



staff photo by Sumanesh Agrawal

So-o fine

Admiring the intricate work of the jewelry on sale at the Memorial Student Center, is Jesus Acosta, an animal science major from Mexico City. The ornaments will be on sale until Friday.

Farmers encouraged to develop other crops

United Press International
RALEIGH, N.C. — Faced with anti-tobacco sentiment and the need to diversify crop production, some North Carolina farmers are being encouraged by a nonprofit group to broaden their operations.

"What we say to the farmers is rather than wait until the rug is pulled out from under you, develop other crops now," Arnie J. Katz, coordinator of the North Carolina Land Trustees, said.

Some farmers in the Piedmont Vegetable Marketing Cooperative are planting sweet potatoes in tobacco field rows left vacant for the passage of truck and spraying equipment.

"Sweet potatoes are particularly suitable for that particular method because, by growing under the ground, they will not get hurt when a tractor goes through spraying the tobacco," Katz said.

Katz said sweet potato production is complimentary to tobacco.

"They don't happen at the same time," he said, adding that North Carolina is the largest sweet potato producer in the nation. "We're also placing an emphasis on sweet potatoes at the beginning because it's a less risky crop. It's not nearly as perishable."

Although Katz said farmers

are beginning to move away from tobacco because of the anti-smoking movement, he said other factors also are involved.

"The mechanization of tobacco harvesting along with the changes in the allotment system have made moving from farm to farm a lot easier. As a result, the small tobacco farmer is having more difficulty competing," Katz said. "Tobacco has been the basis for the small farmer in North Carolina but it won't be for very long."

Katz said his group encourages farmers to develop other crops so they can keep their land, stay in business and not be totally dependent on tobacco.

"They're not giving up tobacco but they realize their future should not be dependent on the crop," he said. "They will continue to grow it as long as they can make money off of it."

Growing other crops besides tobacco not only provides an alternative way for making a living, but Katz said it's a possible solution to serious problems developing with the nation's food supply.

"The production of produce is becoming more concentrated and vulnerable to disruption in energy supplies and localized pest problems," Katz said, citing the situation last year with the Mediterranean fruit fly in Cali-

fornia and Florida. "We need to bring the food system back to a local level rather than ship food all the way across the country on imported oil."

Tobacco farmers experimenting with other crops are dealing primarily with cucumbers and peppers. But some are growing corn and soybeans, Katz said, while others are working with small grain and a variety of vegetables.

The farmers also are working on eliminating the middle man in marketing their produce.

"They don't have any trouble growing the stuff. The problem comes when they have to market it," Katz said, adding the state Agricultural Marketing Project has helped set up farmer's fair markets and direct consumer marketing.

Three years ago, several Carrboro farmers began marketing their crops directly to restaurants and independent grocers.

"The following year they put more effort into it and they sold a couple thousand dollars worth of stuff in Chapel Hill," Katz said. "Last summer, they expanded into Durham and other markets and did about \$5,500 worth of business. So far, we have found the higher quality restaurants are the most interested in what we have."

Look out for summer sun

Cancer victims younger

United Press International
The glorious sunshine of spring and summer, which bronzes, reddens and beautifies the skin — also prematurely ages it and can make it sick.

So at this time of year when people are emerging from winter hibernation and are getting out into the sun a lot more, experts are renewing their warnings against over-imbibing in solar rays or not shielding skin properly before a basking and baking bout.

Dr. Perry Robbins, a founder and president of the Skin Cancer Foundation, which studies the entire field on cancer from cause to treatment, said the broiling and baking of skin so popular among young people who want that sun-bronzed look is showing up in the development of skin cancers at earlier ages.

"The average age of a patient was 65 for a generation," he said. "Now patients under 30 are not rare."

"Fifty percent of all skin cancers on the face are on or around the nose."

And noses are being excised

"The average age of a patient (with cancer) was 65 for a generation. Now patients under 30 are not rare." — Dr. Perry Robbins, a founder and president of the Skin Cancer Foundation.

— cut off — when indicated, to keep the cancer from spreading.

Plastic surgeons then rebuild a new nose. The patients having to undergo this treatment are all ages.

Doctors say the surgery saves a life but it's a tragedy because the skin cancer could have been prevented if the person had used caution when sunning, protecting the skin which is no match for the sun's toughest rays.

It can take 20 or 30 years of battering by the sun for skin cancer to develop, Robbins said.

But he said he also has seen cancer develop in two or three years. He told of a man who basked under a sunlamp that mainly warmed one side of his face every morning. After only a few years the man had skin cancer on the side of the face getting the biggest dose of rays from the sunlamp.

"The sun," Robbins said, "is a

contributing factor in 90 percent of skin cancers. People who live where the sun is intense and those whose most time in the sun is some form of protection are obvious risk.

"People with fair complexions are more vulnerable. Those with light skin have less of a protective substance called melanin. Filters out some of the sun's rays of the sun."

"Caucasians face a higher risk than people of other races. Those with light hair, fair skin, and sunburn easily are especially susceptible."

Scientists know skin cancer tends to run in families, especially those whose relatives and doctors have been known to the disease should be especially wary, Robbins said.

Wind, rain whip across West; Midwest was spring weather

United Press International
Gale winds of up to 128 mph roared into the West, blowing cars off highways, whipping fires out of control and blasting the Pacific Coast with rain that collapsed mountains of mud and broke 119-year-old rainfall records. Storms eased Tuesday after leaving four people dead and four others missing. The Midwest is experiencing spring-like weather after unseasonable blizzards.

Winds gusting to 128 mph whipped two forest fires out of control and fanned a dozen grass fires near Fort Collins, Colo., before being brought under control Monday. One fire destroyed 10 acres of timber and heavily damaged a home.

Gusts up to 50 mph ripped across northern New Mexico and swept a station wagon off an interstate highway, killing one person and injuring six.

Investigators said Noreen Anaya, 24, of Dona Ana, N.M., lost control of the station wagon in high winds and ran off the

right side of the highway. The car rolled five times, ejecting all the victims.

Anaya was killed and her husband and five children were hurt.

Winds of 30 mph whipped flames for seven hours at Imperial, Neb., consuming about 20,000 acres of grassland, an abandoned house and four or five outbuildings. No injuries were reported.

A C-130 search plane and a helicopter were used by the Coast Guard in a renewed search for two boats with four people aboard feared lost off San Francisco after a squall shattered a weekend yachting race with 50-mph winds and 25-foot swells.

The same storm was blamed for the death of a woman hit by a blowing tree limb in Golden Gate Park and a collision that killed two men in a sailboat.

"The longer it (the search) gets, the less likely it is we're going to find something promising," Coast Guard Lt. Steve

Branham said. The rains that took the San Francisco area by storm pushed the total amount of precipitation into the record books.

Seven-inch rainfalls brought the season's total figure for San Francisco to 36.25 inches, making the season the wettest since 1862, when 49.27 inches of rain fell by June 30.

Rain and winds reaching 40 mph raked Oregon and Washington before moving on and leaving behind a few showers. However, another storm was reported heading down from the Gulf of Alaska.

The cold front was expected to move inland along the Pacific Northwest accompanied by more clouds, wind and rain.

Light rain dotted the North-

ern Plains and up to 3 inches of snow blanketed parts of northern New England.

Spring-like weather returned to the Midwest, melting snow with bright skies and temperatures in the 50s and 60s.

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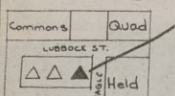
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