

State and Local

Research possibilities raised with international agreements

By Mike W Thomas
Reporter

Since 1979 Texas A&M has signed formal agreements with 50 foreign universities and research institutions in 21 countries. Each agreement allows A&M and a foreign institution to work on research, to share ideas and to exchange faculty and graduate students.

Most recently A&M has become the third American university to sign an agreement with the Conference Des Grandes Ecoles, a French research-industry-governmental consortium that represents 140 institutions. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California at Berkeley are the only other American schools that have a formal agreement with the Grandes Ecoles.

Cathleen Loving, International Coordinator for the Office of International Coordination, said the memorandums of agreement establish a formal link between two institutions that can gain mutual benefits

by cooperating on research efforts. "The basic agreement recognizes each other's skills and expertise and then states that we will agree to agree," Loving said. "Dollar amounts and numbers are not usually specified in the basic agreements."

"Before an agreement is ever signed there must be grassroots support from the faculty and deans who would be involved. We want to be sure that each agreement will be fruitful so we must make sure that there is enough interest before drafting the agreement."

Loving said lack of time is the most common problem preventing some agreements from being signed.

"Occasionally we will be contacted by a university that is interested in research being done by a member of our faculty," she said, "but when we contact that faculty member we find that he or she has too many prior commitments to be able to devote time to working with this other institution, so the agreement cannot be made."

The number of agreements that A&M has signed has been steadily increasing since 1982. Last year 10 agreements were signed with universities in China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Mexico and Scotland. So far this year A&M has signed 5 agreements including the Universite Catholique de Louvain in Belgium, the Gansu Grassland and Ecological Research Institute in China, Fudan University in China, the Direction De L'Enseignement Supérieur Des Telecommunications in France and the Conference Des Grandes Ecoles.

"Having our faculty work closely with these foreign institutions helps to provide cultural diversity at A&M," Loving said. "The research being done is also often spilled over into the classroom, exposing students to the most up to date advancements in their field."

"The ideal is to not separate teaching from research."

Not all of the agreements that A&M has made deal strictly with sci-

ence and technology. The first agreements signed in 1979 were with four Brazilian institutions and three Mexican schools and dealt with agricultural research. In 1986, A&M signed agreements with The Koblenz School of Corporate Management in Germany and the University of International Business and Economics in China. The agreement signed in May with Fudan University in China has been directed toward the College of Liberal Arts.

The Office of International Coordination promotes cooperation with foreign institutions with the International Enhancement Grant Program. This program lets professors with tenure apply for grants of \$20,000 to do research with foreign institutions.

Loving said that although most of the agreements provide many different benefits for both institutions, A&M also signs agreements with institutions in developing countries to help fight poverty and pestilence.

Officials announce agricultural loans for Texas farmers

AUSTIN (AP) — Officials announced Monday that the state is ready on a \$5 million program to encourage lower-interest loans for agricultural projects in such areas as grapes for making wine, various herbs and spices and oriental vegetable production.

State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said "this little dab of money" will go a long way toward providing affordable financing for producing alternative crops, establishing marketing channels and building food and fiber processing facilities.

Hightower and State Treasurer Ann Richards held a news conference to announce details of a program linking state deposits with certain agricultural loans chosen by the state.

Hightower said the \$5 million could fund as many as 65 projects over the next five years. The fund will be used to generate \$36 million

in new revenue, while creating 4,800 new jobs for the state.

The program was authorized by the 1987 Legislature and approved by the voters of the state in the November elections.

The measure earmarks \$5 million in state deposits as an incentive for Texas banks and savings and loan institutions to make lower-interest loans for agricultural diversification projects.

Richards said the state treasury will allow financial institutions an interest rate on a state deposit of 2 points below the market rate for U.S. Treasury bills.

Lenders, in turn, must agree to pass along these reduced interest rates on loans to qualified borrowers in agriculture related fields.

The maximum loan for a single fiber processing or marketing venture is \$250,000. The maximum loan for alternative crops production is \$100,000.

Trial dates set for defendants in gang rape

SAN DIEGO, Texas (AP) — Eight of the 10 men accused in a woman's reported abduction and gang rape appeared Monday before a state district judge, who set trial dates next month for seven in the case.

Judge Ricardo Garcia also on Monday overruled defense motions to quash the indictments stemming from a 19-year-old woman's report that she was kidnapped the night of March 26 while walking home from a nearby relative's house and raped repeatedly by as many as 20 men.

"We're ready to go to trial," Duval County District Attorney Rodolfo Gutierrez said. "I think our witnesses are ready. We'll be ready on July 11, which is the first setting that we have."

The South Texas ranching town was shaken by the woman's report that one of the scenes during her ordeal, lasting several hours, was a ranch where spectators at a cock fight ignored her pleas for help and may have joined in the attack.

Many people in San Diego say they are related to at least one defendant, either by blood or marriage.

Ten men were named in 12 indictments handed up April 21. Three of them were charged only with sexual assault, five others were charged with sexual assault and aggravated kidnapping and one man was charged only with kidnapping.

One defendant was charged with sexual assault and two counts of aggravated kidnapping.

Hightower says Texas looking like Dust Bowl

AUSTIN (AP) — Parts of Texas are so dry that they resemble the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said Monday.

"In Texas, there actually are sections of our state that already are in Dust Bowl situations," Hightower said.

The National Weather Service's latest data show only parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota are worse off than South Texas from a searing drought's effects on crop conditions.

"We have the potential, literally, for Dust Bowl conditions," Hightower said. "And the tragedy is, of course, under the Reagan ad-

ministration, they have made efforts to do away with the soil and water conservation programs that were developed as a result of the Dust Bowl.

"It's not just a matter of this year's drought — it has been just dry through the '80s."

He added that dry weather building up over the years led to the Dust Bowl and drought of the 1950s.

The worst years of the Dust Bowl, with extreme wind erosion in Texas, were 1933-36.

Hightower was asked to comment on the drought after a news conference with State Treasurer Ann Richards about a new agricultural loan program.

Richards said as she turned the session over to Hightower that she had heard of a rain dance in South Dakota.

"We hope the wind moves it south," Hightower quipped.

"We have an emergency," he said. "We need to be treating it as an emergency rather than just appointing task forces up in Washington, D.C. to decide whether it's dry or not."

"We need to be responding immediately with tools that already are in the hands of the U.S. secretary of agriculture."

Hightower said his office had appealed to the secretary to declare certain Texas counties eligible for federal drought assistance.

"They agreed to do that but they are moving very slowly with the designation process," he said, adding that the local and state paperwork had been finished a long time ago.

Hightower said 40 counties have been approved for federal aid but probably 150 need assistance.

"Even that is not going to be enough and in some areas it's irrelevant," he said. "What good does it do to allow cattle to graze on hay acreage if there is no hay, he said."

Hightower said ranchers are being forced to liquidate herds, and farmers and ranchers are going out of business as a result of the drought — "it's devastating."

Protected woodpeckers could hurt lumber economy of East Texans

DALLAS (AP) — U.S. Forest Service officials are worried the federally ordered protection of the red-cockaded woodpecker might hurt the East Texas economy, so dependent on the timber the birds call home.

At the urging of environmental groups, U.S. District Judge Robert Parker of Tyler last week issued an injunction against the Forest Service, instructing it not to clear-cut timber — harvest all the trees in a given area — within 1,200 meters of the woodpecker colonies.

The ruling could affect up to 200,000 acres, one-third of the state's federal forest land. Environmentalists, who favor selective harvesting of trees instead of clear-cut-

ting, hailed the ruling as a victory.

But Texas Forest Supervisor Mike Lannan said the decision could have a "severe impact" on the 12 East Texas counties that receive a percentage of federal timber sales.

Those counties receive 25 percent of the income from such sales — \$3.8 million last year. By law, half of the money is earmarked for schools, the other half for roads and bridges.

Last year, Sabine County received about \$425,000 from timber sales, County Judge Royce Smith said. Half of that, about \$212,500, went to the road and bridge fund.

"That is approximately 35 to 40 percent of the entire road and

bridge budget," Smith said. "It's real important."

Lannan added that if selective harvesting becomes prevalent, some timber income may be lost because the process is more expensive and time-consuming than clear-cutting.

But Ned Fritz, chairman of the Forest Task Force of the Texas Committee on Natural Resources — a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the Forest Service that precipitated Parker's ruling — disputes claims that the decision will harm the area's economy.

In Walker County alone, private timber growers use selective harvesting on at least 60,000 acres, Fritz said.

Wines from Texas becoming scarce

LUBBOCK (AP) — The newly won celebrity of Texas wines has made the Lone Star libation hard to find on store shelves and restaurant wine lists.

While wine columnists around the country tout the high quality of Texas wines, those wanting to sample the bouquet of products from such wineries as Fall Creek, Messina-Hof and Llano Estacado may come up as dry as Chablis in their search.

In a recent column lauding the state's vintages, Vanity Fair magazine's wine critic, Joel Fleischman, mourned the shortage as "a great tragedy for wine lovers."

"It's very frustrating," said

Alan Lagarde, a salesman for Marty's, a large Dallas wineseller. "I've gotten calls from New York and California wanting the wines."

The wines are in short supply to begin with and are popular on restaurant wine lists, Lagarde said.

Upscale restaurants in Dallas also are using the wines, which can range in price from \$8 to \$19, to concoct salad dressings, desserts and meat sauces.

"We have tremendous demand from accounts all over the country," Bobby Cox, owner of Pheasant Ridge winery, said.

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL.



Wednesday Male Dancers from La Bare of Houston

\$1⁰⁰ Bar Drinks All Night
\$3⁰⁰ Pitchers of Mitilda Bay Wine Coolers

FREE Buffet

Ladies get in at 5 p.m. Men get in at 9 p.m.

313 S. College ■ In the Skaggs Shopping Center
846-1542 ■ Open Late Nights

Sale on Perms
MID-WEEK \$24 SPECIAL



Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
SAVE 30%

Come into Command Performance midweek and receive our salon-quality \$36 perm service for only \$24.

Let your Command Performance Lifestyle Specialist create the exciting '88 look that's right for you.

*\$24 price is for our KMS perm without haircut & styling. Slight additional charge for Performance & Redken Perms, long hair and design wraps.

Free consultation, no obligation.

Command Performance
STYLING SALONS

We've got the style for you.

Post Oak Mall (In Sears Courtyard) 764-0404
Open 10-9 Monday - Friday / 9-9 Saturday / 12:30-5:30 Sunday

Students! Work Smart. Work Simply... With Hewlett-Packard!



11C	\$47.00
12C	\$65.00
15C	\$65.00
17B	\$90.00
19B	\$140.00
22S	\$50.00
32S	\$57.00
27S	\$90.00
28S	\$190.00
41C	\$140.00
41CX	\$200.00
71B	\$500.00

Professional Computing
AUTHORIZED HEWLETT-PACKARD DEALER

505 Church Street • College Station, Texas
(409) 846-5332