

Thursday, February 23, 1989

Lack of accreditation funds U.N. official asks A&M to help balance conservation, economy

By Mia B. Moody

Reporter

The sociology department is phasing out its social-work program because it can no longer afford to have it accredited and faculty members believe the program will be useless unless it has accreditation.

"In order to get the social-work program accredited, the sociology department would have to prepare for one year and it would have to spend approximately \$60,000 to \$100,000," said Dr. Ruth Schaffer, associate professor in the sociology department and one of the initiators of the social-work program.

Deborah Rabinowitz, a lecturer in the sociology department, said, "We think that our program needs to be certified in order to provide students with the best opportunities to get jobs. Since the department doesn't have the resources necessary

to certify the program, sociology faculty members decided it would be best to phase the program out."

Schaffer said certification wasn't a big issue until recently when the sociology certification board began raising its standards.

"In the past students could graduate from a certified program or the equivalent and they would be allowed to take the social-worker exam," Schaffer said. "We had the equivalent so our students were allowed to take the test. Now students can't take the exam unless they graduate from an accredited social-work program."

Schaffer said she recognized the problem forming five years ago when former students began calling the department and telling sociology professors their jobs were in jeopardy because A&M's social-work program wasn't accredited.

"Though we have never had any problems with students not being

able to pass the certification exam," she said, "we have had problems with them getting jobs, which is why we began to consider the necessity of accreditation."

"Many times to get a job in a good paying agency, social workers have to be a certified graduate of an accredited social-work program," she said.

Schaffer said the social work program wasn't certified years ago because of a court order that prevented Texas A&M from duplicating courses that Prairie View A&M offered. She said this law expired about three years ago.

Schaffer estimates more than 100 students are taking the courses which allow them to take the certification exam. The sociology department will continue to provide these courses until the students who are participating in the program finish, which probably will be in August 1990.

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The director of the U.N. Environment Program of North America called on Texas A&M to be in the vanguard of the effort to find ways to balance economic development with the conservation of natural resources.

Dr. Noel Brown told about 600 people in Rudder Theater Wednesday night that conservation of natural resources is vital for sustaining long-term economic growth.

But the reverse also is true, he said, — economic growth is an essential part of conservation, because many countries are depleting irreplaceable natural resources to solve economic problems.

A&M currently is developing a research and teaching program in conservation and sustainable development.

Brown said A&M will be a useful part of a network designed to develop a global strategy to sustain economies while conserving natural resources.

A&M's proximity to Latin America and its expertise in fields relating to conservation and development — especially biotechnology — make the school ideally suited to this task, Brown said.

Conservation is becoming more of a global concern, he said, because environmental problems such as acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming affect all countries.

Brown compared the environment to the stock market. When the stock market crashed in New York, its effects were felt throughout the world.

When an ecosystem such as a rain forest fails, he said, its effects also will be felt worldwide, because rain forests are natural sinkholes for carbon dioxide.

He said when the forests are destroyed, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming.

The world also is losing its genetic pool at an enormous rate, he said.

About 10,000 species are becoming



Photo by Frederick D. Joe

Dr. Noel Brown, director of the United Nations Environment Program of North America, speaks Wednesday night in Rudder Tower about methods of balancing economic development with the conservation of natural resources.

extinct every year because of deforestation, he said.

This leads to the loss of plants and animals that are useful to medicine and industry.

Although the rain forests only cover 6 percent of the Earth's surface, they contain 70 percent of its species. About 27 million acres of rain forest are being destroyed each year, he said.

"Its ominous to be losing forest at this rate," Brown said.

The forests are being destroyed because developing countries need resources to support their economies and huge foreign debts, he said.

His own country, Jamaica, spends 42.7 percent of its export earnings to service its debt.

This burden has led the Jamaican government to invest heavily in cash

crops, which is decreasing the nation's watershed.

Cutting down the watershed is not good for the long-term health of Jamaica's economy, Brown said.

"We know that we've been very naughty, but we need the money," he said.

"Many countries are in the same position of having to sacrifice their resources for short-term gains in order to service these debts." International development agencies must give developing countries alternatives to destroying their natural resources in order to sustain their economies, Brown said.

These alternatives must include ways for countries to use their resources without destroying them, he said.

Research institutions such as A&M must lead the way in developing alternative methods of economic sustenance which preserve the world's natural resources, Brown said.

50 people exposed to rabies at children's home

MISSION (AP) — As many as 50 youths and adults who were exposed to a rabid puppy at a home for neglected children and orphans may have to receive shots to ensure they don't become infected with rabies, a home official said.

Superintendent Ralph Owens said about 37 people were exposed to the puppy, which was brought to the Rio Grande Children's Home by an employee's relative, but was unsure how many would require treatment.

He was scheduled to meet with Dr. Charles Wilson, Hidalgo County health director, to determine how many children and adults would require the series of vaccinations.

Dr. Wilson said he expected to receive a state-supplied shipment of rabies vaccine sufficient to give initial shots to as many as 50 people at the home.

About 85 neglected and orphaned children, ranging from six years old to teen-agers, reside at the privately-operated home, located on 160 acres three miles west of Mission.

Owens said the children were questioned Tuesday by staff members to determine the extent of their exposure to the infected dog.

Some youths played with the 5-month-old puppy until around Feb. 14 when it began acting suspi-

ciously and "fighting with everything" including big-dog dogs, he said.

The puppy bit one adult worker and scratched another, Owens said.

The unvaccinated dog was brought to the children's home by a visiting relative of the worker who was bitten, he said.

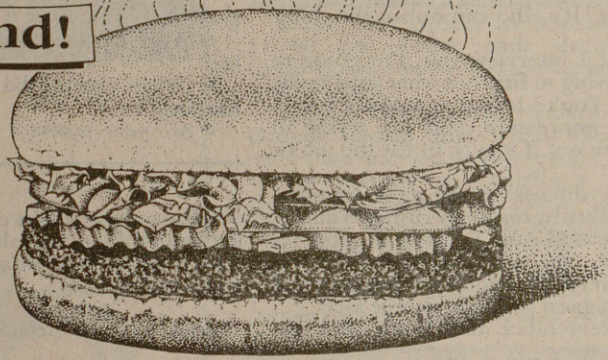
Dr. David Heflin, a Mission veterinarian, sent the head of the stricken dog to the state rabies exam lab in Austin last week, and officials confirmed Monday that the puppy was the 17th case of rabies among animals recorded in Hidalgo County since November.

Rabies is transmitted by an infected animal's saliva through biting or licking. The virus can enter the body through a break in the skin or through mucous membranes, health officials say.

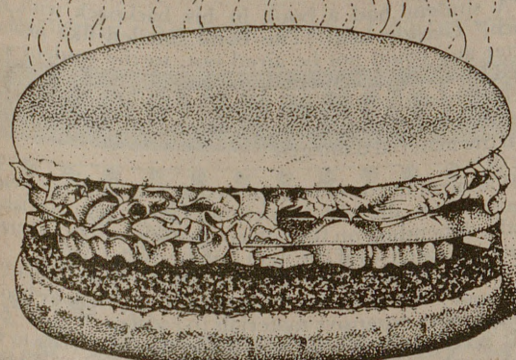
Several rabid dogs have been found in rural areas west and north of Mission in recent weeks.

About 55 residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley county have received rabies vaccinations since November. Patients receive a single injection of rabies immune globulin in the buttock and a series of five rabies vaccine shots in the arm.

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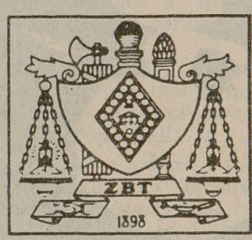
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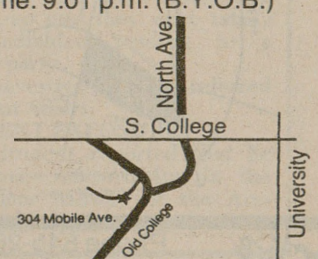


For more information contact:
Chuck Ray 260-5087
Spencer McDonald 696-7190

"A BROTHERHOOD UNIQUE"

Rush Schedule

- Feb. 23, Thursday:** Open Party (psuedo-rush)
location: Elk's Lodge (Bryan)
band: Corporate Rats
time: 9:01 p.m.
- Feb. 24, Friday:** Rush Party I
location: Treehouse Apts. (Phase 1)
music: Nick's Dance Rock-N-Roll
time: 9:01 p.m. (B.Y.O.B.)
- Feb. 25, Saturday:** Rush Party II
location: Treehouse Apts. (Phase 1)
music: Nick's Dance Rock-N-Roll
time: 9:01 p.m. (B.Y.O.B.)
- Feb. 28, Tuesday:** Smoker (Invite only)
location: Frank's Bar and Grill
time: 5-7 p.m.
- Mar. 1, Wednesday:** Date Party (Invite only)
location: Plaza Club, 1st City Bank Plaza
music: Concert Pianist
time: To be announced.



-ZBT was recently founded locally in the fall of 1988.
-New members receive full rights upon joining colony.