

Name games



Photo by Eric H. Roalson

A George Bush Drive street sign was covered with Jimmy Carter's name as a practical joke.

Ugandan, University officials explore idea for joint venture

By SEAN FRERKING
 Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M may help itself by helping Uganda recover from 14 years of totalitarian rule that has left the once well-off African state in need of agricultural assistance.

The Ugandan prime minister and the Ugandan ambassador to the United States visited the A&M campus recently to tour the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Ugandan delegation came to the University to explore the opportunities a joint venture with A&M might provide.

Dr. James Goodwin, coordinator of international agricultural programs, said A&M is helping many developing countries around the world by offering techniques to improve the developing countries' teaching and research capabilities.

In return for the University's help, Goodwin said A&M may gain new insights into different cultures and politics.

Goodwin said that on the practical side, the ventures often allow the College of Agriculture to work in new environments and discover new techniques and genetic strains in livestock and crops that may help the agricultural economy in Texas.

The situation and opportunities in Uganda, he said, are similar to other countries A&M has helped.

"We (the College of Agriculture) work with non-competitor countries like Uganda to help them get back on their feet," Goodwin said.

Dr. John Norris, director of international coordination, said the military dictatorships of the 1970s and early 1980s severely weakened Uganda's agricultural

economy.

Five years of a stable democratic government has opened the way for Uganda to ask for help from the western world, he said.

"Right now, Uganda has a very large need in the area of agriculture," Norris said. "They came to A&M because of our expertise in agriculture and our ability to help Uganda with their situation."

Although no agreement has been reached to help the African country, Norris and Goodwin said they are optimistic about A&M's chance to help the impoverished country.

Goodwin said the College of Agriculture would work with Uganda in areas similar to the needs in the Texas economy.

"We would work with them in livestock, irrigation and other projects," Goodwin said. "If we're doing it in Texas, then we would probably carry that over to help Uganda."

Goodwin said student exchanges are a possibility in an agreement with Uganda.

Short-term consultants from A&M could travel to Uganda to offer advice to the government and private industry. A&M also could work with the University of Makerere in Uganda, Goodwin said.

The major obstacle to a joint venture between A&M and Uganda, Goodwin said, is money. Some projects could be as expensive as \$25 million.

Norris said a large lending organization such as the World Bank must provide the funds for any project before any concrete plans can be made.

Norris said international funding usually requires a great amount of time, but once the financing has been identified the real work can begin between A&M and Uganda.

Harrington's life remembered

Former A&M president dies after 47-year career

By KEVIN M. HAMM
 Of The Battalion Staff

Dr. M.T. "Tom" Harrington, who dedicated his life to serving Texas A&M University, died Monday in a Bryan hospital at the age of 88.

Harrington worked in many capacities at the University during his 47-year career.

After his graduation from Texas A&M in 1922 with a degree in chemical engineering, the Plano native worked in private industry for two years. He soon returned to the University in 1924 to teach chemistry.

Harrington also earned a master's degree in chemical engineering from Texas A&M and a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from Iowa State College in 1947.

After working through the faculty ranks, he was appointed dean of the School of Arts and Sciences in 1948, and then became Texas A&M's 14th president in 1950.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who then was serving as president of Columbia University, spoke at Harrington's inauguration.

While serving as dean in 1948, he helped create the Texas A&M University System and served as the second chancellor of the system in 1953.

In 1957 Harrington was president of both the A&M system and the University. He again served as chancellor from 1959 to 1965.

Harrington also helped organize Texas A&M's oceanography and meteorology departments in 1948.

He was the first Texas A&M graduate to serve as president of his alma mater.

After he retired as chancellor, Harrington was coordinator of international programs at Texas A&M until his retirement in 1971.

Texas A&M System Chancellor Perry L. Adkisson praised Harrington's dedication to the University.

"I knew Dr. Harrington for more than 30 years, and I knew him to be a person who cared deeply about this institution and who contributed to it in many ways," Adkisson said.

Robert G. Cherry, former secretary to the Board of Regents, was first appointed to his post by Harrington.

"Dr. Harrington's contributions to Texas A&M and the A&M System are not likely to be duplicated," he said. "As dean, president and chancellor, he contributed immeasurably to the greatness we see in place today."

A&M President William H. Mobley said Harrington was "a source of valuable personal counsel" during his presidency.

"He will be greatly missed by the entire University community," he said.

Harrington is survived by his widow, Ruth Norris Harrington; his son, Dr. John Norris Harrington of Dallas; and two grandsons.

Services were this morning in First Baptist Church of Bryan, where Harrington was a member for 57 years. He will be buried in the College Station City Cemetery.

Russians visit B-CS, sign document

By JILL BUTLER
 Of The Battalion Staff

While visiting the local community from May 5 to 12, nine residents of Kazan, Russia, signed a document officially establishing Bryan-College Station and Kazan as sister cities.

The Russian delegation included a student of Kazan State University, a photojournalist and two officials—equivalents of vice presidents—from Kazan State University.

Bryan-College Station has sent two groups of representatives to Kazan within the past year.

Dr. Olga Cooke, A&M assistant professor of Russian, said plans to create a Russian sister city for Bryan-College Station have been in the works for three years.

"Our organization wanted to find a sister city with which we could converse on many different levels," Cooke said. "We want to be able to express our concerns for peace in the future."

"We want to focus on our similarities, not our differences, with Kazan."

Cooke called the Russian delegation's visit a "goodwill mission" and said she hopes the visitors reached various groups of people in the local area.

"We are going to meet and discuss plans for high school students, A&M students and community members to visit the Soviet Union in the future," Cooke said.

While in Bryan-College Station, members of the delegation were kept busy with meetings, luncheons, banquets and parties.

The delegation experienced country and western dancing, barbecue and gospel music. The visitors

also saw the fire department, city hall, the chamber of commerce, hospitals, the police station, schools, banks, a local television station and the Texas A&M campus. Some delegates visited Houston.

The visitors went shopping, attended a luncheon hosted by A&M's President William Mobley and were given T-shirts and cowboy hats.

Kazan State University student Dmitry Kounitza met with Ty Cle-

venger, A&M student body president, and a committee of A&M students to sign a goodwill agreement between the two universities.

"The delegates came to meet the people of Bryan-College Station," Cooke said. "We tried to give them a good idea of how businesses, schools, hospitals and banks are operated here."

She said many Bryan-College Station community members attended

the various banquets and dinners.

"It was exciting to see so many community members come out and meet the Russian delegates," Cooke said. "The fact that 150 people attended the banquet and 200 people attended the barbecue tells us how far we've come in the past few years."

"The members of the Russian delegation were moved and touched by the hospitality of the people in Bryan-College Station."

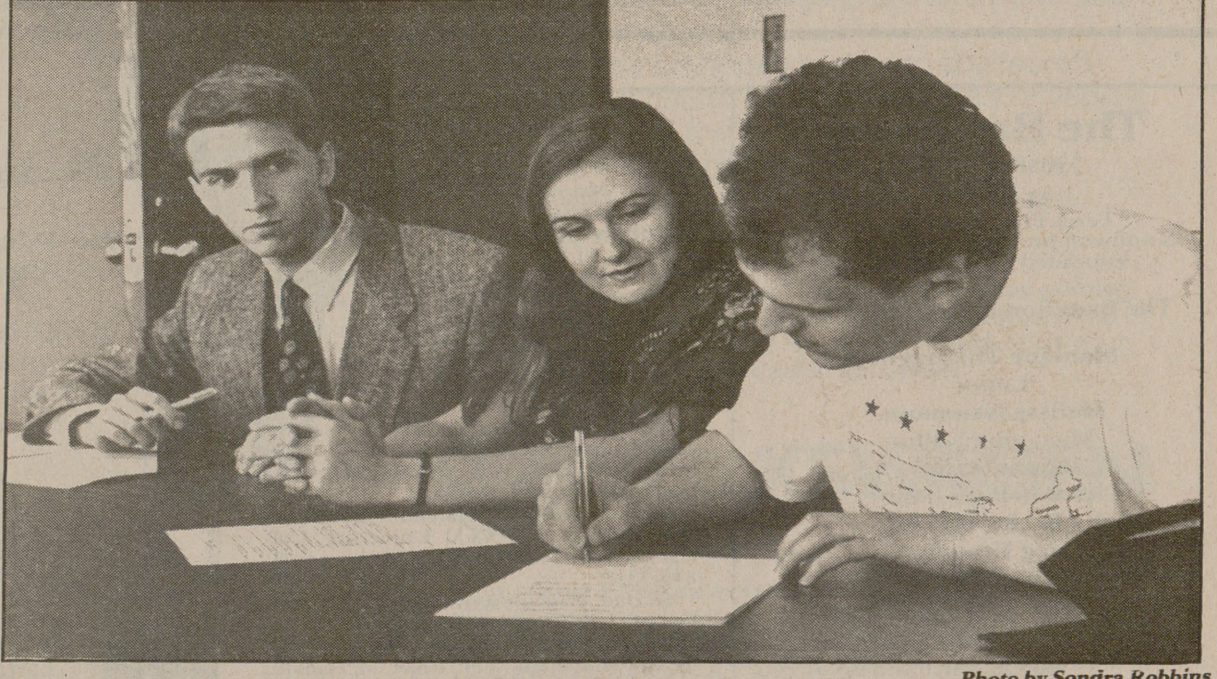


Photo by Sondra Robbins

Ty Clevenger and L. Aleksandra Gilliland watch as Dmitry Kounitza signs a goodwill agreement.

Tradition faces possible change Report examines bonfire issue

By HOLLY BECKA
 Of The Battalion Staff

Bonfire at Texas A&M could be 50 percent smaller by 1993 and those who build the spirit symbol could have a grade requirement imposed on them if a recommendation from the Faculty Senate is implemented.

Faculty Senate members voted to send A&M President William Mobley a report examining ways to improve bonfire in terms of safety, location, environmental concerns, humanitarian considerations and academics of the students who work on it.

The report was compiled by student leaders, faculty members, with University and local officials consulting.

Senator Bill Stout, a representative from the agriculture and life sciences college, presented the report.

He said bonfire is an important tradition at A&M and the report makes recommendations to accentuate the positive aspects of bonfire while addressing University and community officials' concerns.

The report addresses the following concerns:

- Environmental considerations — Concerns about environmental consequences of cutting thousands of trees each year have been expressed.
- The report recommends trees be cut only if a site is available that already was scheduled for clearing. If no site is available in a given year, bonfire will not be built.
- A tree planting plan also was recommended to replace trees cut for stack. The plan suggests two trees be planted for every one cut down.
- Academic standards — The report recommends a minimum GPR be imposed on students working on bonfire.
- Bonfire leaders would be required to maintain a 2.3 GPR in 1990, gradually increasing to 2.5 for bonfire leaders in 1992. Bonfire workers would have to maintain a 2.1 in 1990, increasing to 2.3 in 1992.
- Alcohol — The recommendation that the consumption of alcohol be eliminated at bonfire was made in the report.
- The report says the efforts of student leaders to reduce alcohol consumption and publicity about the elimination of alcohol are encouraged.
- Safety considerations — Recommendations include criteria for bonfire site and a reduced size of bonfire.
- The report says by reducing bonfire's size, fewer trees would be cut, less student time would be spent working and risks of personal injury and property damage would be lessened. The reduction would be gradual, so as not to reduce the visual impact of bonfire all at once, the report

Faculty Senate votes for 13-level grade scale

By HOLLY BECKA
 Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate narrowly passed a resolution to replace the present grade scale to one discriminating between student performance within a grade range.

The resolution passed by a 36-34 vote.

The Faculty Senate recommended a 13-level scale be implemented that would include A+, A and A-.

An A+ would be equal to 4.33 grade points, an A would be equal to 4.0 and an A- would be equal to 3.67 grade points, and so on down the scale.

Various faculty senators said the present grade scale does not provide the flexibility to distinguish student performance within a grade range.

Senators said there is not enough discrimination between the exceptional student earning 98, for example, and a student who makes the more common grade of 90.

During discussion about the resolution, Alice Wolf, a senator representing the small animal medicine and surgery department, said a numerical scale should be used if A&M faculty members want to discriminate between exceptional and mediocre students.

Other senators said the new grading scale would make it harder for A&M students to get fellowships, scholarships or into graduate schools because the pluses or minuses would be truncated. This would hurt A&M students instead of help them.

An A&M senator who taught at Rice University and used the 13-level scale said she was not aware of any difficulties students encountered while applying for fellowships or graduate schools.

She said the system worked well at Rice and she had been dissatisfied with A&M's present grading scale.

One senator said he believed the 13-level grading scale would not allow students to "play the game of life."

He said part of life was risk and the finagling of points so that students could concentrate efforts in a class they found difficult and ease up in a less-difficult class, but still end up with, for example, two Bs.

Brennan Reilly, Texas A&M Student Government representative, said he didn't like the recommendation.

"I don't think there was enough evidence presented," Reilly said. "We looked at it in Student Senate and there weren't enough facts either way. To me, this was a decision not based on statistics."

"I think if this is implemented, you won't be able to do as much to change your grade — you won't have incentive to make that last minute push to raise your grade because the scale will be different."

In other action, the Faculty Senate resolved to shorten the drop-without-record period to coincide with the present period for adding a course.

Senators said this resolution would allow more students to obtain desired classes and prevent open seats in classes after the date to add a class is past.

This could be accomplished by reducing the height of bonfire by 2.75 feet and bonfire's circumference by 7.5 feet each year for four years to attain a 50 percent reduction by 1993.

• Neighborhood relations — The report recommends clean-up crews move through local neighborhoods the day after bonfire to pick up garbage and repair damage. The crews could be organized by the Corps of Cadets, dormitories or other campus organizations.

• Humanitarian concerns — The report says that every year an excess of wood is not used for bonfire. This wood could be sold as momentos and profits would be donated to

charity.

Other fund-raising efforts for humanitarian purposes could be associated with bonfire, the report says.

• Publicity — The report recommends publicizing the positive aspects of bonfire including the improvements.

Brennan Reilly, co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Bonfire, said the recommendation was passed unanimously by students and faculty members on the bonfire committee.

"It's a solid recommendation," Reilly said. "Joey Dollins, next year's senior repdot, was on the committee and he was extremely satisfied with the recommendation. He felt it was best for bonfire."