invention at the 1985 Austin Computer Fair's Inventor's Showcase.

In the past, he has designed chairs for bass boats and deer stands.

Congleton now says he would like to develop an executive chair with a larger backrest and armrests.



Dr. Jerry Congleton, an associate professor of industrial engineering, created a chair, which he says could improve posture.

develop a wheelchair and introduce microscope and computer tables.

He says he hopes to sell 3,000 chairs by the end of the company's first year.

The three main dealers will be computer stores, office supply stores, and stores that sell equipment for people with bad backs, he says.

Congleton also is looking into selling the chairs directly to major industries.

He currently is lending out some of the chairs to companies and surgeons for evaluation.

The Pos-Chair costs about \$600, but the price varies with different options and upholstery.

Hightower: Texas farm 'endangered species'

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lost 173 farms and ranches a week during 1985, while one-sixth of the survivors predict 1986 could be their last year on the land, a new study said Tuesday.

"The personal effects of the financial devastation have idled productive farmland and left proud families in ruin," said the report released by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said the farm crisis that has spread from the Midwest to Texas rivals the oil price slump in economic devastation.

"The commercial family farmer in Texas is an endangered species, having survived the last four years on determination, grit and remarkable efficiency in the face of overwhelming economic obstacles," Hightower said.

"Texas farmers just finished their worst year since the Great Depression. . . . By every indication, the farm crisis in Texas will be much worse in 1986. Action must be taken immediately if we hope the family farm will survive this decade."

Among the report's findings:

- Since 1981, 49,000 Texas farms have gone out of business.
- Statewide, 17.7 percent of farmers said 1986 could be their last year.
- After adjustment for inflation, farm income fell 35 percent from 1979 to 1984. Meanwhile, production costs soared by more than \$800 million.
- Texas farm debt grew by \$4 billion, with the current statewide farm debt surpassing \$14 billion.
- Regional farmland values have plummeted, with values in the High Plains dropping by as much as 25 percent and values on the Gulf Coast down by 21 percent.
- Used equipment values have fallen by as much as 60 percent.

The study said the damage being done extends far beyond the farm or ranch gates.

Problems extend from farm sup-

ply companies saddled with high debt and dormant machinery to teachers who have lost their jobs because many Texas farmers and ranchers, socked in with unyielding debts and dwindling hope, are delinquent in taxes that vitalize their cities and towns, the study says.

Rep. Steve Carriker, D-Roby, a farmer and chairman of the task force, said rural banks also are suffering as farmers find themselves unable to repay.

"Texas farmers and ranchers have never expected to have a guaranteed profit from their work, but today's farm programs have guaranteed them a loss," Carriker said.

He said the study found that High Plains farmers lose as much as 66 cents on each bushel of corn they grow; West Texas farmers lose 16 cents per pound of cotton; northeast Texas farmers lose 51 cents on a bushel of soybeans; and Gulf Coast farmers lose \$6.62 per hundred-weight of rice.

"With losses like these, you can understand why so many farmers believe they will have reached the end of their rope before this year is out," Carriker said.

The study suggested several short-term and longer range actions, although it stopped short of recommending a moratorium on farm foreclosures or establishment of state-subsidized loan programs.

But Hightower said the key is congressional legislation which allows family farmers to cover their production costs and imposes a supply-management mechanism to adjust crop production to demand.

The current federal farm bill must be changed this year, he said.

"Political pressure is building up for Congress to do something sensible rather than something terminally dumb," Hightower said.

Over the long term, Hightower said, government credit demands brought on by high federal deficits must be reduced to bring down interest rates, and farmers need to diversify into alternative cash crops.

Plitt THEATRE GUIDE
Plitt Information 846-6714

Post Oak III
Post Oak Mall 764-0616

Cinema III
Skaggs Center 846-6714

SCHULMAN THEATRES

2.50 ADMISSION
Any show before 3PM
Tuesday - All Seats
Mon-Wed Local students with current ID's

PLAZA 3
25 Southwest Pky 693-2457

PRETTY IN PINK PG-13 7:20 9:40

THE COLOR PURPLE PG-13 7:05 9:55

OUT OF AFRICA PG 8:30

MANOR EAST 3

MANOR 823
East Mall 8300

TOWN AND OUT IN EVERLY HILLS R 7:25 9:45

OFF BEAT PG 7:30 9:50

SLEEPING BEAUTY G 7:15 9:00

SCHULMAN 6

42 E. 29th 775-2463

POLICE ACADEMY 3 PG 7:20 9:40

O.W. 7:30 9:55

THE ESCAPE R.

CROSSROADS R 7:25 9:45

MURPHY'S ROMANCE R 7:20 9:45

KILDCATS R 7:15 9:50

APRIL FOOL'S DAY R 7:35 9:55

Free U.S. Treasury Bonds

For each \$1,000 you spend at Texas Coin Exchange on a loose diamond, Texas Coin Exchange will give you a \$1,000 U.S. Treasury bond. This offer does not apply on any other merchandise. Lay-a-way not included. This offer ends Saturday, April 19, 1986!

ROUND				ROUND				OVAL			
Bonds	Our Price	Compare at		Our Price	Compare at	Bonds	Our Price	Compare at		Our Price	Compare at
3.00cts	13,000	13,350 ⁰⁰	25,000 ⁰⁰	.53pts	845 ⁰⁰	1,650 ⁰⁰	2.58cts	9,000	9,750 ⁰⁰	\$19,500 ⁰⁰	
2.04cts	7,000	7,980 ⁰⁰	13,500 ⁰⁰	.53pts	495 ⁰⁰	995 ⁰⁰	1.15cts	2,000	2,495 ⁰⁰	5,200 ⁰⁰	
2.04cts	6,000	6,650 ⁰⁰	12,250 ⁰⁰	.52pts	830 ⁰⁰	1,650 ⁰⁰	1.01cts	2,000	2,475 ⁰⁰	4,950 ⁰⁰	
2.02cts	7,000	7,950 ⁰⁰	14,500 ⁰⁰	.52pts	820 ⁰⁰	1,640 ⁰⁰	1.00cts	3,000	3,300 ⁰⁰	6,750 ⁰⁰	
2.16cts	4,000	4,985 ⁰⁰	8,950 ⁰⁰	.51pts	795 ⁰⁰	1,550 ⁰⁰	.83pts	1,000	1,650 ⁰⁰	3,300 ⁰⁰	
1.92cts	4,000	4,575 ⁰⁰	7,500 ⁰⁰	.50pts	750 ⁰⁰	1,500 ⁰⁰	.78pts	1,000	1,650 ⁰⁰	3,300 ⁰⁰	
1.57cts	3,000	3,875 ⁰⁰	5,900 ⁰⁰	.49pts	770 ⁰⁰	1,650 ⁰⁰	.71pts	1,000	1,650 ⁰⁰	2,900 ⁰⁰	
1.57cts	3,000	3,875 ⁰⁰	5,900 ⁰⁰	.49pts	750 ⁰⁰	1,550 ⁰⁰	.63pts	1,000	895 ⁰⁰	1,750 ⁰⁰	
1.52cts	4,000	4,395 ⁰⁰	6,300 ⁰⁰	.48pts	785 ⁰⁰	1,700 ⁰⁰	.44pts	3,000	335 ⁰⁰	670 ⁰⁰	
1.55cts	3,000	3,575 ⁰⁰	6,200 ⁰⁰	.48pts	795 ⁰⁰	1,700 ⁰⁰	.38pts	2,000	285 ⁰⁰	575 ⁰⁰	
1.41cts	3,000	3,475 ⁰⁰	5,700 ⁰⁰	.47pts	750 ⁰⁰	1,700 ⁰⁰	.38pts	2,000	285 ⁰⁰	575 ⁰⁰	
1.33cts	3,000	3,495 ⁰⁰	6,800 ⁰⁰	.47pts	795 ⁰⁰	1,500 ⁰⁰	.32pts	2,000	240 ⁰⁰	485 ⁰⁰	
1.25cts	2,000	2,875 ⁰⁰	5,500 ⁰⁰	.46pts	585 ⁰⁰	1,150 ⁰⁰	.30pts	2,000	225 ⁰⁰	430 ⁰⁰	
1.25cts	2,000	2,195 ⁰⁰	4,200 ⁰⁰	.46pts	585 ⁰⁰	1,150 ⁰⁰	.27pts	2,000	200 ⁰⁰	295 ⁰⁰	
1.20cts	2,000	2,095 ⁰⁰	3,975 ⁰⁰	.46pts	585 ⁰⁰	1,150 ⁰⁰	.25pts	2,000	195 ⁰⁰	295 ⁰⁰	
1.12cts	1,000	1,985 ⁰⁰	3,800 ⁰⁰	.46pts	785 ⁰⁰	1,500 ⁰⁰					
1.12cts	1,000	1,675 ⁰⁰	2,975 ⁰⁰	.47pts	750 ⁰⁰	1,500 ⁰⁰					
1.09cts	2,000	2,825 ⁰⁰	5,500 ⁰⁰	.46pts	595 ⁰⁰	1,250 ⁰⁰					
1.09cts	2,000	2,825 ⁰⁰	5,500 ⁰⁰	.45pts	535 ⁰⁰	1,100 ⁰⁰					
1.08cts	2,000	2,395 ⁰⁰	4,850 ⁰⁰	.45pts	660 ⁰⁰	1,250 ⁰⁰					
1.08cts	2,000	2,795 ⁰⁰	5,350 ⁰⁰	.45pts	695 ⁰⁰	1,250 ⁰⁰					
1.06cts	1,000	1,875 ⁰⁰	3,850 ⁰⁰	.45pts	270 ⁰⁰	475 ⁰⁰					
1.06cts	1,000	1,875 ⁰⁰	3,850 ⁰⁰	.45pts	270 ⁰⁰	475 ⁰⁰					
1.03cts	3,000	3,235 ⁰⁰	5,975 ⁰⁰	.46pts	265 ⁰⁰	550 ⁰⁰					
1.01cts	1,000	1,850 ⁰⁰	3,850 ⁰⁰	.46pts	250 ⁰⁰	475 ⁰⁰					
1.02cts	2,000	2,695 ⁰⁰	5,350 ⁰⁰	.46pts	235 ⁰⁰	475 ⁰⁰					
1.02cts	2,000	2,695 ⁰⁰	5,350 ⁰⁰	.23pts	215 ⁰⁰	415 ⁰⁰					
1.01cts	1,000	1,950 ⁰⁰	3,850 ⁰⁰	.20pts	205 ⁰⁰	410 ⁰⁰					
1.01cts	1,000	1,950 ⁰⁰	3,850 ⁰⁰	.20pts	180 ⁰⁰	380 ⁰⁰					
1.00cts	2,000	2,095 ⁰⁰	4,200 ⁰⁰	.20pts	165 ⁰⁰	350 ⁰⁰					
1.00cts	2,000	2,075 ⁰⁰	4,175 ⁰⁰	.19pts	165 ⁰⁰	350 ⁰⁰					
.96pts	1,000	1,950 ⁰⁰	3,950 ⁰⁰	.18pts	155 ⁰⁰	295 ⁰⁰					
.97pts	1,000	1,520 ⁰⁰	2,975 ⁰⁰	.18pts	63 ⁰⁰	125 ⁰⁰					
.97pts	1,000	1,975 ⁰⁰	3,850 ⁰⁰	.10pts	41 ⁰⁰	85 ⁰⁰					
.93pts	1,000	1,650 ⁰⁰	3,500 ⁰⁰	.08pts	38 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰					
.82pts	1,000	1,255 ⁰⁰	2,350 ⁰⁰	.07pts	33 ⁰⁰	65 ⁰⁰					
.76pts	1,000	1,050 ⁰⁰	2,150 ⁰⁰	.06pts	29 ⁰⁰	45 ⁰⁰					
.72pts	1,000	1,195 ⁰⁰	2,350 ⁰⁰								
.71pts	1,000	1,295 ⁰⁰	2,600 ⁰⁰								
.67pts	1,000	975 ⁰⁰	1,950 ⁰⁰								
.66pts	1,000	975 ⁰⁰	1,950 ⁰⁰								
.65pts	1,000	815 ⁰⁰	1,675 ⁰⁰								
.64pts	1,000	825 ⁰⁰	1,650 ⁰⁰								
.63pts	1,000	835 ⁰⁰	1,650 ⁰⁰								
.63pts	1,000	825 ⁰⁰	1,650 ⁰⁰								
.62pts	1,000	825 ⁰⁰	1,650 ⁰⁰								
.61pts	1,000	775 ⁰⁰	1,550 ⁰⁰								
.61pts	1,000	775 ⁰⁰	1,550 ⁰⁰								
.61pts	1,000	775 ⁰⁰	1,550 ⁰⁰								
.61pts	1,000	775 ⁰⁰	1,550 ⁰⁰								
.61pts	1,000	775 ⁰⁰	1,550 ⁰⁰								
.60pts	1,000	945 ⁰⁰	1,850 ⁰⁰								
.59pts	1,000	930 ⁰⁰	1,830 ⁰⁰								
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