6,000 Sign Up For Second Term

The Battalion

Vol. 67 No. 268 College Station, Texas Wednesday, July 18, 1973

REGISTRATION ran smoothly with no major problems Thursday as students signed up for classes which began the next day. (Photo by Peter Leabo)

Chinese Scientists Visit A&M

Six insect hormone research specialists from the People's Republic of China were on campus last week for a three-day tour of A&M's research and experiment facilities.

The scientific delegation, while in the United States, is hosted by the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China (CSCPRC), a committee which is jointly sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council.

Heading the Chinese delegation is Chen Te-ming, professor of physiology and biophysics, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Deputy head is Hsu Chao-hsiang, deputy chief of division, Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Scientific and Technical Association, Peking.

Other members of the delegation are Chiu Shih-pang, professor of entomology, Chinese Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences; Chou Wei-shan, associate professor of organic chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry; Shen Lien-fang, scientific worker of instrumental analysis, Kirin Institute of Applied Chemistry; and Liu Menying, scientific worker of organic synthesis, Institute of Zoology.

The delegation's College Station tour, which ended Saturday with a bus tour of the A&M compus, was highlighted by a visit to the laboratory of Dr. Herbert A. Roller, professor of endocrinology and biology at TAMU and an acknowledged leader in insect hormone synthesis research.

"They have great problems with rice and cotton pests," said Dr. Roller. "China is suffering from the insects' resistance to standard insecticides. They still use DDT, organophosphates and carbonates."

The use of insect hormones differs from standard pesticides in that, instead of poisoning the insect, the hormones affect the pest's growth and the insect either dies from failure to develop into adulthood or dies from developing abnormally.

The pests in China are relatively the same type of pests with which the U.S. has to contend, said Dr. Roller.

"It was apparent that the delegation not only enjoyed the visit, but considered it very profitable," said Dr. William Fife, A&M's coordinator for the visit.

The party also toured laboratories in the Biology Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Toxicology and Entomology facilities and other research departments at TAMU.

The Chinese scientists were extremely interested in research apparatus in the laboratories, and exchanged ideas on various areas of research with TAMU scientists.

A small pocket calculator proved to be of extreme interest to the scientists, who insisted on a demonstration of the unit by a graduate lab assistant.

Members of the delegation were presented with medals commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Texas Rangers at a banquet in their honor Friday evening.

The scientists expressed appreciation to laboratory technicians as the tour progressed, offering comment on the efficient manner of laboratory operation.

They were impressed by the number of graduate students undertaking research work, and commented on the facilities provided for students at A&M.

The visit to A&M was a segment of a nation-wide tour of universities and government research facilities by the scientists. The group visited Harvard, Columbia, the University of Wisconsin at Madison and other institutions before coming to Texas A&M.

'Zapper' New Weapon For Fighting Weeds

Science fiction suddenly became science reality here Friday (July 13) when a strange looking machine rumbled across a field and thoroughly zapped weeds.

The instrument of execution is known as the Zapper, and its principle of operation sounds like something right out of the world of Buck Rogers.

Several hundred curious spectators gathered near the Oceanography International Corporation building in South College Station to watch Zapper do its thing. The whining machine ambled along and left a swath of of soil pollution or contamination.

Development of the soil pest killer is a cooperative venture of Oceanography International Corporation, Texas A&M University, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

OIC President John Hughey says Zapper slays weeds by applying microwaves directly to soil. And if any grasses, fungi, nematodes and other soil varmits get in the way, they will get the treatment, too.

Microwaves are a form of radio waves. They can be generated and sent through space. Hughey says the system provides a safe, non-polluting, long-duration control of weeds and soil-borne pests. Zapped soil is immediately ready to be seeded, with no concern for toxic residue.

"Tests of this Zapper prototype over the past three years have produced consistently successful — sometimes amazing — results. Yet to be explored are its applications to areas other than agriculture," the OIC official said.

Microwaves do absolutely terrible things to plants' innards. Twists their molecules all around.

"This accelerated action brings on damage to the internal structure of the seed or plant, and death results. The killing is physical, not chemical," Hughey pointed out.

Since the soil is left almost pest-free after the machine's treatment, sizeable increases in crop yields have been recorded in USDA tests. Hughey said cantaloupes and onions planted in zapped soil jumped their yields 35 to 60 percent over those in hand-weeded plots. Increases were even better over those raised in chemically treated soil.

Present uses call for weed control where costs per acre exceeded $15. Future technology will allow use in lower cost-per-acre situations.

Zapper is a big hunk of machine an disn't something for the home yard and garden. It resembles a large combine and is 22 feet long, 8 feet wide and almost 10 feet high. The demonstration model weighs about 32,000 pounds because it is crammed full of research equipment. Engineering refinements are expected to reduce later versions to around 20,000 pounds.

Zapper's road speed is 10 miles

(See 'Zapper', page 8)

New Dean Finds A&M 'Exciting'

"A&M is tremendously progressive, and I find this very exciting," said Professor Raymond Reed, the new dean of A&M's College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

Reed, a 43-year-old native of California, officially joined A&M June 1. He succeeded Dean Romieniec who requested to return to fulltime teaching.

Reed said providing technical expertise and mental flexibility in his students are the basic responsibilities of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

"We must insure that the student develops a sensitivity and the capability to solve contemporary problems," he pointed out. "On the other hand, we must encourage resiliency of mind so the student can intelligently help shape the environment under the differing situations of the future."

Dean Reed explained that these commitments can and will be met through continued development of strong teaching, research, continuing education and extension programs.

"It is our charge to organize teaching, research and extension so that students can leave the university technically and philosophically prepared to contribute to their professions, society and the State of Texas," he said.

Reed noted he has a personal interest in teaching freshmen and graduate students in the College and give architectural and environmental design philosophy as his major teaching fields.

The new dean cited TAMU's national reputation in education and research, and said it is in a good position to assume leadership in environmental design education. Because of its strength as a land grant and sea grant university, A&M enjoys opportunities and obligations other universities do not, Reed pointed out.

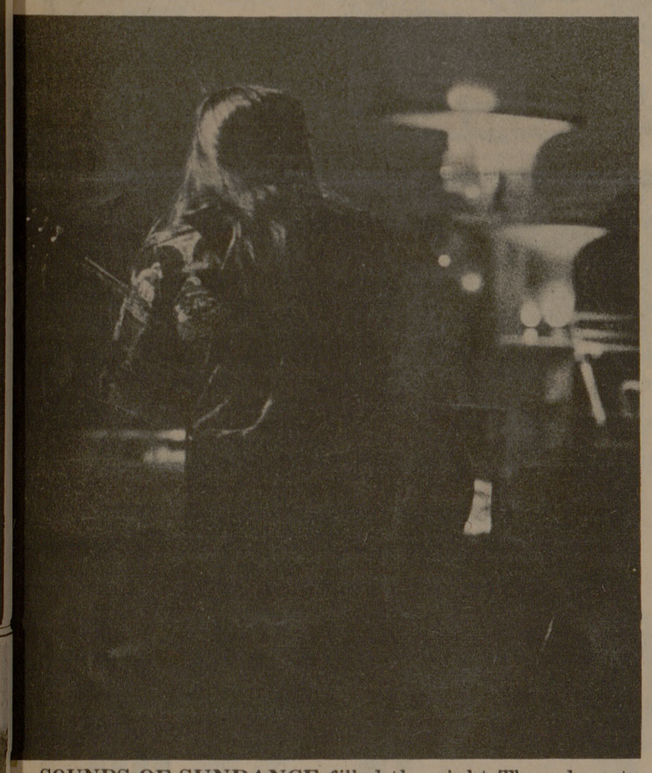
The former national chairman of the American Institute of Architects' Committee on Architectural Education and Research showed an interest in Texas' as yet "relatively undeveloped" sea coast. The population shift from north to south has reflected recognition of the coast's potential, he pointed out.

"Plans to develop the Texas sea coast so as to conserve the ecology of the land and sea are essential," he stressed.

Reed also said that A&M will continue its medical facilities design and research projects. "A&M is recognized nationally in this area," he explained. "We will continue these programs as long as they are considered socially relevant."

"We misuse our environment," Reed emphasized, and pointed out that we must cope with the problem of better design and utilization of our human and natural resources.

Reed reminded the College of Architecture and Environmental Design is divided into the Departments of Architecture, Building Construction, Environmental Design, Landscape Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning and the Architecture Research Center. He said the task of preparing students to create a sustainable human environment where people can live better while using less of our recoverable resources binds the departments together.



SOUNDS OF SUNDANCE filled the night Thursday at an MSC sponsored swim and dance party at the A&M pool.

Presnal Joins A&M Research Foundation

Bill Presnal has joined the Texas A&M Research Foundation as a special assistant, announced Dean Fred J. Benson, TAMRF director.

The foundation, a non-profit corporation, serves A&M by helping locate sponsored research projects which coincide with the institution's research strengths and interests. It also assists in development of research proposals and contract administration.

Presnal, who represents District 28 (Brazos and Robertson Counties) in the Texas House of Representatives, was a member of the A&M staff from 1962 until 1963. He also was associated with the research foundation in 1968.

"Bill Presnal brings to the foundation a considerable amount of legislative and governmental experience which we think will be of particular value on the federal level," Benson noted. "Specifically, he will be responsible for tracking Congressional legislation which has a significant bearing on university research programs. He also will provide advice regarding critical state needs in areas where A&M can make contributions through research."

"I welcome the opportunity to serve the foundation in this capacity," Presnal said, "and look forward to giving it my full attention at all times except when fulfilling my legislative responsibilities."

Presnal is a 1953 A&M graduate. He also earned a master's degree from A&M in 1960.

Summer Grads Applications Due Friday

A&M students who expect to graduate Aug. 17 must make formal degree application by Friday, July 20.

Registrar Robert A. Lacey said the deadline applies to undergraduate and graduate students.

The Aug. 17 commencement will be A&M's first formal summer graduation ceremony.

The degree application is the responsibility of the student, Lacey noted.

Degree applications are made at the Richard Coke Building. After paying the $5 graduation fee at the Fiscal Office, undergraduate students should apply at Room 7. Graduate students apply for the degree in the Graduate College. The fee receipt must be presented to make application.

Two Students Die In Auto Accidents

Two A&M students, Gail Lynn Browder and Robert A. McSwain, were killed in auto accidents last week.

Browder, 21-year-old senior geology major, died July 7 in a one-car accident near Fort Stockton in West Texas.

He was returning to his home in Quanah from a geology field camp at Alpine.

Services were held July 9 in Quanah. Browder was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Browder, 304 W. 12th, Quanah, where he attended high school.

McSwain, of San Angelo, died Thursday morning from injuries in a packup truck accident late Wednesday near Brady.

Services were held at the First Christian Church in Brady.

He was the son of R. F. McSwain Jr., 2536 Princeton, San Angelo. The 18-year-old student's grandfather, Ross F. McSwain Sr. of Brady, was a 1924 A&M graduate.

The A&M student was the great nephew of Augus S. McSwain, 115 Rebecca, Bryan.

Canoe Trip Huge Success

A&M students plan another canoe jaunt after a successful weekend trip down part of the San Marcos River.

The upcoming trip will probably traverse a segment of the more challenging Guadalupe River, from Canyon Dam to New Braunfels.

"There's quite a bit of interest in another trip," commented Doug Ridge. "It's tentative for the first week of August. This part of the Guadalupe is rougher than the San Marcos."

Several novice canoeists found parts of the San Marcos River rugged enough. But all 70 students and faculty-staff safely negotiated the 20 river miles.

"They had a real good time," Ridge reported. "Everybody had plenty of fun. The biggest problem was mosquitoes."

Lee Robertson, in charge of the trip and the most experienced canoeist, concurred with Ridge. The senior physical education major said the outcome proved something about Aggies.

"The rapids scared off some, but most of them—including the novices—wanted no part of portaging around the rough water," he related. "They wanted to run it."

"I think it proves the average Aggie, and Maggies too, have lots of intestinal fortitude," the Arkansas canoeing competition veteran remarked. "Some of them left their common sense in College Station," Robertson grinned.

"They would portage back upstream and run 'em again," he said.

The route they followed is the first leg of the annual Texas Water Safari, a canoe-boat race from San Marcos to Seadrift.

No one escaped capsizing.

Only one canoe out of 30 came out with more than minor damage. It tried to wrap around a rock at Cottonseed Rapids, a 300-yard-long "S" of fast water that dunked most of the paddlers.

Injuries were limited to a few scratches and sore muscles.

Robertson, a 220-pounder, and 230-pound gridder John Gunn provided thrills for the rest of the group. They gained a 10-minute lead along a quiet stretch of the San Marcos, climbed a pecan tree overhanging the river and leaped out at the unsuspecting canoeists.

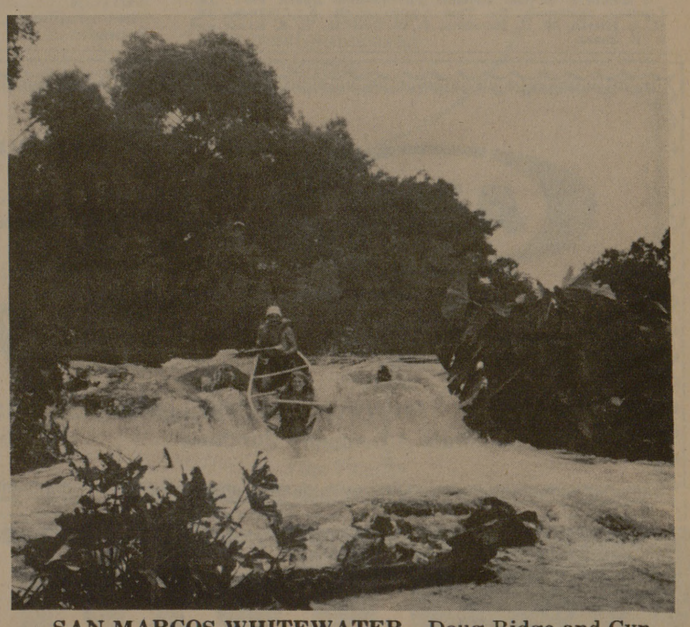
"After that they saw a lot of squirrels and birds," Robertson said.

Though group members had diverse backgrounds, they teamed up well, the leaders observed.

"Two new faculty members were surprised at the way everyone helped each other out," Robertson said.

More than 100 persons inquired about the trip. Size of the group was limited by availability of canoes.

"It came off perfect," noted Ridge, chairman of the Memorial Student Center Recreation Committee which arranged the trip. "About an hour after we pulled the canoes out at Staples, Parks and Wildlife Department people warned everyone off the river. There was an eight-foot rise."



SAN MARCOS WHITEWATER—Doug Ridge and Cynthia Harris shoot small rapids during a canoe trip on the San Marcos River.