

Arm-wrestler cites sexism

United Press International
 DAVIS, Calif. — Nowhere in the world of men only, says Debbie Lyle, is the skill she excels at regarded more.
 She's a world champion at wrist-wrestling, also called arm-wrestling — that he-man test of strength you see in bars and in television soap commercials aimed at the very-much male consumer.
 Lyle, 25, a graduate student at the University of California at Davis, wrestles competitively with other women and wins honors despite the scoffing and bias she goes on among male practitioners.
 "There's still a lot of sexism," she says.
 Lyle, who is seeking a master of arts degree in educational psychology, won the world title in Petaluma in the 135-pounds and under division for women. She was runner-up last year and will try to regain the crown in October.
 "I used to beat most of the guys when I was younger," she said. "A friend of mine talked me into trying a state tournament at Rancho Cordova (a Sacramento suburb). I won state titles in 1973, '74, '75 and '76."
 At 5-9½ and weighing 142 for A-ladies, Lyle also scuba dives and

plays softball, racketball and volleyball. She gets into shape for matches by lifting weights and jogging.
 She still wrist-wrestles with men, usually to their grief, but never in tournaments.
 Despite her athletic prowess, Lyle and her manager, Yvonne Clearwater, said that she and other women athletes have yet to be accepted on the same level as male athletes.
 "Women athletes have difficulty obtaining sponsorship because male establishments think it's bad advertising to sponsor a woman athlete," said Clearwater.
 The Champion Sparkplug Co. is Lyle's major sponsor, and she also has received financial backing from Davis merchants.
 Clearwater cited instances at the National Wristwrestling Championships in Atlanta, Ga., which she said illustrated the second-class status of women athletes.
 The program manual contained no photographs of a female contestant, she said.
 "The only women shown in the program manual were models advertising the bars," Clearwater said. "They wore hotpants, plunging necklines and were sitting in seductive positions."
 She said the tournament's announcer failed to acknowledge the athletic skills of the female contestants, introducing them as "a couple of the most beautiful gals and wristwrestlers, too."
 "It was like an afterthought that they were wrist-wrestlers," Clearwater said.
 The event almost turned into a free-for-all, she said, when the an-



nouncer challenged the men to present two pairs of women's stockings for two six packs of beer.
 "It was really deflating for me as a woman," said Lyle, who took third place in the women's lightweight division. "You don't feel like competing for a circus. A lot of men don't take us seriously and this lowers the quality of the sport for women."
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U.S.-Viet relations to begin within year

United Press International
 BATON ROUGE, La. — The United States will extend diplomatic relations to Vietnam within six months, U.S. Rep. Henson Moore said Wednesday.
 Moore, R-La., one of eight congressmen who recently completed an 11-day tour of Vietnam and Laos, said he opposed the move.
 "I think it will be six months or less till the time we see diplomatic recognition and trade embargoes lifted," Moore told reporters at a news conference.
 Moore recommends the State Department negotiate with Vietnam about forming diplomatic relations.
 He said he was leery of Vietnamese intentions, adding the U.S. had nothing to gain by extending diplomatic "respectability" to its former enemy.
 Vietnam wants to buy U.S. crops and equipment to develop its petroleum industry and wants to borrow American money on 40 or 50-year terms to pay for it, Moore said.
 He said the reason Vietnam is seeking help from the United States is because the Southeast Asian country is embroiled in a growing conflict with China.
 "The Vietnamese are almost paranoid about it. They blame all their troubles on it," said Moore, one of eight congressmen who recently completed an 11-day tour of Vietnam and Laos.
 The Vietnamese are involved in a full-scale war with Cambodia and are blaming it on China, he said.
 Both China and Vietnam are also accusing each other of raiding across their mutual border and thousands

of Chinese merchants are fleeing Vietnam.
 Moore noted that diplomatic recognition was offered to Vietnam in 1977 but was rejected because the United States refused a Vietnamese demand for \$3 billion in war reparations.
 A major reason for the visit to Vietnam was to gather more information about Americans reported

missing in action in the Vietnam war. Moore said he was convinced the Vietnamese were making a genuine effort to account for the MIA's, although they had not been in the past.
 Moore said there was little hope of finding any survivors but there were "high hopes" of finding out what happened to the MIA's.

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Reserves restaurant seat

Dallas man honors new pope

United Press International
 DALLAS — A Dallas restaurateur has reserved an ornate, velvet-covered chair for his childhood catechism teacher, who just happens to be the new head of the Roman Catholic Church.
 Alberto Dal Cin, owner of two Dallas restaurants, says that as a youth in the Italian mountain village

where he lived, Albino Luciani was the beloved bishop who taught at a parochial school in Bellano. Last Saturday, Luciani was named the 263rd pope and assumed the name Pope John Paul.
 Dal Cin says he was "amazed" and "delighted" when he learned the humble "mountain man" he knew as a child had been named the new pope.

"He didn't like pomp, and although he held such a high office, he would meet us wearing the simple black cassock of an ordinary priest," recalls Dal Cin. "He always would laugh and talk with us, even when he was teaching. He is a brilliant man, but he relates what he knows in the simplest language."
 Dal Cin's mother and brother still live in Pope John Paul's hometown in Italy and know the prelate's brother and sister, who the restaurateur says live very simply.
 The pope is conservative in his theology, according to Dal Cin, but is liberal in certain areas.
 He says popes in the past have been aristocratic "but this one is more like Pope John XXIII." "He'll be a pope of the poor and underprivileged," Dal Cin predicts.
 Dal Cin, who immigrated to the United States five years ago, says the new pope is not a traveled man but that doesn't mean he'll need reservations to eat at his old hometown friend's establishments.
 "He'll have the seat of honor among the people," Dal Cin says,

pointing to the high-backed chair on which hangs a sign that reads, "Reserved for the Pope."

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Diets unhealthy?

Liquid protein diets have resulted in 40 deaths in the United States, says the Food and Drug Administration.
 The FDA has proposed that manufacturers voluntarily put a warning label, saying the product may cause serious illness or death — and that it is not intended for weight reduction or maintenance.
 These diets are dangerous to the millions of weight-conscious people who have gone on them, especially

those without adequate medical supervision, warned Mary K. Sweeten, a foods and nutrition specialist.
 Liquid protein diets are even more dangerous for infants, children, pregnant or nursing women, people taking medications and people with kidney, liver or heart diseases, she added.
 These people especially should not take liquid protein products, she advises.

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