

State / National

Evangelist's son considered

Graham's successor sought

United Press International
HOUSTON — The organization headed by Billy Graham, 63, one of the most powerful evangelists in the world, is planning for the day the preacher will no longer fill the pulpit — but finding an heir to his \$30 million organization hasn't been easy.

In an interview, Graham said his brother-in-law, evangelist Leighton Ford, had been groomed to succeed him, but it is no longer the case.

"I felt Leighton might do that, but Leighton has more or less quit crusades," Graham said. "He builds a few small ones a year, but he has become sort of a world religion strategist and leader and is

under consideration for the presidency of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois.

"There are some that think my son, Franklin, may someday be the man. That was brought up at the (board meeting in Dallas) because he has my name and is being ordained in January.

"He has his own organization which he has built from scratch. He is a very powerful speaker and Bible teacher and is very authoritative in the pulpit. He has a presence about him," Graham's son is 28.

While the search continues for his successor, Graham celebrated his birthday Saturday.

He said he has no plans to re-

tire, but during a recent Dallas meeting of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Board the directors discussed the future of the organization after him or in the event he had sudden health problems.

Graham said: "I told them I am in the best health of my life and I feel I can go on for several more years." He said, however, he was no longer in the corporate setup and has turned daily corporate operations over to the board.

"They wonder whether they will be able to carry on crusades or have enough money coming in to pay all these bills, like for the motion pictures and television and everything," Graham said.

Allen Emory, president of the Minneapolis-based religious corporation, said leaders of the group have two options when Graham dies.

Under the first option, Emory said, "There are those who feel that maybe at a certain point we ought to close it and merge it and give the assets to some charitable group or some other group that's doing similar work."

Under the second option, he said, "There are others who feel there are young men coming on whom God is honoring and blessing, and they would be able to carry on."

Booty of deadly reptiles could cause thief painful problems

United Press International
MIAMI — Zookeepers say whoever stole three Mexican beaded lizards and five boa constrictors from the Grandon Park Zoo in Dade County may have gotten more than he bargained for.

Zoo curator Bill Ziegler esti-

mated all eight animals, stolen late Friday or early Saturday, are valued at about \$5,700.

The beaded lizard — cousin of the gila monster — is poisonous and three of the snakes are Cuban boas, he said.

Metro Detective Bruce Wil-

liams said of the beaded lizards: "Unless you know how to handle them, they'll latch onto you and won't let go. You'd have to break the jaws to get it off. In the meantime they're pumping hemotoxic venom into the blood."

Half of controller class fails

United Press International
OKLAHOMA CITY — Federal Aviation Administration officials say the briefness of the recruiting period is partly to blame for a 50 percent failure rate — twice as high as usual — in the first post-strike class at the Air Traffic Control Academy.

Of 72 candidates enrolled Aug. 11, 36 flunked before the group was scheduled to begin radar training segments of the four-month course, spokesman Mark Weaver said Sunday.

"This is not totally unusual," Weaver said. "We've had it happen in prior years."

He said officials expect the failure rate to drop at the school, which is shouldering much of the burden of replacing some 12,000 controllers who went on strike Aug. 3 and were fired.

"A quick look at the next class indicates it is going to have a lower failing rate than this one," Weaver said.

Usually only about 25 percent of

the trainees flunk out. Officials hope a new pre-entrance examination introduced in October will do a better job weeding out candidates who "aren't quite up to par," Weaver said.

"When they reach the point of having most of the non-radar training and don't make a certain passing grade of 70 percent, they are washed out," he said.

Weaver said the academy just happened to get a particular group that hadn't quite made it as far as

percentages were concerned, but the situation was not considered critical.

The first class is scheduled to graduate in mid-December and move to on-the-job training at airports across the country, Weaver said.

More than 1,200 trainees are currently taking courses in three round-the-clock shifts at the academy, and officials hope to have 1,600 students by the end of the year.

Department of Defense wants to improve dry milk

United Press International
COLUMBUS, Ohio — A Defense Department grant to Ohio State University may solve one of the GI's most persistent woes — the terrible taste of dry milk.

Ohio State received \$83,542 to improve the flavor of dry milk, a staple in Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps diets. The Army alone uses 100 million pounds of dried milk a year.

Dr. David B. Min, assistant professor of food science and nutri-

tion at Ohio State, said: "Military personnel, particularly those in subs, have trouble with nutrition because there are no places to store milk."

Dry milk can be stored easily and has the same nutritional benefits of regular milk, but it tastes pretty awful, Min said.

"Oxygen reacts with the components to dried milk to form bad-tasting flavor compounds such as lactones, aldehydes and ketones,"

he said.

Min said researchers plan to eliminate oxygen from dry milk by injecting small amounts of hydrogen, which will react with the oxygen before the oxygen reacts with the milk.

The same process was used with potato chips by Ohio State researchers who wanted to get rid of the undesirable taste that potato chips have after they have been on a store's shelves too long, Min said.

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