

Full Moon

by R. DeLuna

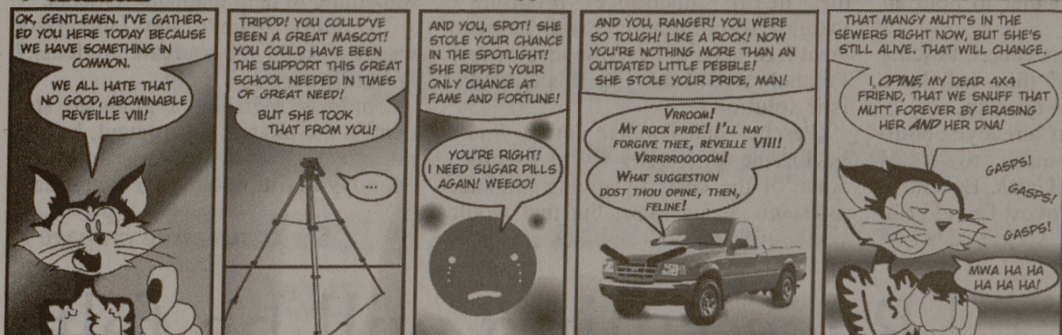


#15

"Old Mascots Die Hard"

This might require a trip to <http://aggieladitons.tamu.edu/revaille.shtml>

By I. FLORES



Mexico

Continued from page 1

different university organizations that help improve agricultural development and livestock from both sides of the border.

The students, who began preparing one week before the first summer session, received three credit hours for the research trip.

During the first week of summer classes, the students hosted six Mexican students, who had the chance to meet with a professor conducting the same research they were in Mexico.

"I just thought it would be a good experience," said J. Adrian Garcia, a senior agricultural development major. "I wanted to learn about other states in my country, the views and the mentality. I was pretty impressed especially with Ciudad Victoria with the actual technology they had."

Garcia said he would encourage other students to take advantage of the opportunity to go on a research trip because the experience will be beneficial later in life.

"I really didn't know what to expect," said Tanya Harvey,

a junior agricultural journalism major. "This is the first trip that I have taken that had anything to do with a research project. I was actually really scared when I first went on the trip because I did not have any idea what I was going to be doing."

"Not only did I learn a lot about the Texas-Mexico Initiative, but I also learned a lot about myself."

The research trip offered students a chance to see what professors did besides teach.

"I felt like I was part of the University, not just a student here getting information, but actually what I was doing was actually going to impact someone else," Harvey said.

Harvey said one way to get involved in research projects is to develop good relationships with professors outside the classroom. She said if students have an interest in getting a post-graduate degree, they should take the opportunity to get international experience while they are undergraduates.

Gary Wingenbach, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Education, accompanied the students to Mexico.

"Undergraduate students face an increasingly competitive job market after graduation," he said. "What sets apart

undergraduates from all the other applicants for a job is not so much what they do inside the classroom, but what they do outside the classroom."

"This exchange program is a prime example of how important it is to become involved in studies beyond the classroom."

Wingenbach said the students who went on the research trip have a better understanding of how interconnected Texas and northeast Mexico are in regards to agricultural systems, food and culture.

He said students should check all assumptions at the border and need to go into an exchange program with an open mind, realistic expectations and a willingness to experience new things.

"We think that if we do this over time there's going to be a greater understanding between two countries that are adjacent to each other, very different from each other and that we not only look at each other from what we see immediately on each other's borders," Piña said. "Both countries have a lot more to give and a lot more to learn about each other. We have to look at this as sort of an area that is not divided by a river — it's actually joined by a river."

Elsewhere in the same town, a "large number" of Iraqi gunmen opened fire on a British patrol Tuesday with rocket-propelled grenades, heavy machine guns and rifles, Hoon said. The British returned fire, and one soldier was wounded in the fight.

A rapid reaction force, including Scimitar light tanks and a Chinook CH-47 helicopter, came to help the ground troops but also came under fire, Hoon said. Seven people on board the helicopter were wounded, three of them seriously, the government said.

Hoon said commanders were investigating whether the deaths and the ambush were connected.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, extended condolences to the families of the dead soldiers.

"These losses are a reminder that Iraq remains a dangerous place," Myers said at the Pentagon. "But we must continue to stand firm."

It was the deadliest day for coalition forces since May 19, when six U.S. Marines died, most in a helicopter crash and a vehicle accident.

The deadliest single attack on coalition forces came on March 23, the early days of the U.S.-led invasion, when Iraqis opened fire on a U.S. Army maintenance convoy near the southern town of Nasiriyah,

killing 11 soldiers.

At least 18 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraqi attacks since May 1, when major combat was declared over. Most of the attacks have occurred in the belt of central and western Iraq dominated by Sunni Muslims, Saddam's strongest supporters.

Saddam loyalists, Sunnis and ex-army soldiers are suspected in the attacks. The Shiite-dominated south has been largely peaceful since the regime's fall. The Muslim sect was long repressed by Saddam and rose up in some areas as coalition forces invaded the country in March. Shiites have since assumed leadership roles and moved to restore order.

Africa

Continued from page 1

of Forsyth Galleries. "You feel as if you are part of their world."

Talley's inspiration is accredited to his dream to visit Africa.

"Nonetheless, seeing the motherland, interacting with its people and absorbing the culture provided an emotional, artistic and spiritual experience," Talley said. "Words cannot fully express, nor can photographs, paintings or sculptures fully convey the beauty of the country. Yet, I have attempted to do so."

A few of Talley's pieces hit a little closer to home with him than others. He said two of his favorite pieces include beaded works titled "Majestic Maasai's No. 1" and "Majestic Maasai's No. 2."

"Beyond the fine ebony carvings by the Makonde

sculptors and Tingatinga paintings by the Cooperative, another international favorite of tourists and collectors is the beadwork of the distinguished Maasai tribe," he said. "Their skillful ability to do delicate beadwork along with their red fashion statement truly sets them apart from their African brothers and sisters."

Two of his other favorite works are "God Bless the Child" and "Sister, Sister," Talley said.

Talley compiled an in-depth brochure giving more detail and greater insight about his adventure to Africa.

Some of his most recent exhibits have been in California, Alabama, Washington, D.C. and Houston. He is currently working on a retrospective from works during the 1980s period.

"I am planning a sequel to my show," he said, "but am presently working on a doctrine in biblical studies."

"A View of Africa" is a special addition to the Forsyth Galleries, Hollinger said.

"Hopefully students will gain insight to the culture through my exhibit," Talley said.

Students who have viewed the exhibit said they have enjoyed it.

"As an anthropology major I find this very informative and interesting," said senior Justice Luckenbach. "It helps me understand and appreciate this culture a little better."

Hollinger said Talley's work is beyond belief.

"Rev. Talley's creativity and enthusiasm is so great that after a 20 minute conversation, you feel you share his excitement from the people, places and cultures of Tanzania," Hollinger said.

The exhibit can be viewed in the L.T. Jordan Conference Room in the Memorial Student Center until May 2004.

Insurance

Continued from page 1

students to discuss the insurance increases.

Mershin wants the GSC to have an emergency meeting. He said students in his department want A&M to pick up enough of the bill to reduce personal costs to where they previously were in 2003.

"These increases will mean a reduction of anywhere from 10 percent to 30 percent of a cut in our take-home income," he said. "That is before we pay for tuition and fees, which costs about \$2,000 a semester. That is a lot when you consider an average graduate student makes about \$1,000 a month."

The increased costs leave a large number of graduate students in a tough position, Mershin said.

"It's a very sudden and large pay cut," he said. "It forces us to either accept it somehow and acquire debt to cover our costs or not get health insurance, neither of which is a good option."

Mershin warned that forcing graduate assistants to take on the new insurance prices could have negative effects on A&M's image and ability to recruit new graduate students.

"The quality of the graduate students is very important to the quality of the research institution," he said. "If you burden them with this pay cut, then you're hurting your school."

Mershin said his group is planning to collect signatures on a letter asking A&M's administration to support its graduate students with financial support.

A&M officials have pledged that they will help graduate assistants offset the costs. Vice Provost Bill Perry said Monday he was optimistic A&M would help ease the burden.

"The bottom line is that we are going to put together some funds to address this," he said. "We're going to address it, we've decided to address it, we're setting aside money to address it, but it's the exact mechanics we have to work out over the next couple or three weeks."

Perry said that while he doesn't know how much money will be set aside, A&M officials understand the important role graduate students play in the University setting.

"The graduate assistants are a really important part of our University family," he said. "They do so much to assist in our research and teaching, so they are part of us, and we need to try and solve this."

Iraq

Continued from page 1

guerrilla war despite U.S. insistence that resistance is local, not centrally organized.

The British casualties occurred in the town of Majar al-Kabir, about 180 miles southeast of Baghdad and just south of the city of Amarah.

Defense Secretary Geoffrey Hoon told Parliament in London that the British soldiers — military police on a mission to train Iraqi police — were apparently killed in a police station in the town.

Earlier, a British army spokesman in Basra said the soldiers were killed by Iraqi fire.

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THE BATTALION

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