

Nobel laureate concerned over growing populations

By PATRICE KORANEK
Staff Writer

Revolution is never easy to accept. Not even when it's the Green Revolution that helped fill millions of stomachs in India, Pakistan and other Third World countries in the late sixties.

But when a national leader like Indira Gandhi sows the idea in the minds of her people, it can take off like a fast growing weed.

Norman Borlaug, the "father of the Green Revolution," Nobel Prize winner and Texas A&M distinguished professor of international agriculture, said Gandhi nourished the seeds of revolt.

Borlaug said he was having tea with the former prime minister when Gandhi turned to him and asked if something was really happening on the farms.

"I said something is about to happen and a lot of it depends on what you do now," he said. "And then she did a wonderful thing. She recognized the importance of the psychology of change. Before planting she said 'I want everyone who's engaged in agriculture to put in a little plot of this wheat that the ministry has said how to grow.' And then in front of her residence, on this big, main, wide street in New Delhi, she had someone dig up a bunch of sod and plant it the way it should have been. It was beautiful. Of course the birds came and ate it up, but when the people saw it the job had been done."

The job was getting people all over the world to accept the new varieties of wheat developed by Borlaug and his colleagues. In 1984 those varieties, and the technology that went with them, produced enough food for 250 million more people than the old practices had produced in India before 1966.

That was 20 years ago.

Today, too, the world faces food problems Borlaug said. One is to produce enough, the second is to distribute it equitably to those who need more food, he said.

"At the rate world population is growing now, it will become eight billion by 2025 or 2035," Borlaug said. "It is frightening because most of this increased food in the majority of the countries will have to come from increased yields from land already under cultivation."

In the densely populated countries there isn't any more land that can be brought under profitable cultivation. But Borlaug asked, if we double or triple the yield in the next twenty years, what will we do the next time.

"I'm concerned because the world has been misled by the lullaby that it can continue to support and give a high standard of living to untold doublings of the world population," Borlaug said. "This isn't so. Somewhere along the line we will reach a point where more and more people are going to be short of the basic necessities."

"I would be less than frank with you if I didn't say that most of us who work on the food front would be guilty of negligence if we don't speak out and say that there is a certain carrying capacity and a certain standard of living for this world of ours."

Borlaug said the time is coming when we will have to decide how to deal with the "population monster." "Any good rancher knows that if he's got 100 or 1,000 acres of land... he will carry so many head of cows," he said. "If you get a dry year they will die or you will have to sell at a miserable price. This is the carrying capacity. We do it in livestock, but when we talk about human numbers it seems to be a very abstract thing." Science and technology has cre-

ated an abundance right now, especially in the United States, Borlaug said, but some place down the road the area will reach the limiting carrying capacity.

People have to be taught that there is such a thing as a carrying capacity and a certain standard of living that the world can reach, he said.

"I say that we can hold the line during the next doubling of the world population, until we reach eight billion, but that assumes that governments give agriculture a high enough priority and that they invest enough in the agricultural sector, in transport systems, in fertilizer plants, in irrigation development, in the whole thing that relates to agricultural production," Borlaug said.

Borlaug received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in genetic research in field crops. He is the only agriculturalist to receive that award. Borlaug was director of the wheat research and production program at the international maize and wheat improvement center in Mexico from 1964 to 1979.

He joined the faculty of A&M in January of 1984 after holding many assignments throughout the world. Borlaug teaches a graduate course on international agriculture.

Borlaug said he tries to teach two things in his class.

"One, give them a good, broad, general education on where this civilization of ours came from, how we got to where we are, and presumably where we want to go and what's going to happen to us unless we handle ourselves properly," he said. "And two, try to stimulate these people to broaden themselves, to be concerned citizens, not just in agriculture but how all the pieces fit together in culture and the human progress or retrogression."

Warped

by Scott McCullar



A&M provides hope for village; several universities follow lead

By REBECCA DE LONG
Reporter

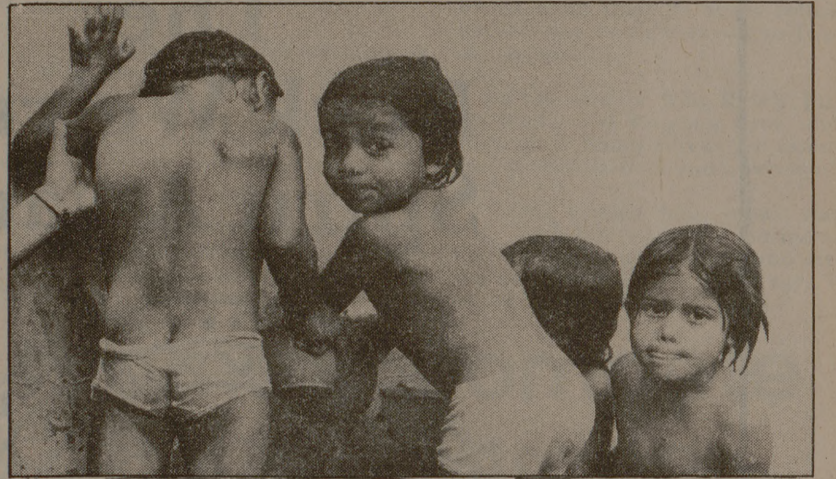
The success of Texas A&M's Village of Hope has inspired other universities to launch their own campaigns to benefit the Christian Children's Fund.

Students at the University of Southwestern Louisiana emulated the project, and plans are now underway at the University of Texas and Texas Tech University to adopt villages and teach the people self-sufficiency, said Dr. Robert Scott Kellner, advisor for the project.

Kellner said he has been in contact with interested students at UT and Texas Tech. Kellner said he hopes that if these schools are successful in their sponsorships, the trend will spread nationwide.

"They really see in it some potential for world peace," Kellner said. Last year A&M student organizations, along with local community members, raised and donated almost \$25,000 for the entire village in Amaga, Colombia.

Mike Cavanaugh, president of the Village of Hope committee, is optimistic about this year's drive. "We don't see any problems in meeting our goals," Cavanaugh said, "but we want to get a foundation for a permanent Village of Hope." Goals for the village include set-



Children at the A&M sponsored Village of Hope.

ting up a medical clinic and finding a way to bring electricity to more homes in the village.

Several A&M students are taking a personal interest in these two goals.

Ozark Airlines reaches labor agreement

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Negotiators for Ozark Airlines and the International Association of Machinists reached an agreement on a labor contract early Thursday, less than three hours after the union said it was on strike.

Spokesmen for the union and the airline said the agreement was reached at approximately 2:30 a.m. "We have been informed that a

package will be coming back to be voted on by the membership," said Gary Poos, general chairman of District 142 of the machinists union. "We're telling our people to go back to work."

Picket lines had been reported at Springfield (Mo.) Regional Airport and at Lambert Field in St. Louis.

Chuck Ehlert, an Ozark spokes-

man, said the brief walkout had no effect on the airline's operations Wednesday night.

More than 1,500 agents, reservation workers and clerical workers had gone on strike just after midnight, Poos said.

After the agreement was announced, Poos said he had no timetable for a ratification vote by the union membership.

\$355 billion spent on health care in U.S.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States spent \$355 billion for health care in 1983, the most recent period for which full-year figures are available, Internal Medicine News said.

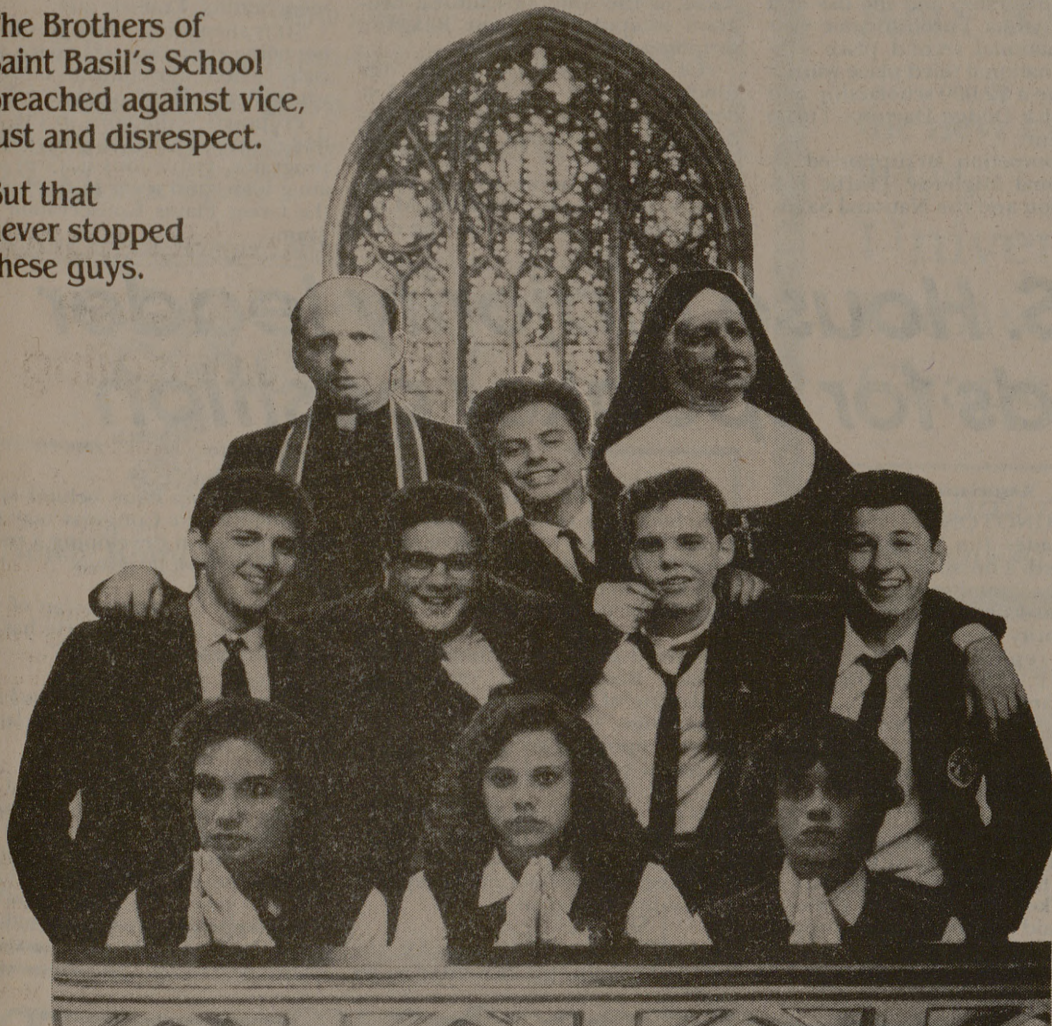
The sum, an increase of 10.3 percent over the previous year, is equal to 10.8 percent of the nation's gross national product. It amounts to \$1,459 for every man, woman and child in the United States. Of that amount, 41.9 per-

cent was spent by federal, state and local governments.

Spending for physicians' services was \$69 billion, or nearly 20 percent of all health spending, the publication noted.

The Brothers of Saint Basil's School preached against vice, lust and disrespect.

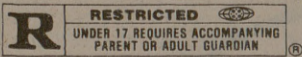
But that never stopped these guys.



Heaven help us

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