

# Baylor donates still, fuel equipment to Honduras

**United Press International**  
WACO — Baylor University is donating a still and fuel production equipment to Honduras in an attempt to help the energy poor Central American country transform its abundant sugar cane crop into fuel.

Baylor's Institute of Environmental Studies, the equipment, once assembled at a farm cooperative at the village of Aqua Blanca Sur on the northern Honduran coast, will transform sugar cane into alcohol. Dr. Ron Carroll said that would provide not only fuel, but also would open a much needed alternative market for sugar cane producers in Honduras.

"The problem they've faced in the past is selling it to big sugar cane mill operators. They feel they've been cheated in the past," Carroll said. "What they've been looking for is an alternative market for their sugar."

He said the still, which can produce from 1,200 to 1,500 gallons of alcohol per day, would provide that alternative market by transforming the sugar into ethanol, which could be burned as fuel.

"It can be used fairly easily in a variety of small engines for example, two-cycle engines, or it can be mixed with engine fuel with no modifications (to the engine)," Carroll said. In a country that must import all its petroleum products, the sugar-to-alcohol distillery could lead Honduras to energy self-sufficiency.

"Our estimate is that roughly a third of the sugar production in Honduras would basically meet all their fuel requirements." A five-member team is currently in Honduras preparing for assembly, and "we're hoping to have it actually functioning in six months," Carroll said. "The still is going down to be the property of a small-scale sugar cane cooperative," Carroll explained. Its transport costs are being borne by the Honduran government and a private foundation in Washington, D.C., Baylor officials said.

The Baylor distillery is the first in what Carroll said would be a series of fermentation centers set up at 11 cooperatives, which serve an average of 50 to 100 farmers each. "There are, I think, 11 of these cooperatives, and this is the first still to go down as a sort of a prototype," he said. Although the equipment is solar-powered, Carroll said it could be modified. "It's modified so that it can be run simply on solar power or on a variety of alternative power sources, whichever proves to be cheapest," Carroll said. "There shouldn't be any problem in getting parts. There's nothing sophisticated about the still. All the parts, all the repairs could be handled locally," he said. Carroll said although the country has a number of stills producing rum, they are "too inefficient" for fuel production.

# Prison warden, majors fired for inmate brutality

**United Press International**  
HUNTSVILLE — A Texas Department of Corrections warden and three majors were fired Monday in a massive housecleaning following an investigation by federal officials into charges of brutality with prison inmates.

Two corrections officers were fired and seven other officials — including two captains — were transferred to other units and demoted. Three corrections officers received pay cuts, according to TDC spokesman Rick Hartley. A final decision was pending for one assistant warden, who was relieved of duty, said TDC spokesman Rick Hartley.

The personnel actions were the result of internal TDC investigations stemming from a report last year from a prison monitor, appointed by Special Master Vincent Nathan. Vincent was appointed by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice, who ordered in 1980 sweeping prison reforms. Terminated was Darrington Unit Warden, David Christian, 41, who had been with TDC 19 years. Details of the incident or incidents involving Christian were not released. Also fired were Maj. D. W. Wallace, 36, who had been with TDC 13 years; Maj. D.D. French, 33, a 13-year veteran. Both were in the Darrington Unit. Retrieve Unit Maj. Ernesto O. Carranza, 35, who had been with the department 12 years, was also fired.

Maj. Richard L. Simmons, 33, of the Eastham Unit, was demoted and transferred to another undisclosed unit, Hartley said. Assistant Warden Manuel Ochoa, 42, who had been with TDC 20 years, most recently at the Pack II Unit, was relieved of duty pending demotion. Hartley said a final decision in Ochoa's case has not been made. Also terminated was one sergeant and a corrections officer, both from the Ramsey I Unit. Two captains and two sergeants were demoted and transferred, and three corrections officers received two-step pay decreases.

"In addition to the actions listed, there were 26 reprimands, one probation, and five exonerations," Hartley said.

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