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Russian experts visit A&M

Specialists examine American petroleum technology



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Visiting Russians stand with Americans at the Delta Drilling Co.'s Site 63.

By MACK HARRISON

Reporter of THE BATTALION

A group of Russian petroleum experts visiting Texas A&M toured a drilling rig near Wellborn Sunday as a part of their effort to learn more about American petroleum technology

The delegation, from Urengoi in northwest Siberia, came to A&M at the invitation of the Center for Russian Petroleum Studies in the petroleum engineering department. Siberia contains some of the largest gas fields in the world, with over 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves

Dr. Eustakhy Nanivsky spoke to petroleum engineering graduate students last week about development of the natural gas fields in west Siberia. Nanivsky, a professor and author, has worked in the Siberian gas fields for the past 26 years.

Nanivsky said American and Russian companies and universities will continue to cooperate in developing petroleum fields in the former Soviet Union. He said both countries have much to gain.

"We [...] visited several labs at A&M and were pleasantly surprised with the equipment. Also we were impressed with the level of the professors who work there."

> -Dr. Eustakhy Nanivsky, professor and author

"We have managed to learn a lot of interesting things about Texas A&M University and your educational system," Nanivsky said through an interpreter. "But we in Russia also have strong points. We could enrich each other.

Don Ellison, company representative for Global Natural Resources, said his company wants to work with Russian businesses to develop gas fields in the

region.

Dr. Richard A. Startzman, a petroleum engineering professor, said Siberia presents a great opportunity for American petroleum companies. He said the petroleum engineering department hopes to help American businesses work with their Russian counterparts in managing the reserves.

It's a new frontier for Americans, but it's already established for the Russians," Startzman said.

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MADD protests lack of jail sentencing for Texas DWI offender

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON - A decade after Texas passed mandatory sentencing rules for those convicted of drunken driving, the state has begun to substitute community service for jail time.

That change, supporters of Mothers Against Drunk Driving say, has watered down the seriousness of a deadly crime.

"They, in essence, have wiped out an entire decade of MADD's goals for punishment of DWI offenders," Vena Cronin of Houston's MADD chapter said.

"To think that we have lost the

"To think that we have lost the punishment for DWI by accident, that thought is gonna stay with me a long time.

In a copyright story Sunday, The Houston Post reported that the Texas Legislature's passage of House Bill 93 in the last session has allowed more lenient sentenc-ing of DWI offenders in the last

House Bill 93 received considerable news coverage during the last session, but virtually all of the attention was focused on provisions that called for expansion of the overcrowded Texas prison system. Little was said about the portion of the bill that affected drunk drivers.
Since 1983, DWI offenders who

were given probation for additional violations were required to spend at least three days in jail for a second offense, 10 days for a third offense and 30 days for

causing serious bodily injury.
Included in the fine print of House Bill 93, however, was an amendment to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure that gave judges the power to allow convicted drunk drivers on probation to serve their mandatory jail time by performing community service. Lawmakers and MADD supporters say they were unaware of the changes until it was too late.

"Either they, too, didn't stand what its implications or else they were suppo that change and didn't war public about it," state Rep Colbert, D-Houston, said

colleagues in the Legislatur Other legislators say they told before voting on the bill it contained no changes way convicted criminals an

"It may have been put in inadvertently," state Sen Lyon, D-Rockwall, chairn the Senate Committee of Cri Justice and a sponsor of th said. "It may have been a take, or it may have been a tentional act on somebo

MADD officials said thed will undermine their e DWI-related deaths in the U States decreased 9.9 perce year from 22,083 in 1990 to in 1991. In Texas, DWI deat creased 10.9 percent, from in 1990 to 1,249 in 1991.

"Research shows pur in conjunction with rehabil has the most success in det repeat offenders," said R Duffield, director of specia jects for the Texas Comm Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

"Chances are it's not the time he's driven drunk. their hand and say, 'Go you ry way,' is not doing that per good service," Duffield said. But Carl Reynolds, staff

tor of the Texas Commiss Punishment Standards, st moving the mandatory jail sion discourages offenders accepting probation because could include DWI education fees and long periods of super

Some supporters of the ch said it doesn't make sense for offender to lose his job as a res of a jail sentence and consequ ly be unable to make restitution

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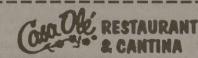
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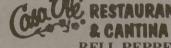
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