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Mechanic helps save U.S. money

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP)—Nicholas L. Vasquez Jr. will save U.S. taxpayers more than \$631,000 this year, just by his suggestion on how to work dents out of a 3-inch helicopter engine part and recycle it.

Vasquez, an aircraft mechanic at the Corpus Christi Army Depot, recently was awarded more than \$6,300 for the suggestion. It is the Department of the Army Suggestion Program's highest award ever presented at the depot, which repairs and maintains all the Army's helicopters.

Under the program, begun in 1954, the Army rewards any work-improvement suggestion that saves the government money with a percentage of those savings. Last year, employee suggestions saved the depot almost \$2 million.

A mechanic in the depot's Engine Disassembly shop, Vasquez said part of his job is repairing and replacing a 3-inch vane in an engine's variable inlet guidance assembly.

There are 18 such vanes, which cost about \$165 apiece, in the guidance assembly. During the repair process, about 50 percent of the vanes were being rejected because they were too deeply dented, Vasquez said.

Not only was a lot of metal being scrapped, but a strain was put on the supply of new vanes.

"Resources were getting hard and materials getting more expensive, and I thought it was time to do something about it," Vasquez said.

Vasquez worked out how it could be done, how much it would cost to repair versus the cost of new vanes. He then worked with the Army engineers and helped put reworked vanes in a new assembly for testing.

Niagara Falls sparks replica in North Texas

WICHITA FALLS (AP)—The man who presides over the nation's most famed waterfall city will be on hand to help this North Texas city inaugurate a manmade version of its namesake.

When the first drops of water slide over the new falls in Wichita Falls this spring, Michael C. O'Laughlin—the mayor of Niagara Falls, N.Y.—will help set the project in motion, Wichita Falls Mayor Charles Harper says.

Niagara Falls is famous for its natural falls that are 167 feet high and 1,000 feet wide.

Wichita Falls will boast a four-tiered waterfall about 50 feet high and 130 feet wide.

"I'd be pleased to attend," O'Laughlin said. This is the first time I've ever heard of anyone building a falls. I haven't the slightest idea what to expect.

No date has been set for the event.

The invitation to O'Laughlin said that Wichita Falls residents would like him to come see the falls "since he knows what it is like to have a waterfall in his backyard," Harper said.

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Students in Mexico protest university admissions plan

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A 26-point program to stiffen admission and academic requirements in the huge National University system has drawn students together in their biggest protest movement since 1968 and prompted a strike, paralyzing the school for more than a week.

The University Student Council, formed last October to protest the reforms, says the reforms "seek to reduce enrollment and diminish access by low-income sectors through restrictions of all kinds and through the increase of fees." Instead, protesters say, the school should be reinforced as a "university of the masses."

Rector Jorge Carpizo defends his program as an effort to raise the deteriorating academic level at the 456-year-old school, one of the world's largest. The official title is the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and it is known here by its Spanish acronym UNAM.

There have been no negotiations since the strike began Jan. 29.

Growing with Mexico's young population, the university system tripled in size between 1970 and 1980. It now has an estimated 330,000 students; about half of them in high schools for students preparing to go on to the university.

From its main campus in southern Mexico City, with its landmark mural-covered library and rectory

tower, the university expanded, adding high schools and university-level schools in other parts of the sprawling, congested metropolis.

It is the high school students who are among the most active opponents of the reforms.

University high school graduates enjoy automatic admission to UNAM, the most renowned of the public universities, if they have a grade average of seven on a 10-point scale. Some take seven years or longer to finish.

Carpizo's reforms would limit automatic admission to students who complete 10th through 12th grades in three years with an eight-point average.

Others would have to take entrance examinations along with students from non-university high schools. The time and grade-point are considered negotiable.

The Student Council says the measures would favor private school students who are better prepared than those at UNAM schools.

Two out of three students who begin UNAM undergraduate programs come from the state's high schools, according to the newspaper *La Jornada*, which has covered the dispute closely. But only one in three of the high school students graduates in three years, it said.

Other principal objections focus on a requirement that students at-

tend at least 80 percent of classes, a limit of two makeup exams per semester and a total of 15 for a bachelor's degree program or 10 for high school and establishment of standardized examinations.

Although the 200-peso university tuition, about 20 U.S. cents, and the 150-peso, or 15-cent, fee for high schools remain unchanged, the reforms add hefty fees for makeup and admission exams and degree processing.

A Jan. 22 protest march to the downtown Zocalo plaza drew about 60,000 students and was believed to be the biggest since students filled the huge plaza to overflowing during the massive protests in 1968.

The reforms also would crack down on professors who don't show up for class, a common problem in the system. Most professors teach only part-time.

The Student Council linked the reforms to the government austerity plan and an industrial modernization program, "which demands a reduced work force with levels of excellence and a great mass of unqualified workers that are not formed in the universities."

Students agree reforms are needed, but want a voice in running the school. They are demanding creation of a university congress to solve the current problems and change the administrative structure.

What's up

Monday

- DEFENSIVE DRIVING:** will be held Monday and Tuesday from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation. Call 693-0086 for more information.
- STUDY ABROAD:** students interested in the exchange student program will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. at 251 Bizzell West.
- HONOR STUDENT COUNCIL:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.
- MSC JORDAN INSTITUTE:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
- OFF-CAMPUS AGGIES:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 105 Heldenfels.
- AGGIE ALLEMANDERS:** will hold free square-dance lessons from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in 228 MSC.
- STUDENT AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 123 Kleberg.
- INTRAMURAL RECREATIONAL SPORTS:** entries for horseshoe doubles and the free-throw contest open today in 159 Read.
- TRI-BETA BIOLOGICAL HONOR SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 107 Heldenfels.
- BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medical Sciences.
- CLASS OF '88:** applications for Boot Dance subchairs are available through today in the Student Programs Office.

Tuesday

- DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS:** will present Dr. Mark Stevens at 8 p.m. in 201 MSC. The topic will be "Date Rape: I heard you say no but I thought you meant maybe."
- MSC HOSPITALITY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 212 MSC.
- MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
- MSC ALL-NIGHT FAIR:** will hold a general committee meeting at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder and a meeting for organizations at 7 p.m. in 704B Rudder.
- AGGIE DEMOCRATS:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
- TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC.
- STUDY ABROAD:** students interested in studying abroad will meet at 3 p.m. at 251 Bizzell West.
- AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 274 Read.
- TAMU SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB:** will show a slide show for those interested in learning to skydive at 7 p.m. in 226 MSC.
- OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 205 MSC.
- TAMU ONE-WHEELERS:** will meet at 6 p.m. in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum.
- INTRAMURAL RECREATIONAL SPORTS:** entries for wallyball, slam dunk, preseason softball and softball close at 6 p.m. in 159 Read.
- PANAMANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
- SPANISH CLUB:** will meet at 8 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.
- ENGLISH CLUB:** will meet at 6 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
- SOCIOLOGY CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 125 Academic.

- AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 102 Zachry.
- TAMU PREMED/DENTAL SOCIETY:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 200 HECC.
- UNDERGRADUATE BIOCHEMISTRY SOCIETY:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 113 HEEP.
- HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in the Dick Freeman Arena.
- COLLEGIATE FFA:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 208 Scoates.
- LIBERAL ARTS SOCIETY:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 228 MSC.
- EL PASO HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder.
- DELTA SIGMA PI:** Mr. John Willingham will speak. Business attire is requested.
- PARENTS WEEKEND:** applications and schedule forms are available for any group planning an activity. Applications are due Feb. 27.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.