

Chicano activists fight pesticide use

By Kevin Lindstrom

THE BATTALION

Leader of a Chicano activist group at Texas A&M University said Monday they want the University Food Services to stop serving California table grapes on campus.

The Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), a special interest group that focuses on issues concerning the Chicano community, said A&M needs to look at all sides of the problem.

Gene Perez, president of MEChA, said, "Texas A&M University, being an agricultural university, has a responsibility to be concerned with all of the facets of agriculture, not only the business end of agriculture, but also the workers in the fields."

Perez said the organization also plans to promote awareness of Chicano culture and work with the city of Bryan in the development of its Chicano community.

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- Irwin Tang, spokesperson for the United Farm Workers of America

Irwin Tang, a spokesperson for the United Farm Workers of America and former student of Texas A&M, presented a film entitled "No Sprays," which included appearances by Edward James Olmos, Lou Diamond Phillips and Martin Sheen.

The video claimed pesticides used in grape farming caused birth defects including cancer, deformities and numerous miscarriages among farm workers that helped work and harvest these farms.

"Three hundred thousand people are poisoned every year from pesticides used in the production of grapes," the video states.

Tang said these pesticides are causing health problems across the United States.

"These problems are not just in California," he said. "They are all across the nation, including the Rio Grande Valley. Toxic farming is a recent phenomenon that is not necessary."

Tang said organic farming is a successful alternative to using pesticides.

"Organic farming, though only used in about 5 percent of farms today, is just as productive as toxic farming," he said. "The food is just as healthy, just as pest free, but no pesticides are used."

Tang said both the University of Texas and Arizona State University have removed grapes from their food services.

High-tech security begins in Houston school

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Security has gone high-tech at Worthing High School, where five real cameras and two fake ones are keeping an eye on the campus and even the surrounding community.

"We've got to be in the preventive mode," said Principal Larry Alexander, himself a graduate of the school.

The \$15,000 system was installed nearly a year ago soon after Alexander took charge of the 1,100-student school, which has been an

easy target for outside troublemakers in the past.

A retired coach is paid to monitor the system and report anything suspicious to the principal or to the two police officers who patrol the campus on the city's south side.

The security system, coupled with a strict dress code and an ever-vigilant staff checking passes in the hallways, has curtailed problems at the school.

Since the security system was installed, school administrators said, only two student fights have occurred.

Houston Independent School District police reported only 19 incidents ranging from assaults to trespassing last year — compared to 70 the year before.

"It would be a great piece of equipment in all of our schools if we could come up with the bucks," said Les Burton, director of security for HISD.

The Worthing cameras watch the campus, but they also are powerful enough to keep tabs on the surrounding neighborhood.

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Trying to catch the coach's eye



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M baseball Head coach Mark Johnson (right) and assistant head coach Jim Lawler watch first base as an Aggie baseball player hits a home run during the Aggies open tryouts Monday afternoon.

Students from Italy experience Aggie life

By Jacqueline Mason

THE BATTALION

Francesca Gallorini and Francesca Tanti came to College Station from Italy in late July to experience what they heard was a truly unique locale - Aggieland.

They heard about Texas A&M from Aggies who study at Santa Chiara, a Texas A&M University Study Center near Arezzo, Italy.

Mona Rizk-Finne, director of A&M's Study Abroad Programs, said Gallorini and Tanti wanted to come to College Station to learn more about Aggies.

"This was not an exchange program," she said.

Gallorini and Tanti's visit was a special arrangement in which the two students applied to the English Language Institute and were invited to come to A&M for the fall semester to study English intensively, she said.

They will also have the opportunity to learn more about the University.

The program involves improving student's English skills through lessons in reading and oral communication.

Students do not, however, get to study subjects like science and liberal arts while at A&M.

Jennifer Brooks, a peer counselor at the Study Abroad Office, said, "These are the first Italian students who have come

through [the program], and I think it is because of the A&M students who have gone over there and who have talked to them and convinced them that it is a good thing to do.

"They were kind enough to let us into their country and their culture that we wanted to share what ours was like," she said.

Both students said they are impressed with the facilities, such as computers and laboratories, that are available to Aggies.

Gallorini said Italian universities do not provide many of these facilities for students even though the tuition at Italian schools is lower.

Gallorini and Tanti also expressed an interest in playing sports and getting part-time jobs.

Counselor Mimi Ribeiro said the students should spend more time interacting with other Aggies.

"As far as giving them advice, it would be the same as giving a new student advice: try and get involved in the things that are around you," she said.

Peer counselors at A&M's study abroad office try to involve Gallorini and Tanti in organized activities with other exchange students.

They plan social activities like trips to midnight yell practice and to the movies.

Committee sets decision date for proposed class

By Lisa Elliott

The Battalion

Caucus Leaders of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate discussed with faculty members the proposed multiculturalism courses during their meeting Monday.

Chairman of the committee Doug Slack said the final proposal for the classes will be formally made at the next committee meeting Oct. 4. Slack said it would not be wise to make a decision this early in the Fall.

"This is happening at the worst time of the year for academics what with people being out of town and the first week of classes," he said.

He said caucus members will attend the Faculty Senate meeting as soon as the proposal is perfected to present it to the Senate.

Caucus Leaders said most of the faculty they talked to favor multicultural courses.

However, most members expressed concern about whether there would be room for all the students in the courses and wanted to clarify the reasoning for requiring the classes.

Slack said all the specifics will be ironed out by the next meeting. Ben Dale, chairman of academic affairs of the Student Senate, presented a rough draft of a proposal to the committee that will be made at the Student Senate meeting on Wednesday.

The proposal would reduce the number of hours required to three and delete the requirement that 33 percent of the course pertain to minorities or international issues.

Dale said all of the executive officers of the Student Senate believe this is an important issue that should get recognition from the student body.

"We want to work in conjunction with you," he said. "But the proposal will stand on its own."

Dale took suggestions from faculty members to improve the proposal before it becomes final at Wednesday's meeting.

Administration to reshape federal bureaucracy

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hoping to capitalize on public outrage over government waste, the White House is touching up plans administration officials say will save \$108 billion over five years by reshaping the federal bureaucracy.

The leaner government envisioned by Vice President Al Gore also would include 252,000 fewer workers.

His upcoming report to President Clinton,

called the National Performance Review, recommends buyouts and early retirements for employees whose services are no longer needed, said White House officials who spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity.

The administration wants to eliminate or consolidate scores of wasteful programs, allow the private sector to compete for government business, cut red tape that saddles efficient federal workers and expand the use of modern office technologies such as computers to improve efficiency.

The report, scheduled to be unveiled Tues-

day, is certain to draw opposition from federal employees who may lose their jobs and from lawmakers who oversee programs on Gore's hit list.

But White House officials are betting that the changes will be popular with the voters.

An Associated Press poll shows that 95 percent of Americans think government wastes too much money.

The average American thinks 37 percent of the \$1.5 trillion federal budget could realistically

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Silver Taps ceremony scheduled for tonight

At 10:30 tonight six buglers and the Ross Volunteer Firing Squad will pay tribute to six students who have died over the past five months as part of the first Silver Taps ceremony of the fall semester.

The ceremony honors those students who have passed away in the previous month, but tonight's ceremony will honor those who have died since Aggie Muster last April.

The first Silver Taps was held in 1898 to honor Lawrence Sullivan Ross, founder and first president of the University. The ceremony is held in front of the Academic Building on the first Tuesday of every month during the

school year. The Albritton Tower bells will ring at 10:15 p.m. as the lights around campus are turned off out of respect for those students honored at the ceremony. The Ross Volunteers march in at 10:30 p.m. and fire a 21-gun salute. "Silver Taps" is played by six buglers to the north, south and west.

The following people will be honored at tonight's Silver Taps ceremony:

- Willie Carmon, a junior economics major from Beaumont. Carmon died on May 14 as the result of an auto accident. He was 21 years old.

- Ramesh Kumar Chennappan,

a senior accounting major from Round Rock. Chennappan died May 25 from asphyxiation.

- Timoteo Rodriguez Jr., a sophomore biology major. Rodriguez died on May 14 in a car accident.

- Rick Edward Torres, a junior computer engineering major. Torres died on May 14 in a car accident. He was 22 years old.

- Tabitha Michelle Williams, a graduate student in business administration from Spring, Texas. Williams died on June 12 as the result of an auto accident.

- Zhenliang Xu, a graduate in soil and crop sciences from China. Xu died on June 5.



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WEATHER

• Tuesday: mostly cloudy, scattered showers

• Wednesday: partly cloudy, no rain expected

• Extended forecast: partly cloudy, chance of thunderstorms