

# A&M professors urge improved child care

By KIM GRIFFITHS  
Reporter

Between 37,000 and 43,000 children under the age of 6 spend an average of 34 hours a week at home with a family child care provider, according to estimates by Dr. Ben Aguirre, Texas A&M University associate professor of sociology. Aguirre's findings come from a study — the first to examine family child care in Texas — conducted through the Public Policy Resources Laboratory here.

According to the September study, state and national studies have documented that child care

providers are second only to parents in the number of children they take care of and in the average number of hours of child care they provide.

"Our culture is greatly concerned with the fate of children and their rights to healthy lives," Aguirre said. "But if you look at what we know about family child care in the United States, there is an almost complete absence of information."

Heightened concern over the quality of care and education given to children, particularly in their early years, has come none too soon, said Dr. Douglas Godwin, a professor of early childhood development at A&M.

*"In the day-to-day routine of work and family, the average father spends approximately 20 minutes with his child, of which only about 43 seconds are spent in nurturing and affection." — Dr. Douglas Godwin, a professor of early childhood development at A&M.*

In a study conducted in 1981, more than 43,000 children under the age of 6 were found to be wandering the streets unsupervised while parents worked, Godwin said.

It is generally agreed that a child's personality has developed during the first four years of his or her life,

Godwin said.

"(If) love and trust are not successfully learned by age 4, then they may never be learned," he said.

Contrary to popular belief, the quantity of time spent with a child is just as important as the quality of time, Godwin said, particularly as it

relates to time spent in terms of affection and love.

"In the day-to-day routine of work and family, the average father spends approximately 20 minutes with his child, of which only about 43 seconds are spent in nurturing and affection," Godwin said. "And the same pattern is being observed in the working mother."

The role of the child care provider then becomes necessary not only to the well-being of the child physically, but psychologically as well, he said.

"It is important to note, however, that the care provider can never totally replace the role of the mother

and father," Godwin said. "The child of working parents must be made to understand that they are working for him and not because of him."

Taking all of this into account, Aguirre suggests that the efforts made recently in Texas to improve our educational system need to be expanded to incorporate these child care providers.

Aguirre also says in his study that the providers become educational agents of our people, so they may introduce and guide the children during the earliest and most important period of socialization in their lives to the excitement of education.

## Comparing long-distance services can save you money on phone bills

By VIVIAN SMITH  
Reporter

If you're like most college students who can't resist the temptation to pick up the phone and call family and friends in a faraway hometown, you can save money by using one of the area's long-distance services.

Bryan-College Station has three major low-cost long-distance alternatives to General Telephone Company: Call America, Star Tel, Inc. and MCI.

"Any of these long-distance services are going to save you money off the GTE rates. Exactly how much you save depends upon an individual's needs," Dr. Larry Gresham, Texas A&M Marketing Society advisor said.

MCI and Star Tel have used the Marketing Society to market their

services to students this fall, Gresham said.

He said rate tables for each company are difficult to interpret.

"Sign up for more than one service and then make calls to frequently-called locations at same times of day and for the same durations," he said. "Then simply compare the rates to determine which service is best for you."

Call America, with 27 locations in the United States, is based in California. Its only Texas location is Bryan.

Mike Miller, vice president of Call America, said his company stresses quality. Call America only leases the highest quality telephone lines available, he said. You can call anywhere in the continental United States and get a clear connection, he said.

The cost for residential service (5

p.m. to 8 a.m. weekdays, and all day and night on weekends) is a \$10 initial access fee and \$5 service charge per month. For 24-hour service there is a \$20 initial fee and a \$10 monthly charge.

Call America offers lower rates outside a 50-mile radius and a 1-800 service, Miller said.

"Call America is designed for the student who wants quality and has a high monthly phone bill," he said. "We advise people that the break-even point for the residential service is a telephone bill of about \$25 and \$45-\$50 for 24-hour service."

Star Tel, in business for three years in Bryan-College Station is the oldest resale company in the area. Star Tel has experienced many of the growing pains other long-distance companies haven't. Star Tel

President Bill Stephenson said.

For a limited time, Star Tel has no monthly charges and no hook-up fee is charged, Stephenson said. Star Tel guarantees a minimum of 20 percent to 50 percent savings on long-distance calls, he said.

MCI, one of the largest long-distance companies in the nation, owns their equipment and telephone lines. Gresham said this makes it possible for MCI to have direct lines into major cities and offers greater savings.

With MCI, you can save 5 percent to 40 percent on long distance calls compared to American Telephone & Telegraph Co. MCI has no monthly fees or start-up charges. In the future, MCI will offer a MCI calling-card service to allow customers to make MCI calls outside the Bryan-College Station area.

## Homeless people injured in Idaho bus crash

United Press International

NOTUS, Idaho — A chartered bus loaded with homeless people heading to "a new life" with an Indian guru collided head-on with a car Tuesday, killing the motorist and injuring nearly three dozen passengers aboard the bus.

Police said the Trailways bus collided with the car about 7:20 a.m. and overturned at a rural intersection 20 miles west of Boise. The driver of the car, David Allen Larson, 20, of Caldwell, Idaho, was

killed.

His automobile crossed over the center line and slammed into the bus, causing it to erupt in flames after it veered off the highway, Idaho State Police Cpl. Dan McDaniel said. "God had to be with us," said Calvin Lamont Shannon, 18, of Columbus, Ohio, a bus passenger who was heading to a town in southern Oregon headed by Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

"If he wasn't, we all would've been dead," said Shannon, who had a minor hand injury.

Shannon said he and other victims

Church spokeswoman Ma Prem Sunshine said the bus began its cross-country trip in Washington, D.C. Another bus following it from Houston continued on the journey after the crash.

"Trailways provided a bus immediately for seven (uninjured) on the bus to continue on," she said. "We're flying people to Boise to help care for the injured and get them safely to Rajneeshpuram."

Shannon said he and other victims

would not be deterred in their journey to the guru's town, where the Rajneeshpuram religious community is located.

"I was headed to a new life, and I'm still going," Shannon said.

Caldwell Memorial Hospital officials said 34 of the 41 people on the bus were examined and four — one with a severe back injury — were admitted for further treatment. Nursing supervisor Jan Magger said most of the injuries were slight.

## Italian to be tried for loss of millions

United Press International

ROME — Italian swindler Michele Sindona was extradited from New York Tuesday to stand trial on charges that include instigating murder and bank fraud that resulted in a loss of millions of dollars of Vatican funds.

Sindona, 64, was taken from a New York prison where he was serving a 25-year sentence for fraud, and arrived in Rome Tuesday afternoon after a stopover in the northern city of Milan.

He was escorted on the flight from New York by four U.S. federal agents, who handed him over to Italian police at Milan's Malpensa airport.

Reporters at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport said the gray-haired financier looked relaxed and in good health as he stepped off the plane.

Officers hustled him into an armored van and drove him under an escort of six squad cars to Rome's Rebibbia maximum security jail, police said.

Italian authorities have been requesting Sindona's extradition since 1981. But the extradition wasn't possible until Monday, when the U.S. and Italy exchanged ratification of a new extradition agreement signed Oct. 13 last year.

Sindona has been serving a 25-year sentence handed down in 1980 by a New York court for fraud in connection with the 1974

collapse of the U.S. Franklin National Bank. At the time it was described as the biggest bank failure in U.S. history.

The Franklin National Bank failed after Sindona fled to the United States to escape charges in Italy in connection with the collapse of his Banca Privata Italiana with debts totaling \$350 million.

In 1969, Sindona became an adviser to Pope Paul VI and succeeded in persuading the Vatican to pour millions of dollars into financial enterprises that later collapsed amid huge losses and scandal.

The pope and Sindona centered their dealings on the church's Societa Generale Immobiliare, then Italy's largest property and development concern, owner of the Pan Am building in Paris, the Montreal Stock Exchange building and the Watergate complex in Washington D.C.

Their plan was to have Sindona sell the firm while taking some shares for himself and advising the pope on how to invest proceeds.

Sindona, it was later discovered, took control of the company for himself.

Sindona is also wanted in Italy on charges he paid an American hitman \$50,000 to assassinate Milan lawyer Giorgio Ambrosoli, who was shot and killed near Milan.



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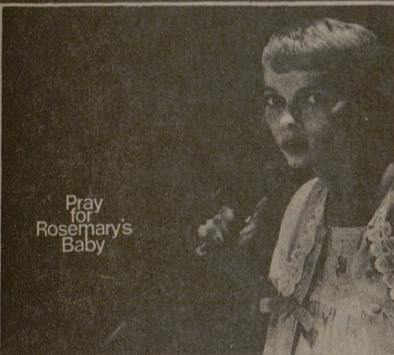


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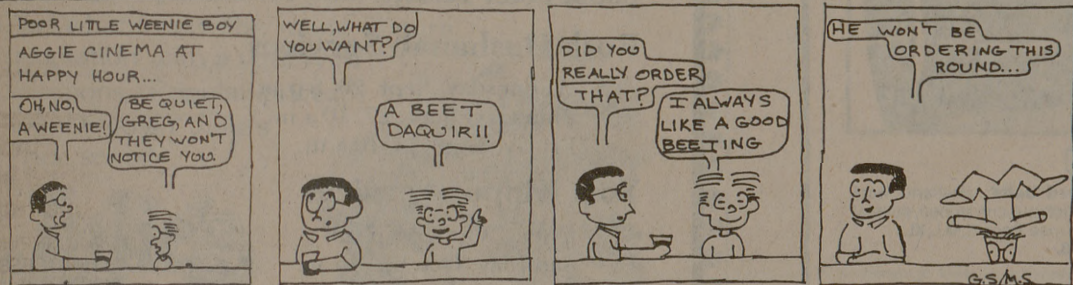
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