

2 tell A&M crowd of life behind bars

Inmates: Drugs can lead to prison

By Bridget Harrow
Reporter

"When you do drugs, you have only three destinies — you can go crazy, go to prison or die. Look at me; I'm in prison today. You may not be so lucky. You could die first."

This was the basic message of 20-year-old Eusebio, an inmate of the Texas Department of Corrections, to an audience of mostly parents and students Monday in Rudder Tower.

Eusebio is part of the Community Education Program, in which a panel of inmates from the TDC travel around Texas to tell young people about their lives, drug use and prison life.

The inmates present themselves as negative examples, hoping others will learn from their mistakes, said Doug Eckles, an assistant administrator at TDC.

The panel of inmates is chosen from the inmate population of the Pack II Unit, which houses male first-time offenders between the ages of 17 and 21.

The men are volunteers. They are not told what to say or how to say it, Eckles said.

"And they are very sincere," he said. "They are not getting paid for doing this. They do it out of the care they feel toward young people."

"It makes it hard for them, too, because after this is over, and you and I go out to what they call the free world, they get to go back to prison lockup."

Eusebio is serving a 10-year prison sentence for possession of marijuana.

He said he can honestly say if it weren't for drugs, he would not be in prison today. The only record he'd ever had was for a speeding ticket.

"I started making the wrong decisions, and hanging out with the wrong crowd, and I went wrong," Eusebio said. "I let someone else make up my mind for me. I said I

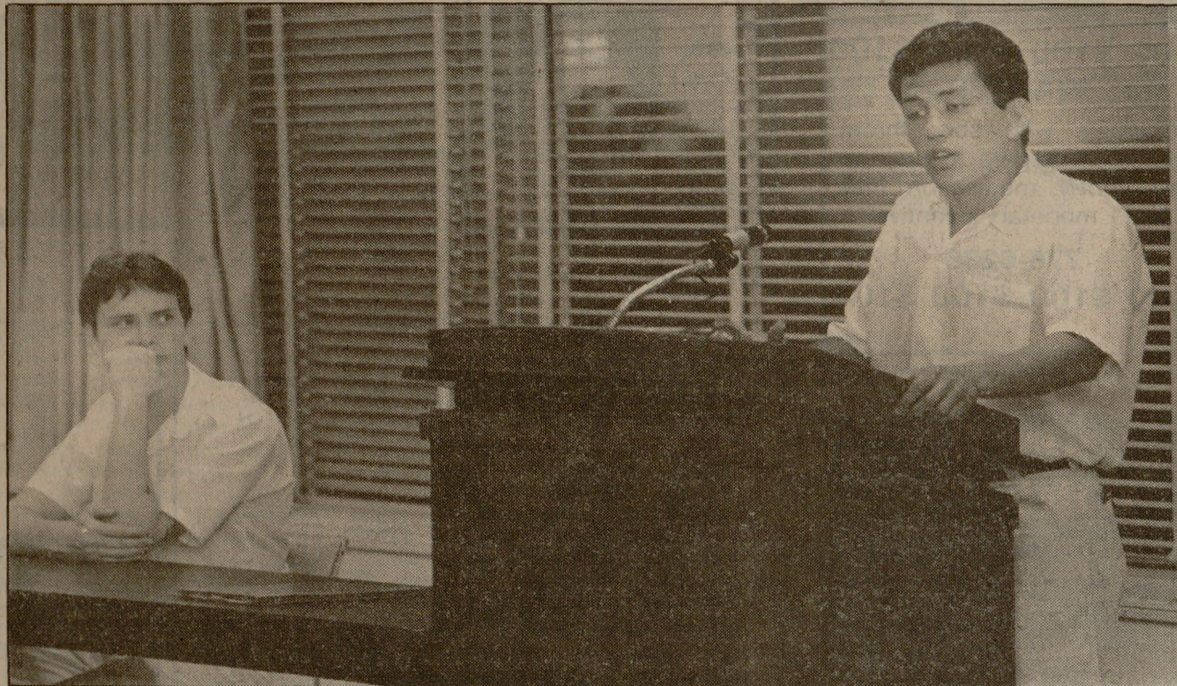


Photo by Marie McLeod

Eusebio, an inmate from the TDC, speaks about his drug addiction as another inmate, Dale, listens in.

would never see myself behind bars, but look where I am now. And now my so-called friends have forgotten about me.

"Many people believe only the poor and lowlifes do drugs, but that is a big misunderstanding. Doctors and lawyers are out there doing drugs, too — committing crimes. In prison they don't care who you are, who you know or where you came from. Good family background or bad family background, you are responsible for your own mistakes."

Another inmate, Dale, 21, of Conroe, is serving a 10-year prison sentence for burglary. Dale said he'd

been spending 95 percent of his time high on drugs.

He was arrested for burglary and public intoxication, but was placed on probation.

"I should have learned my lesson then," Dale said. "But no. The only thing I cared about at the time was letting everybody think I was cool. People think drugs is a way to cope with life, but they ain't coping with it. They are just packing up their problems and running away with it."

Dale also talked a little about daily prison routine. The day starts out normally, he said, when the prisoners are awakened at 3 a.m. They

have to eat their meals in five minutes, shower in three minutes and are strip-searched daily.

Their incoming and outgoing mail is opened and read. In the fields, they may chop grass using a shovel with a rough handle and dull blade, which they call an Aggie. And "rackup" — the time they have to be in their cells — is at 10 p.m.

Because Dale and Eusebio are trustees, they get to shower and eat for a little longer time, and they live in a dorm-type room instead of a cell. But both regret that they are in prison, and said they will not return to prison or turn to drugs once they are out.

Bond hearing for Texaco postponed

HOUSTON (AP) — A hearing Texaco Inc. requested to determine what bond it must post to continue its legal battle with Pennzoil Co. was postponed Monday after Texaco attorneys claimed the issue was moot since the giant oil company filed for bankruptcy protection.

The 1st Court of Appeals in Houston agreed to stay the hearing, which Texaco had asked for to seek relief from an \$11 billion bond required to appeal a multi-billion-dollar judgment awarded to Pennzoil.

"It is my understanding we cannot proceed," Texaco attorney Jim Sales told the three-panel appeals court. "There is no action that can be taken. Everything is stayed."

Texaco, the nation's third-largest oil company, announced Sunday it had filed under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code. The action makes the White Plains, N.Y.-based corporation the biggest U.S. company ever to seek bankruptcy protection.

Citing the burden of its legal battle with Pennzoil and failed attempts to reach a settlement, Texaco officials said they had no choice but to file for protection.

University begins research on saving water resources

By John Marr
Reporter

Texas A&M officials on Thursday announced 14 interdisciplinary water research projects totaling \$394,000 as part of the University's Research Enhancement Program.

The \$18.1 million enhancement program is a long-range plan created by the Board of Regents in June 1986 to enhance research at A&M by helping faculty members contribute quality research and compete for funds outside the University, said Dr. Duwayne Anderson, associate provost for research.

"These funds (Available University Funds) will help in the formation of interdisciplinary teams needed to solve problems in hydrology and water resources," Anderson said. "Scientists from the colleges of agriculture, architecture, geosciences, engineering and liberal arts must team together to solve the most difficult problems."

"Water resource is the No. 1 problem facing Texas in the coming decade. Research devoted to the development of surface water uses can offset groundwater depletion in certain areas of the state. New technologies are being developed to use exist-

ing water resources more efficiently."

The program is directed heavily at researching problems in Texas and assisting A&M researchers in addressing them, Anderson said.

If Texas is to grow by attracting new industries that use tremendous amounts of water, it needs additional water resources or more efficient uses of existing ones, he said.

Dr. Wayne Jordan, director of the Texas Water Resource Institute, expressed similar views.

"In order to maintain a favorable climate for economic development," Jordan said, "we must learn to use Texas' limited water resources wisely and efficiently and must prevent them from contamination."

To understand water problems more completely, the research program in hydrology and water resources is concentrated in water policy and economic development, urban water use, groundwater quality and water resources systems technology.

Six projects are directed at water quality with emphasis on contamination and its environmental effects, while another six projects are aimed at water resources systems technology.

Each project has two or more researchers from the various colleges and is coordinated by the TWRI.

Jordan said this is the first broad-based program coordinated by the institute that uses University-funded, interdisciplinary teams and he believes the program will foster cooperation instead of competition among faculty members.

"The whole program was designed to build research competence at Texas A&M," he said. "By solving problems too complex for one discipline, the program places faculty members in a better position to receive federal funds."

Harlow Landphair, professor of landscape architecture, said, "Nobody has a single lock on all the answers, and interdisciplinary teams are absolutely the way it has to go to solve these problems."

One area of research in urban water use that could affect local residents and landscape is in peak water demands, which occur during the summer.

Trying to decrease peak water demands by determining which plants use water more efficiently may sound simple, Landphair said, but it requires a lot of monitoring by many researchers.

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