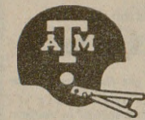


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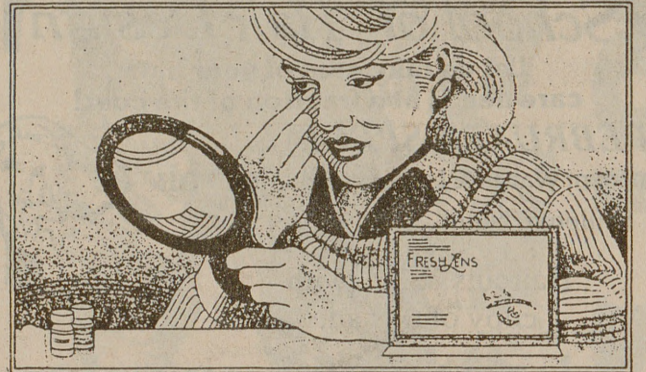
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Field studies add to class learning Agriculture majors tour West Coast firms during spring break

By Sharon Maberry STAFF WRITER

Agriculture students interested in the business aspect of agriculture can take part in an agribusiness field studies trip to California this spring break.

Dr. Vernon Schneider, professor of agricultural economics, and Dr. Howard Hesby, associate professor of animal science, will lead about 50 students on a 10-day tour of various facets of agribusiness in California.

"We want to make it an educational experience," Schneider said. "We're going to certain companies for a reason. Students in the College of Agriculture have interests in a wide spectrum of jobs and job opportunities. We're trying to represent the whole marketplace."

Students will fly from Austin to San Francisco March 9 and begin an extensive tour of various agribusinesses, including banks with agricultural portfolios, biotechnology firms, wineries and the World Trade Commission in Sacramento, Schneider said.

They also will visit an advertising agency that handles the Sunkist and Sun-Maid accounts.

"They're (the ad agency) the ones who developed the dancing raisins that you've seen on TV," he said.

Other stops in the trip will be at large, integrated farms such as Harris Farms, an integrated beef production operation.

"They do it all, from the feed lot to the feed mill to their own slaughtering and processing plants," Schneider said. "They also do their own commodity trading and retail. That operation is

totally integrated from the gene to the steak."

Tenneco West, a farm owned by Tenneco Oil, and Superior Farms, owned by Superior Oil, are also highly integrated, Schneider said. Tenneco West has more than 100,000 acres in production and Superior Farms specializes in high value crops such as nuts and fruits.

Despite the full itinerary, students will have a few days to ski in Squaw Valley and a day in Disneyland, Schneider said.

The College of Agriculture offers a similar agribusiness trip each year. Last spring break, about 60 students traveled to Washington, D.C. and New York City where they got a taste of agribusiness on the East Coast.

Senior animal science major Diann Ayers participated in last year's agribusiness trip and is going to California this year.

"I liked last year's trip because I had never been exposed to the corporate side of agriculture before," Ayers said. "Before I went on the trip, all I had in mind (for a career) was production agriculture. I found out that there's a lot more to choose from."

"For instance, the sales opportunities are good. I learned that there's more to it than selling door-to-door and it's a respectable profession. I never realized what kind of agricultural opportunities there were up North."

"Last year's trip was a lot of work, but there was plenty of time to see the sights and do our share of playing."

Schneider said field studies trips are beneficial to students.

"We think this (kind of trip) becomes part of the whole educational process," he said. "We don't suggest that these kinds of activities substi-

tute for the classroom.

"But we look at them as educational experiences that give increased meaning to classroom courses. They can be a real help to students in career planning and in planning curriculums."

Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dwayne Suter, agreed that field studies trips are a valuable part of students' educations.

"We look at the field studies trips as being important because they provide unique educational experiences," Suter said. "They give students better insights with respect to what the business world is like and the kind of experiences they may encounter after graduating."

"These experiences cannot be duplicated in the University curriculum and environment."

"It's difficult to explain the positive benefits that have resulted for all the different students who have participated. For some, it has been a major factor in providing them the needed incentive to make a more excited commitment to their studies. After speaking with professionals, they have a clearer understanding of what it is to be a professional with a degree."

Hesby, the other professor leading the California trip, said this is the 16th year the College of Agriculture has offered agribusiness trips to students.

"These trips get the kids motivated when they see new opportunities," Hesby said. "It makes them aware of different jobs that are out there and what will be demanded of them if they get those positions."

Although all the places for the California trip are filled, some students may cancel. Students interested in being alternates can contact Schneider at 845-2118.

Former KKK wizard wins narrow victory; scoffs at GOP threats

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Newly elected Louisiana Rep. David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard, on Sunday said blacks and Jews had "nothing to fear" from him and scoffed at the notion he would be banned from the GOP or not be seated by the Legislature.

"I repudiate any racial or religious intolerance," Duke said at a news conference. "Any group — racial or religious — has nothing to fear from David Duke."

Duke, 38, eked out a 227-vote victory over homebuilder John Treen, 63, to represent a nearly all-white House district in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans. Duke received 8,459 votes, or 50.7 percent, to Treen's 8,232 or 49.3 percent in the Saturday special election.

He compared the campaign to the story of Chicken Little, a chick who feared the sky was falling after he was hit in the head with an acorn.

"I have been elected. I'm going to represent this district," Duke said. "And ladies and gentlemen, the sky hasn't fallen."

But while he said he extended a hand in friendship to the Jewish community and invited those who opposed him to come talk, Duke did not mince words on where he stands on civil rights and affirmative action issues.

"I'm for getting the government out of our personal lives. I'm not for any law for segregation or integration," he said. "The right not to associate is just as precious as the right to associate."

Duke's victory on Saturday was immediately denounced by national Republican Chairman Lee Atwater, who vowed to have Duke censured and barred from using the GOP name.

"David Duke is not a Republican," the statement from spokeswoman Leslie Goodman said. "He's a pretender, a charlatan and a political opportunist who is looking for any organization he can find to try to legitimize his views of racial and religious bigotry and intolerance."

"We repudiate him in his views and we are taking immediate steps to see that he is disenfranchised from our party."

"Is he going to censure me for my past? How many Republicans, how many Democrats have done controversial things in the past?" Duke asked. "The actions of Mr. Atwater are really un-American. I'm just as much a Republican as Mr. Atwater."

Duke registered as a Republican two days before qualifying for the House race. After Duke's stunning success in the Jan. 21 primary election, the national party sent three advisers to help his mild-mannered opponent and even convinced President Bush and former President Reagan to endorse Treen.

There also is rampant speculation that the Legislature might refuse to seat Duke by challenging his qualifications, namely his residency in the district.

Several lawmakers confirmed that a challenge is expected although no one will own up to such plans.

The Legislature convenes for a special tax session on Wednesday.

"It all depends on what the majority of the House wants to do," said House Speaker Jim Dimos, a Democrat from Monroe. "Unless someone makes a motion to disqualify him, then he will be sworn in. I know the people in his district elected him by a small margin, but he still was elected and has to be treated as a member."

Duke called such a move pointless. "The political process must remain inviolate," he said. "The men and women of good will in the Legislature will not tolerate any challenge of this nature."

Asked if he had been a resident of his district the requisite one year before the election, he said: "Absolutely I am. It's a frivolous question."

Metairie attorney Dave Sherman, who said he represented several unsuccessful candidates from the primary, claimed to have irrefutable evidence that Duke failed to move into the district until September 1988.

What's Up

Monday

- HISTORY CLUB: Dr. Pisani will speak about "American Environmental History" at 7:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder. POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder. SPEECH COMMUNICATION SOCIETY: will have a membership drive and field trip sign-up from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Blocker. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder. TRIATHLON CLUB: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 230 G. Rollie White. HISPANIC BUSINESS STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 125 Blocker. TAMU SNOW SKI CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder. RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have registration from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in 159 Read for a rock climbing clinic, spring break rafting/kayaking trip, handball doubles, basketball 3 point show, billiard singles, canoe trip, mountain bike trip, horseshoe doubles and wrestling. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more details. SPACE SOCIETY: will discuss the conference and elect officers at 7 p.m. in 141 Rudder.

Tuesday

- DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Texas Instruments will offer information on careers in data processing at 7 p.m. in the University Inn Penthouse Suite. COSGA: will have a general committee meeting at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder. THE PLACEMENT CENTER: will have a job search workshop at 5:15 p.m. in 410 Rudder. MINORITY ASSOCIATION OF PRE-HEALTH AGGIES: will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder. WIC: will meet at 7 p.m. in 215 Reed McDonald. FORT WORTH HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 704 Rudder. SADDLE AND SIRLOIN: will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg. PRE MED/DENT SOCIETY: Dr. William Fife will talk about "Hyperbaric Medicine" at 7 p.m. in 204 Harrington. ACM: will have a bowling party at 9 p.m. at Chimney Hill Bowling Lanes. AGGIE GOP/COLLEGE REPUBLICANS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder. ECONOMICS SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder. ARLINGTON HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 205 MSC. RHA FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder. INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 127 Blocker. MSC GREAT ISSUES: will meet at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder. TAMU ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY: will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Flying Tomato. INTERNATIONAL WEEK: committee for Buffet International will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder. LE CERDE FRANCAIS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 125 Academic. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more details. RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have registration from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in 159 Read for a rock climbing clinic, spring break rafting/kayaking trip, handball doubles, basketball 3 point show, billiard singles, canoe trip, mountain bike trip, horseshoe doubles and wrestling.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

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