

Legislator speaks at Ag Convocation

By CATHY SAATHOFF

Campus Reporter
Agriculture students at Texas A&M University are the lifeblood of the changing agriculture movement, Congressman E. "Kika" de la Garza told the Student Agricultural Convocation Monday night.

De la Garza, speaking to a sparse audience in Rudder Auditorium, said, "You are going to be the lifeblood, the taproot, the alpha and the omega of the survival of mankind."

The convocation's purpose was to recognize the outstanding students in the College of Agriculture. De la Garza, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, spoke on the future of agriculture.

"You have gotten into the very middle of what's going to be the most exciting years of agriculture," de la Garza said. "Because of the institution that you come from, I think that you will be 'it' among your peers."

De la Garza said Aggies will be doing much of the research and development that will improve agriculture.

"The farmer has been the bulwark of sustaining this country. Something is wrong with the distribution and marketing aspect of it," de la Garza said, referring to the farmer as being at the "bottom of the totem pole" in the economy.

The congressman said the next major war will not be fought with weapons but with economic methods, which will mean withholding agricultural goods from other countries.

"I think personally I would prefer that because it would have a greater effect on a government than just blowing it to smithereens," he said.

De la Garza said farm products are replacing manufactured goods as the major exports of this

country. He also mentioned space stations as the farmland of the future.

The Student Agriculture Council and Alpha Zeta, sponsors of the convocation, also showed slides on aspects of the College of Agriculture and presented awards.

Junior Robert Jones received the Eva Simmons Potts Memorial scholarship of \$250 per semester. Alpha Zeta presented awards to the outstanding student at each level: James Boenig, freshman; Cheryl Wendler, sophomore; and Julie Smiley, junior.

Also, 19 senior merit awards were given, and Jim Johnson of the horticulture department was named Outstanding Professor in the college.

The Collegiate Future Farmers of America received the Gavel Award for having 73 percent of its members present, more than any of the other 19 technical clubs on the ag council.

Spousenapped kids' mothers fight back

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — Federal officials estimate between 25,000 and 100,000 children are "kidnapped" by an estranged parent in custody disputes — breaking hearts and creating a burgeoning legal problem.

Christina Janowski knows all about the problems of "childnapping." She spent five bitter, difficult years trying to locate her daughter, only to be rebuffed by a Mexican court. Now she has opened a third chapter — the first in Texas — of Childsearch International to help mothers regain their children.

"I was not successful in getting my child back, but if I can help even one mother have her child returned to her, I will feel somewhat vindicated," Janowski said.

She founded the organization in

Mexico City after her custody struggle ended. Five years ago her ex-husband, a Mexican national, took her daughter, Victoria, now 8, from their Chicago home. She traced them to Mexico, searching Mexico City's seediest areas and sleeping in her car.

Her ex-husband offered her \$500 a month to forget the child and when she refused, her former brother-in-law beat her. When she finally was able to get the custody issue in court, a Mexican judge refused to give her custody.

Currently there is no federal standard to guide law enforcement officers in the retrieval of children. Other laws are contradictory. Janowski's agency seeks to distribute information to mothers whose children have been taken and then advises them of

legal options.

Childsearch also offers emotional support to the mother, who often finds herself in shock at the sudden loss of a child.

"Women whose children are 'childnapped' are repeatedly victimized by unscrupulous attorneys and investigators who are quick to realize the mother is desperate and distraught and will spend what money is necessary," Janowski said.

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Student charged in coke bust

United Press International
GRETNA, La. — Jefferson Parish authorities have set bond at \$30,000 for a University of Texas student charged with attempting to smuggle 4.75 ounces of pure cocaine with a street value of about \$15,600.

Manuel Martin, 20, remained in the Jefferson Parish lockup Monday. He was arrested by U.S. Customs Service agents Sunday at New Orleans International Airport as he returned to the U.S. from El Salvador.

Customs officials said an inspector found a packet of cocaine in a seat pocket on a Braniff airliner when Martin was away from his seat. Authorities said the inspector replaced the packet then arrested Martin as he attempted to pick it up and leave the plane.

Three of Spring and pilot victims of Tomball crash

United Press International
TOMBALL — Officials Monday identified the victims of the crash of a four-seat private plane that missed a landing attempt at Hooks Airport and plowed into a wooded area nearby.

The victims were identified as Nick Bremer, 22, the pilot; Sharon Hess, 22, of Spring, Bremer's fiancée;

Connie Vara, 27, of Spring, and her son, Coy, 4, also of Spring. Hess and Vara were cousins.

Officials at Hooks Airport said the plane apparently missed its first landing approach, then crashed five miles north of the airport on its second attempt about 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Weather conditions were foggy,

but officials were unsure if they were a factor in the crash. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

The Cessna Skyhawk II had flown to College Station earlier in the day and crashed on the return flight to Tomball, officials said.

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