

Almanac

United Press International
Today is Thursday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 1980 with 307 to follow.
The moon is moving toward its full phase.
The morning star is Saturn.
The evening stars are Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter.
Those born on this day are under the sign of Pisces.
On this date in history:
In 1849, the first shipload of gold seekers arrived in San Francisco after a five-month journey from New York City.
In 1942, Japanese forces landed in

Java, the last Allied bastion in the Dutch East Indies.
In 1966, American astronauts Elliott S. S. and Charles Bassett were killed when their light plane crashed into a building in St. Louis.
In 1976, President Ford, at a naturalization ceremony for Cuban refugees in Miami, denounced Fidel Castro as an "international outlaw" for his intervention in Angola.
A thought for the day: Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) said, "Loyalty to petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul."

local

Film series on loss of human rights will be shown this weekend at A&M

By MERIL EDWARDS
Campus Staff

"Whatever Happened to the Human Race," a five-part film series that asks whether it matters that man was created in the image of God, will be shown in Texas A&M University's Rudder Theater this weekend.

The series features Francis A. Schaeffer, a leading Christian thinker respected for his work in philosophy and theology, and Dr. C. Everett Koop, chief surgeon of the Philadelphia Children's Hospital.

They analyze the implications and loss of human rights brought on

by today's practices of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. Films on these issues will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The other two films, "The Basis for Human Dignity" and "Truth and History," will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday. The film series will be shown free.

Schaeffer and Koop say practices such as abortion, infanticide and euthanasia were once considered unthinkable, but are now considered acceptable. Their films challenge individuals to affirm the absolute uniqueness and value of human life be-

cause people are created in the image of God. They urge viewers to fight against the loss of human rights.

The film series has been approved by the Texas A&M Religious Council which includes delegates from Christian organizations on campus. Several students involved with Young Life were instrumental in bringing the series to Texas A&M and helped raise money to make it possible for the films to be shown free.

Rich Young, a second-year veterinary student, said the main idea in bringing the films here is to let people see that the issues presented are current problems and not something to be considered in five to 10 years.

"This well-documented series," Young said, "is an excellent way to inform the Christian community. It is not necessarily the definitive answer, but it does present a Christian viewpoint. The media gives us a humanistic viewpoint and this is an

opportunity to see these issues from a different perspective.

"Also, it will give non-Christians on campus an opportunity to see another side."

Scott Travis, a senior in industrial engineering, said he saw the series in Dallas last semester.

"Now if someone asks me a question, say on abortion," Travis said, "I'm able to give a biblically based answer rather than just my opinion."

"The films made me think about why life is worth something. I have to admit that I hadn't thought about the issues that much before."

Another student who has seen the films, Tim Hogan, a junior in geography, said the series impressed him in two ways.

"First, it exposed me to how society makes decisions for what they think is best," Hogan said. "A few people make the majority of decisions for everyone. And there is often no moral basis. But the films

look at the basic value of human life in relation to scripture.

Travis said many campus groups got involved and worked together to bring the films here.

Early life theory given in speech

By ROBERT LEE
Campus Reporter

The important biological question of how life began is perhaps one step closer to being understood, a prominent molecular biologist said.

Speaking before a group of about 350 freshman biology students Wednesday night Sidney Fox, director of molecular research at the University of Miami, explained how early life on Earth could have begun.

Fox and a number of other biologists say life on Earth began as microorganisms.

Amino acids which were present on the Earth long ago reacted with heat in water to produce a protenoid, Fox said. These protenoids when combined with water form microspheres which are very close to living cells like bacteria, Fox said.

He presented some slides that showed microspheres reproduce by budding like yeast. The microspheres, or protocells, also showed non-random movement which is characteristic of bacteria, Fox said.

While Fox said these microspheres look like naturally occurring cells, he does not consider them to be alive.

All of Fox's microspheres were produced in a laboratory under environmental conditions similar to the

early days on Earth.

Fox and others are still trying to find out how these microspheres developed into higher organisms. And he would like to synthesize cells that are duplicates of the cells found on Earth today using geographical conditions found on the planet when life first appeared.

Fox is the third in a series of five guest professors who are being brought to Texas A&M University this semester by the biology department. All this week he has been giving a series of lectures to graduate students on protobiology.

The University has hired him as a visiting professor and the biology department said he is here to work one-on-one with graduate students and faculty on specific problems they might have in chemistry and biology.

Fox had not intended to talk with freshman biology students in addition to giving his graduate seminar, but the department decided that it might be good for undergraduates to get some exposure to an upper-level professor, Judith Edmiston, visiting assistant professor of biology, said.

The students also would have a chance to answer some bonus questions on their minds next test if they attended the lecture.

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