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
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# Arkansas prof creates perfect Christmas tree

**United Press International**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — A Northwest Arkansas professor attempting to clone the perfect Christmas tree said his Yuletide research eventually could mean a year-round cash bonanza to the nation's timber industry.

Feng Huang, a professor of plant genetic engineering at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, said the same research used to produce a thousand copies of a nicely shaped tree also could be applied to produce thousands of disease-free trees resistant to insect infestation.

"In our area, Scotch Pine is a very popular Christmas tree," Huang said. "But Christmas trees, generally speaking, vary from the model tree to the next generation."

Since 1979, when the native of Taiwan began teaching at the university, Huang has spliced, diced and bombarded Scotch pine seeds, cuttings and seedlings with variations of light and temperature in his laboratory. In nearby pots are growing small plants born of his mutant tree tissues.

"If we can improve the regeneration rate, then maybe one day we can put it in large-scale commercial propagation," he said.

Huang said he is trying to uncover the control mechanisms within the genes of the trees to determine how tissues are formed. That is the key to easier manipulation of the cells, he said. The work also could lead to more understanding of how plant cells work. A future side effect would be more progress in efforts to prevent and cure plant diseases, he said.

Huang said he is the only scientist in the United States concentrating his research on Scotch pines, but that research is under way in Europe, where Scotch pines also are a favorite Christmas season purchase.

"We've lost millions and millions of dollars because of tree disease," he said. Insects have also proved a costly hazard of the business.

"If we can select individual trees which are resistant to these diseases or insect attacks, that would be of great value," he said.

# Pickens seeks to control Phillips oil

**United Press International**

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. — Phillips Petroleum Co. Tuesday said that Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens Jr. has mounted a public relations campaign to win control of the nation's 10th largest oil company.

The company said that Pickens' actions violate federal securities laws.

In the latest round of legal skirmishes, the Delaware Supreme Court said it will not hear Phillips' most recent appeal to block Pickens' bid until after Dec. 17 when a Delaware Chancery Court is scheduled to hold a hearing on the takeover attempt.

In another legal action, Phillips has filed a lawsuit in federal court in Delaware to protect its shareholders from Pickens' plan to seize a controlling interest in the company and is asking \$10 million in damages.

Pickens and his partners have delayed their \$60-a-share cash tender offer for 23 million Phillips shares — or a 21 percent stake — because of legal uncertainties.

"Pickens has undertaken a systematic public relations program of press conferences, public meetings with securities analysts, and extensive television and newspaper interviews to condition the market in advance of filing of proxy consent solicitation papers," Phillips said.

The company said these actions by Pickens, the chairman of Mesa Petroleum Co., violate SEC laws.

Phillips also said Pickens has failed to disclose past practices of tipping off friends and Mesa officers on his plans to acquire stock in major oil companies.

The community will meet Wednesday at a "Bartlesville Crisis Forum," sponsored by the area Chamber of Commerce. Residents are concerned about a takeover since Phillips is the largest corporate employer in the city and in the state.

Phillips filed a suit late Monday in the federal court in Delaware, charging Mesa Partners with violations of the federal securities laws in its attempt to buy a majority stake in Phillips.

Mesa Partners is comprised of Pickens' Mesa Petroleum and Wagner & Brown of Midland, Texas. The partnership already owns 5.7 percent of Phillips.

The complaint alleges Mesa Partners has used its tender offer and public statements to influence the market and solicit consent proxies without filing a proxy statement with the SEC.

Mesa Partners said the Phillips suit is "completely without merit" and designed to stop the group from making an offer to Phillips shareholders.

The lawsuit also claims that the proposed takeover would breach an agreement Mesa Petroleum signed with General American Oil Co. on Jan. 6, 1983, in which Pickens pledged not to buy any GAO shares for five years.

Last week a state district court judge in Bartlesville temporarily barred Mesa from moving ahead with its bid because of questions surrounding the Mesa-GAO pact.

# Gulf executives charged with fraud and conspiracy

**United Press International**

DALLAS — Six former Gulf Resources executives have been indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly diverting more than \$2.4 million from a synthetic fuels company.

The 12-count indictment released Monday alleges the officials defrauded investors by falsely representing that the company could turn lignite, rubber and garbage into synthetic oil. The men are charged with mail and wire fraud and conspiracy.

Those indicted included Dean B. Wolzen, the company's chairman; Richard A. Ellis, president; and John D. Robison, an officer in two of Gulf Resources' predecessor companies. The three are from Roanoke, Texas.

Also indicted were Floyd D. Wallace, vice president for technical development, of Leslie, Mich.; William G. Phaff, vice president for marketing, of Oklahoma City; and Jerry D. Eutsler, former president and director of the company.

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