## Oceanographers from A&M lead study of large underwater plateau

## **By Jerry Bolz** Reporter

Texas A&M researchers are leading a team of scientists in a study of the world's largest underwater plateau.

team of about 50 scientists, nearly 25 of them from A&M, are spending two months studying the Kerguelen Plateau in the Indian Ocean, said Dr. Philip Rabinowitz, Rabinowitz said th ODP director and oceanographer.

The other 25 scientists are from around the world, he said.

The 2,500 kilometer-long plateau is part of the Ocean Drilling Program's (ODP) worldwide research.

The team is taking and research-ing core samples of the area to try to

the plateau's formation are being investigated by the team. The oldest theory holds that the Kerguelen is a land mass sheared off Antarctica.

Another theory claims the plateau is the product of spreading of the Southeast Indian Ridge. The third hypothesis holds that the Kerguelen is the result of tremendous volcanic activity, possibly related to a hot spot

Rabinowitz said the plateau's exis-tence might be a result of a combination of the three theories.

Rabinowitz said he has no real expectations of a big discovery for the cruise

"This requires research in pains-taking detail that may take years to come to fruition," he said. "We're discover its origin. Three theories of trving to see how earth has evolved

through time to be able to predict the problem of icebergs interfering such things as earthquakes, volca- with movement of JOIDES Resolusuch things as earthquakes, volcanoes, location of mineral resources

and sites for nuclear waste." The JOIDES Resolution, a 470feet long drillship used on the cruise is equipped to reach the 1,000- to 2,000-meter depths necessary to sample the Kerguelen. Aboard the ship is a seven-story, 12,000-squarefeet laboratory stack, containing 12 separate labs.

There probably aren't many universities that have this kind of equipment," Rabinowitz said.

The JOIDES Resolution was used for oil and gas drilling before conversion to a scientific drilling vessel. It houses the 50 scientists and also the near-60 crew members.

Drilling near Antarctica presents

tion

To combat this problem, ODP has employed the use of the Maersk Master, an ice-support vessel rented at about \$900,000 for two to three weeks, Rabinowitz said

Maersk Master circles the drillship searching for ice, and is able to tow icebergs if necessary.

'It moved one iceberg larger than Kyle Field," Rabinowitz said. "I'm sure it was the largest object ever moved by man.'

In about a year, the findings of ODP research of the Kerguelen will be published, Rabinowitz said.

Our goal is to learn about earth and how it ticks, to utilize it," he said.

## Market in Dallas revives business through programs

DALLAS (AP) — Sales at the Dallas Market Center softened with the Texas economy a few years ago, forcing officials to find new ways to attract buyers, and the marketing strategies they

started began paying off. The Market Center, a 150-acre complex of wholesale showrooms contained in eight buildings, typ-ically draws 500,000 buyers a year. The center handles about \$6.5 billion worth of wholesale orders annually.

Last year, the number of buy-ers was down, but the number of stores represented was up. "We look at two things when

we're talking about the number of buyers: quality and quantity," said Michael Parks, president of the center's Hardgoods Division, which includes furniture, floor covering, lighting, jewelry and bath-bed-linen industries.

"In 1987, we had the healthiest year we've had in four years (in the Hardgoods Division). We held our own in the Southwest. Our growth came out of the other regions of the country. We have done a lot of marketing to those other regions.

Buyer attendance percent last year in the Soft division, which includes women's and children's a and related merchandise. ever, the number of store resented, a crucial denomin increased 11 percent, said sion president Donna Knox. "Fortunately, a number

years ago, we redefined our egy on attracting retailers las," said Lucy Crow Billin chief executive officer of the

las Market Center. "Not only do we want what we've always been best specialty store market country - but we also want pand geographically and much further than the l area next to us. And we've that.

Independent chains and st home-owned retailers have the traditional base of the Market Center's buyers. plementing a new retail buy velopment program, con with travel incentives, re outside the Southwest and department-store chains ha come more aware of the l Market Center.

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Marshall welcomes financially troubled Dallas Ballet

MARSHALL (AP) — The Dallas Ballet danced to sizable and enthusiastic audiences in Marshall this weekend but officials said the performances may be the last for the fi-

nancially strapped company. Ballet officials last month canceled the final two productions of the 1987-88 season and set March 15 as the deadline to raise \$450,000

to meet immediate expenses and re-structure their \$1.8 million debts. Civic and arts leaders in Marshall extended an invitation to the company to rehearse and perform after

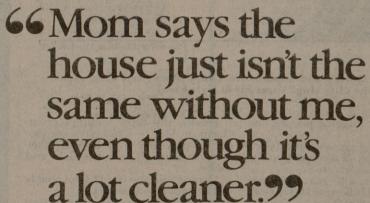
the remainder of its season was canceled. The Dallas Ballet was expected to make between \$25,000 and \$35,000 from the two performances, which

were sponsored by the Marshall Re- ming Flindt, the ballet's artistic digional Arts Council, the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce Arts Council, the Greater and the city of Marshall.

The company was the opening program for the Marshall Theater at the Civic Center in 1984, said Rock Kershaw, executive director of the Marshall Regional Arts Council. "We feel welcome," said Flem-

rector. "We did our first big 'Nut-cracker' here (in 1984) and the reception was wonderful. We feel very welcome here."

The Marshall performances rep-resented a big lift to the dancers' spirits and provided two weeks of





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