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Scoping Out The Guns

Members of the Fred A. Lennon Youth Camp visit the Metzger-Sanders antique gun collection located on the third floor of the Memorial Student Center. The camp is owned by Texas A&M alumnus Tom

Reed and permits underprivileged youths to participate in a summer camp atmosphere in four-week sessions. One day in each of the sessions is spent touring the A&M campus. The camp is free.

Photo by Robert W. Ritz

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International students visit A&M as part of 'Youth in Agriculture'

By Rosaline Aguirre
Reporter

Students from 22 countries spent five days at Texas A&M to prepare for the hands-on experience they will receive next week when they visit host families in Iowa and Wisconsin.

The students' visit to A&M is part of the "Youth in Agriculture" exchange student program, and the students were hosted by the Department of Agricultural Education.

The program has given the visiting students a chance to not only learn more about agriculture, but also to learn more about each other. Yinka Williams, a Nigerian exchange student, says the cause of today's world problems is quite simple. "I think the problems the world has now are basically due to the ignorance of what exists from one continent to another," Williams says.

Williams is one of the 29 foreign students in the program that is sponsored by the National Future Farmers of America and funded by the United States Information Agency.

The USIA is a federal agency that

distributes information about the United States to foreign countries.

For those students who don't speak English, the USIA provides interpreters.

Many are working on their master's degrees and doctorates and plan to apply the information they gather for educational and professional purposes in the agricultural area.

Jim Sedlacek, of the Department of Agricultural Education, says the purpose of the five-day seminar was to provide students with information about U.S. agriculture and culture.

"Our role in the exchange program is to be an orientation which will give an awareness and background about U.S. agriculture and its economic and political issues," Sedlacek says.

"I want the students to leave here with more questions than answers, because if they don't, it means that they haven't thought about a lot of things or grasped the entire situation," he says. "There are no easy answers since the United States is such a diverse country."

Agricultural education professors

and graduate students gave seminars on topics which included rural life in the United States, agricultural marketing and policy and other agricultural issues on the international and domestic levels.

The Department of Animal Science gave tours of University facilities such as the meat science and technology center, horse center, sheep center, poultry center and dairy center.

In several of these facilities the students had the opportunity to participate in various activities, such as meat processing and milking procedures.

The students also toured Granada Corp., a genetic engineering facility located at the Research Park, and Texas A&M University at Prairie View.

One student from the Netherlands was interested in the Granada facility and says that although Holland has genetic engineering, he had never seen it.

Theresa Schumacher, the National FFA program director, says the tours and seminars offered were first-time experiences for many of the students.

"Many of the things that I took

for granted, like a feed grinder for cattle, many of the students had never seen," she says.

"One girl from India said that people in her country still did many things by hand," she says.

"It's so hard to believe that many people are still in the Dark Ages," she says.

She says the topics that the students were interested in learning about were as diverse as the students' backgrounds — some advanced and some third world.

But the major topic of interest of all of the students was agricultural policy and economics and international trade.

Nevenka Vrcini, a food technology major from Yugoslavia, was not only interested in agriculture, but the American culture as well.

"I really hope to experience real American culture, see what people do in everyday life, doing everyday things," she says.

After leaving College Station Wednesday, the students will go to Wisconsin and Iowa to live with host families to have an opportunity to experience American agricultural and culture.

Bentsen oil-import plan fails in Senate floor showdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted 55-41 Wednesday to drop from its sweeping trade bill a plan to require the president to use import fees or other means such as quotas to limit U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

This is special-interest legislation at its worst," Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, declared before the vote. "It seeks to prop up the domestic oil industry at the expense of everyone else."

It was the second time in recent months that the Senate had rejected an oil-import fee or something resembling it. But the sponsor of the plan, Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said afterward that the issue was not necessarily dead for the year.

Bentsen said he was weighing a plan to try to reduce from two-thirds to one-half the number of Senate votes needed to override a presidential veto of such a fee.

He also said that the narrow margin of the vote showed that the concept of a fee is "gaining in power" and that "if we had the president's support, I'm sure that we would have carried it."

No such provision is contained in a sweeping trade bill approved by the House on April 30.

The Senate's action represented the first showdown on the floor over one of four key disputes that have been drawing fire since lawmakers started debate on the trade issue last Thursday.

The others are stepped-up retaliation against foreign unfair trade

practices, notice to employees of impending plant closings and increased protection for industries threatened by import competition. Lawmakers indicated that resolution of those issues most likely would have to wait until after the five-day Fourth of July recess.

Bentsen sought to tie his oil plan to the current turmoil in the Mideast

"My friends, if you are concerned about energy dependence and the Persian Gulf, here is a chance to do something about it."

— Sen. Lloyd Bentsen

and President Reagan's plan to reflag Kuwaiti tankers, putting them under U.S. protection.

"My friends, if you are concerned about energy dependence and the Persian Gulf, here is a chance to do something about it," Bentsen, the Senate Finance Committee chairman whose panel produced the provision, said.

He said it was needed "before the threat of OPEC dependence becomes an economic hammerlock on the national security" and drew of picture of Mideast political chaos "punctuated by gunfire" spawning anew the energy shortages that rocked the country in the 1970s.

"It would give OPEC a golden opportunity to refinance its mortgage on American security," Bentsen said.

Critics led by Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., said that the "economic nightmare" would not be averted by an import fee because the major problems of the 1970s energy crises were the skyrocketing cost of gasoline at the pump followed by the bureaucratic complexities of cost controls. He said a fee of \$10 a barrel would cost \$45 billion a year.

They said the measure actually represented an effort to rescue domestic producers from economic problems caused by a massive slide that saw oil go from \$28 a barrel in November 1985 to below \$10 a barrel briefly last year. At the same time, unemployment in Texas topped 10 percent.

Oil currently is selling for about \$20 a barrel on the world market. Americans consume 15 million barrels a day.

The Reagan administration has been opposed to such a measure.

The price slide was caused by a sharp increase in production by Saudi Arabia as it sought to give its OPEC partners a taste of their own medicine for exceeding their quotas designed to maintain the world price.

Under the measure, the president would have been required to set a limit of not more than 50-percent U.S. dependence on foreign oil and, if his three-year forecast showed imports exceeding that amount, take action. The action could be a fee, quotas or some unspecified measure.

Court upholds death sentence for prisoner

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld the death sentence Wednesday of Ignacio Cuevas, an inmate who was involved in one of the bloodiest escape attempts in Texas prison history.

Cuevas has been convicted three times in the 1974 shooting death of Julia Standley, a prison worker who was a hostage during the 11-day ordeal at the Walls Unit in Huntsville.

The Court of Criminal Appeals, citing errors in jury selection, had twice previously ordered new trials for Cuevas. The current conviction was returned by Houston jurors who heard the case in 1983.

In a unanimous opinion, the court Wednesday overruled Cuevas' latest appeal.

The prison ordeal began July 24, 1974, when inmates Fred Carrasco, Rudolph Dominguez and Cuevas seized control of an education area at the prison.

On Aug. 3, 1974, the inmates planned to flee to a waiting armored car. Each inmate handcuffed himself to a female hostage.

Gunfire erupted and two of the women, Carrasco and Dominguez died during the escape attempt. Standley was killed by a bullet fired from Dominguez' pistol.

Under the state's "law of parties," Cuevas was found guilty though he was not the gunman.

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