

Gifted students get taste of ag research

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Two outstanding American high school students, chosen in a nationwide competition, just got their first taste of what research at an academic institution is all about at The University of Maryland.

"My only regret is the program was too short," said 17-year-old Amy Lynn Sillman, of Piqua, Ohio, who will graduate from high school next year.

"The point of the program was more to learn how research is actually done," said 17-year-old Eli Victor Olinick.

"Until I came here, I thought all scientists ran around in white lab coats.

"But I can tell you, I've been out collecting plant samples, wearing boots and tramping through the mud," added the native of Middlebury, Vermont.

The program Sillman and Olinick refer to is that sponsored by the newly-formed Rickover Science Institute, an ambitious educational endeavor by the Admiral Hyman G. Rickover Foundation in McLean, Virginia.

The Rickover Science Institute program seeks to "foster development of the intellectual and practical skills of gifted and talented youth in math and science," according to Rickover Foundation officials.

"It is the only program in the country to combine theoretical study with hands-on research projects for each student," said public affairs news releases heralding the institute's inaugural program.

Sillman and Olinick were two of 54 outstanding American high school students chosen in nationwide competition to attend

the institute. Six additional students were selected from the People's Republic of China and Israel.

Both Sillman and Olinick were assigned to researchers for The University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station (UMAES) for three weeks this summer to learn firsthand how research is conducted.

Sillman, for example, worked directly with Dr. Theophanes Solomos, professor of horticulture of UMAES.

"My work dealt with determining the calcium content of apples to help us predict physiological disorders of fruits after harvest," said Sillman.

Olinick worked with Dr. Charles Mulchi, associate professor of agronomy at UMAES.

"We worked on exposing soybeans to ozone to determine the damaging effects of pollution on agricultural crops," said Olinick.

Both students will return after the program this summer to their respective hometowns to finish senior years in high school.

After that? Both have general ideas about their future. Sillman is interested in biochemistry, Olinick in a math-related field, such as engineering.

Meeting privately with the two, UM President John Toll told them "We are indeed honored and fortunate to have two gifted students working side-by-side with our researchers."



Eli Victor Olinick, 17, of Middlebury, Vt., and Amy Lynn Sillman, 17, of Piqua, Ohio (front, left and right), were two of 54 American high school students selected by the Rickover Science Institute to work with scientists in the Washington, D.C. area for three weeks this summer. The two high school seniors were selected in a nationwide competition by the Rickover Science Institute, part of the Hyman G. Rickover Foundation in McLean, Va. Olinick worked with Dr. Charles Mulchi (rear, left) on the effects of ozone pollution on agricultural crops. Sillman worked with Dr. Theophanes Solomos (rear, right), on how calcium content affects fruits after harvest. With the group is Dr. John Toll (rear, center), president of The University of Maryland.

Wayne Extension banquet set

BETHANY — The annual dinner meeting of the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Association will be held Thursday at 7:45 p.m. in the Bethany Methodist Church Hall, Bethany.

A highlight of the event will be recognition of William Foster, State Representative, for the support he has provided to the Extension Service and Penn State. In addition, reports will be given on several projects with which Extension has been associated this past year: the 4-H Exchange trip to Iowa, Agricultural Security Areas,

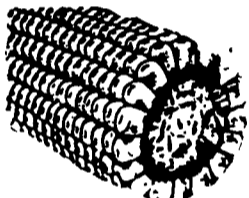
results of a nutrition computer program known as EATS, and the proposed Extension state-wide computer network.

Election of seven members to the Extension Executive Committee will also be held and printed annual Extension reports will be distributed.

Tickets for the annual dinner meeting can be secured from the local Extension Office in the Courthouse or from any member of the Extension Executive Committee.

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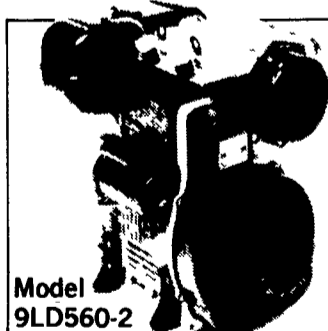
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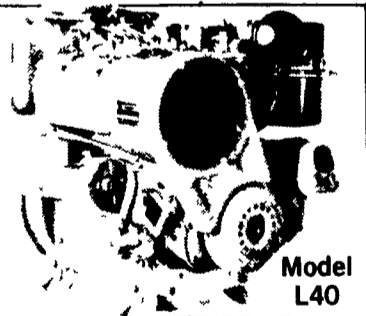
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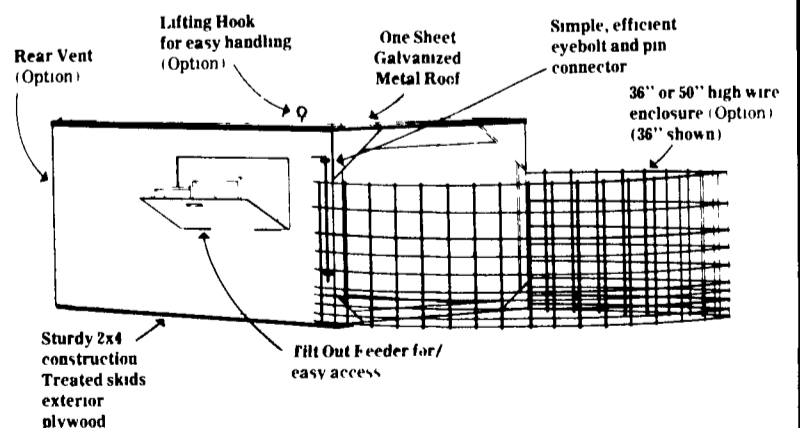
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