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Oxford University meets Texas A&M

Exchange students from England join biology program in study abroad program

BY BRIAN RUFF
The Battalion

Three of England's brightest scholars, Michael Richardson, Lee Bofkin and Carla Hayde, are on extended trip in the Bryan-College Station area to study biology with an emphasis on genetics for a new exchange program between Texas A&M and Oxford University.

Oxford University is the oldest English-speaking university in the world, founded more than eight centuries ago.

"These are the first three students in this program and they are exceptional individuals — really first-rate scholars," said entomology professor Dr. Spencer Johnston in an Aug. 23 press release. "We decided early on

to select genetics as the field of study for this first group because it reaches across all areas of science. All three have done excellent work here, and they have been a credit to this program. The faculty has said it wished they could all come back as graduate students."

The University looks to broaden the two-week program to other fields in the future.

The students had never traveled to Texas before their trip to A&M and were surprised by the spaciousness of the area and the extreme heat.

Bofkin works with plant enzymes and studies how chemical weapons and pesticides affect plants' ability to reproduce. By studying the mutant plants, he determines whether specific methods increase the growing

"None of us had ever heard the term 'Texas Aggie' until we got here. ... Now I know that you can always tell an Aggie by his school spirit."

— Oxford exchange students said in an Aug. 23 press release

time of the plants. Richardson has been working

with plants and cloning at A&M. He studied herbs in the mustard family and their methods of reproduction.

Hayde studies plants and environmental biology, and she has a special interest in insect ecology. She also plans to travel to Portugal to study plant taxonomy and ecology to further her studies.

"None of us had ever heard the term 'Texas Aggie' until we got here," the students said in the Aug. 23 press release. "We had absolutely no idea what an Aggie was or what it meant. Now I know that you can always tell an Aggie by his school spirit."

Texas A&M is scheduled to send a student to Oxford in December and send another two students to England next spring.

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

summer and will allow the department to better meet demand.

Until the new equipment can be installed, Hage suggested that everyone on campus be conscious of water usage.

"When you have 50,000 people on campus, every bit of conservation helps," he said.

The cities of College Station and Bryan have their own wells close to, but separate from, Texas A&M's wells. With all three entities pumping at full strength, the Physical Plant is only able to guarantee about 7 million gallons of water production per day.

The pinch on supply has led to water rationing around the University. The brunt of the cutback is being borne by landscaping across the University's 5,200 acres.

"We cut way, way back on irrigating large

fields, but there are some irrigation requirements that are unavoidable. The greens on the golf course are expensive to maintain and the turf on Kyle Field is also very expensive. ... these are significant parts of the University that we cannot afford to neglect," Hage said.

As a result of the cutback on irrigation, landscaping crews are making the most of their allotment. Hand watering is replacing timed sprinkler systems on parts of campus. In some places crews are waiting for more moderate temper-

tures to add new plants.

Evidence of the cutback around campus includes patches in the grass, particularly on West Campus.

The dry grass poses more than just an aesthetic problem for the University. Brazos County is one of 199 in the state that is considered extreme risk for wildfires. A cut in irrigation could increase the possibility of a grass fire on campus. Hage said that all the grass on campus is very short and could be extinguished easily.

According to the Texas Forest Service, 168 out of 254 counties in Texas, including Brazos County, have implemented burn bans to combat the threat of wildfires. The burn ban in Brazos Valley forbids all non-contained fires.

FISH

by R.DeLuna



NON MIA CULPA

by B-Hippie



Apt. #160

by Kyle w



News in Brief

SBP Lane to make speech on his 2000-'01 agenda

Student Body President Forrest Lane, a senior political science major, will offer his State of the University address this evening at 6:30 in the Forsyth Center, located in the Memorial Student Center.

Lane said his speech will address a broad range of topics. "[The address] is my opportunity to set what I think would be a good agenda for student government for this year," Lane said.

Lane said one of the foremost goals for student government this year is to accurately advocate student views.

THE BATTALION

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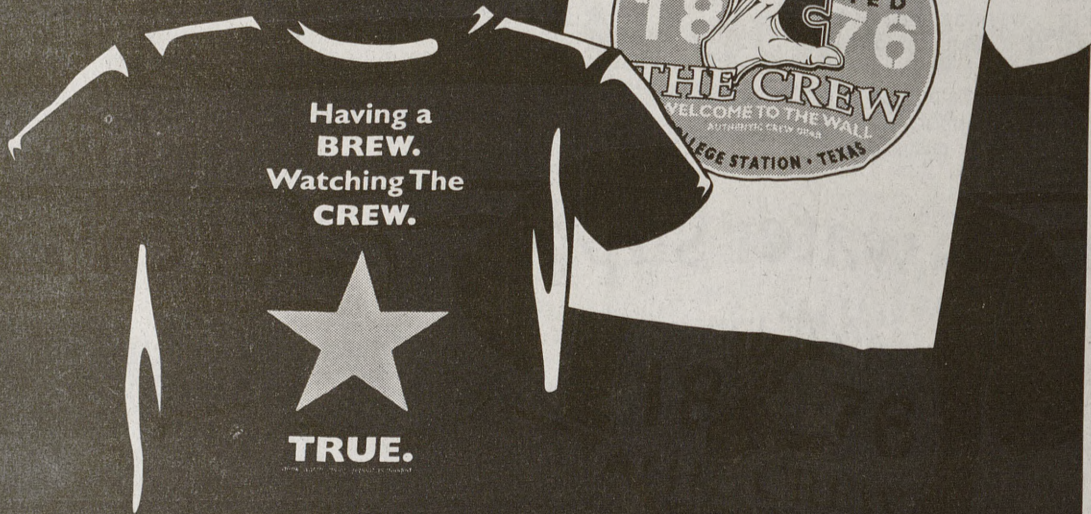
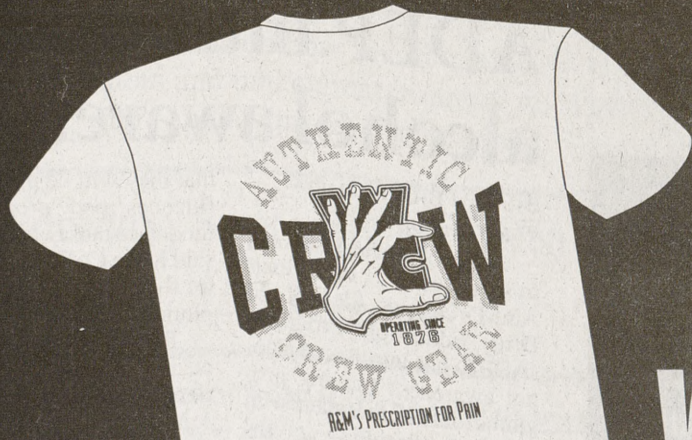
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