

Barring journalists will mar Olympics

At last, the eve of the Olympics is here. After months of controversy — from security to boycotts to commercialism — the Games are actually going to begin.

Saturday's opening ceremonies have been designed to provide a "20 goosebump experience," according to film producer David Wolper, who choreographed the ceremonies. Fireworks, musical tributes, dances and balloons will provide the pageantry traditional to opening ceremonies, in addition to the march-in of the athletes and the lighting of the Olympic flame.

But all is not well amid the glitter, glamour and pageantry of the Games' opening ceremonies. The absence of the Soviet-bloc athletes will be conspicuous in a number of sports.

Recent actions taken by the International Olympic Committee are causing a "20 goosebump experience" — from apprehension, not awe.

The IOC has denied South African journalists the credentials necessary to cover the Olympic Games. South Africa has been barred from Olympic competition since 1968, when more than three dozen countries threatened

to walk out in protest of South Africa's reprehensible apartheid policies.

Apparently, the IOC has decided that South African journalists shouldn't be allowed to cover an international sporting event because their native country doesn't participate.

News is news — whether it's sports or politics or disasters. What country a reporter is from shouldn't affect the coverage of the Games by foreign journalists. Reporters from the Soviet Union and other Eastern-bloc nations boycotting the Games will be in Los Angeles to record a sporting event — which is what the Olympics are supposed to be.

This move threatens to further mar the spirit of the Games — once again for political reasons.

Excluding one country's press is abominable. It is also a violation of a basic, vital principle in the workings of the United States' democracy: freedom of speech. The USOC and LAOC have marred the Games through their silence as much as the Soviets have marred the Games through their absence.

— The Battalion Editorial Board



Congress lifting debt ceiling tad by tiny tad

By ELAINE S. POVICH
Columnist for
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Raising the federal debt ceiling, usually a lump-sum affair Congress tries to deal with infrequently, is being lifted a tad at a time this year as some members try to drag deficit reduction along behind it.

The tactic has been only partially successful.

The federal debt ceiling checks in at \$1.573 trillion, following two small increases in May and June. In comparison, efforts to trim the annual budget deficits are focused around the \$100 billion mark and only about \$63 billion has been approved so far this year.

Despite drop-in-the-bucket charges, Congress is attempting to do something to reduce the deficit this year so

it can claim success to voters in November.

With that goal in mind, Congress lifted the debt limit on May 24 by \$30 billion. At the time, the prevailing wisdom was that the short-term increase would give House-Senate negotiators time to agree on \$50 billion in taxes and \$13 billion in spending cuts aimed at the deficit.

That was accomplished in the following month, but by then, Congress was faced with the debt limit issue again at the end of June since the small amount of borrowing authority already was running out.

The second time around, the debt-linked issue was how much to allow for defense spending. As the third part of the deficit trimming effort, Congress

is attempting to curb defense spending. But the House wants to allow a 3.5 percent hike, while the Senate and President Reagan are holding out for a 7 percent rise.

The Democratic-led House tried to force the GOP-controlled Senate into a compromise by turning down another rise in the debt ceiling. The bluff failed — mostly because Congress was set to go on vacation — and Congress on June 29 hiked the limit by another \$53 billion.

That amount will carry the government through August, which means Congress will be facing the debt ceiling hike then for the third time this summer. And the debate over how much money to give the Pentagon in fiscal 1985 still may be going on.

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., suggested deferring the issue over until next year by passing a larger hike in the ceiling. He said that would give the incoming administration, whoever it is, a chance to "get its feet on the ground" before having to deal with the debt ceiling.

But the twin pressures of the looming recess and a chance to keep the deficit-reduction issue alive ruled the day and the short-term hike was approved, albeit by only a few votes.

As Rep. James Jones, D-Okla., put it: "Earlier this year we promised the American people we would enact a deficit reduction package. We have to use whatever leverage we can to finish the deficit reduction package."

Because the debt ceiling is some-

thing that must be lifted eventually, keep the government in business. Always ripe for linkage to other issues. It also has been a political hot potato with more and more politicians relating to go on record for the hike.

But telling the voters that Congress let the government go into default is not a pleasant scenario either.

"What else can we do but approve the debt limit increase that is before us," said Rep. George Gekis, R-Pa.

As several congressmen pointed out during the most recent debate, the debt ceiling rise is not the place to draw the line on federal spending since the programs to be financed by the borrowed money already have been approved.

American roaches being surveyed to distraction

By DICK WEST
Columnist for
United Press International

WASHINGTON — From the Agriculture Department comes word of two new forward steps in mankind's long, uphill and, thus far, losing struggle to cope with insects.

One bright spot is the development of a spray-on birth control chemical for cockroaches. It's called hydroprene and it's beautiful.

When you spy a cockroach, you don't resort to traditional countermeasures, such as screaming and debugging the premises with a lethal pesticide. Oh, no.

You simply spray with hydroprene, which keeps roaches from reproducing themselves. The chemical, I gather, is even more effective than the rhythm system or other modus operandi of planned parenthood.

As to the moral justification for using this type of insect control, I refer you to the Agriculture Research Service. I can only say it's a pity the static population crowd hasn't discovered a simi-

lar spray that would work on human beings.

According to projections, the world is headed for big trouble because of the rampant birth rate. Anyone who has tried to find a parking place in this city on a summer Sunday afternoon can easily believe such predictions.

Nevertheless, people in all sections of the globe keep on merrily adding to the population.

Entomologists assure us that cockroaches sprayed with hydroprene "live out their normal life spans." The chemical merely "locks roaches into a state of sexual immaturity."

How much better off the world would be if more people were locked into a similar state, at least during their teens.

The department notes that "many roaches de-

velop evolutionary resistance" to conventional insecticides.

Yes, and not just resistance. I've seen roaches that appeared actually to thrive on insect poison.

The other rosy outlook referred to above concerns boll weevils. A department press release reports that eradication efforts begun in 1983 are right on schedule, thanks to a program of "carefully timed pesticide applications and systematic surveys."

Anyone who has even spent any time in them old cotton fields back home can tell you that boll weevils have a way of surviving pesticide applications, however well timed.

Exposing them to systematic surveys is, however, to my knowledge, a new approach to the problem, and I commend the research service for its brilliant innovation.

If the surveys prove effective in reducing the annual boll weevil infestation, perhaps researchers will be inspired to try other types of paper work suppressants.

Some public opinion polling companies are, we know, hard pressed to make ends meet in non-election years. Let's put them to work as boll weevil exterminators, surveying boll weevils.

I can see how systematic polls could be even more efficient than birth control chemicals in curtailing insect populations.

The latter merely insures that "matings produce no offspring." However, a boll weevil, or cockroach either, for that matter, which has been systematically surveyed, is unlikely to get in the mood for mating at all.

Letter:

Mondale election would hurt nation's economy

Editor:

(The following is an open letter to Brazos County Democratic Party Chairman Ron Gay, in response to a Democratic fund raising letter.)

Dear Ron:

You make no mention in your letter how disastrous four years of Fritz (Mondale) would be, so I have nothing to compare another four years of Republican administration with.

My own suspicions are that if by some cruel twist of fate Mondale is elected, business confidence would plummet and we would shortly be into a four year climate of "stagflation," being bullied and victimized overseas, and having unfair reverse discrimination programs rammed down our throats at home.

I would predict at least a doubling of the "misery index" and a rash of tax increases to keep up with the un-

bridled expenditures that Reagan, try as he might, has been unable to restrain due to an irresponsible DEMOCRATIC House of Representatives.

Mondale would eventually be abandoned (like Carter was) by all the special-interest groups he currently has in tow — when they find out he can't satisfy them all and still have a thought about the interests of the majority of the Americans, that is, those of us not in one camp or another.

Since Mondale is no darling of the media now, within two years he would have scorn heaped upon him by the media establishment and the true leadership of the country would pass back to the Congress, from whence Reagan had temporarily wrest it, and where leadership is frequently bungling or wrong-headed.

You claim that young people have lost guaranteed student loans, which is

a charge my wife — a recipient of a year of a GSL — would refute unequivocally. Perhaps the financial test was strengthened, but this is long overdue.

As for the other whining charges, certainly Medicare, etc., has not been cut enough! And double-digit interest rates? Ask the heavily borrowing Congress about that one! (Perhaps in a productive era, the real opportunity cost of money is reflected by the rates.)

More to the point, I wish that the Americans could elect the Speaker of the House, so that we could be rid of the current impediment to real government. Please reconsider your desire to "Beat Reagan" and your blessings.

Randall Revie

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