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Bat-lover says bats maligned

United Press International MILWAUKEE — Bats get a bad rap, says the founder of a group dedicated to clearing the reputation of the winged mammal. "Basically people fear what they know least," said Merlin Tuttle, who is curator of mammals at the Milwaukee Public Museum and the founder of a group raising money for bat research and conservation. "Bats are probably one of the most misunderstood creatures on Earth," said Tuttle. As one of only a handful of scientists who seriously study the winged animal, he ought to know. Tuttle, 43, has spent the last 25 years studying the mammals and he freely admits to being "batty" about the creatures. Tuttle concedes that fears about bats transmitting rabies are not unfounded, but he pointed out that the rabies threat in bats is slight when compared with other wild animals such as skunks, raccoons and foxes. Of the 28 confirmed rabies cases in the United States since 1963, only five were traced to bats. Tuttle said he founded Bats Conservation International out of necessity. The group lobbies for public and private funds to study and protect the creature. A major part of its mission is to handle bats' public relations. The organization of about 400 people has begun a campaign to preserve bat-cave habitats in the United States. Recently, it stepped in to keep flying foxes on the protected list in Queensland, Australia. "What's happened through time is that I've seen how valuable bats are, how grossly exaggerated the human fears are, how needlessly they're persecuted," he said. "Bats aren't feared in parts of the world where they're conspicuous — but they have other problems."

Pesticides have taken their toll on North American bats, he said. Most have died from eating insects contaminated by chemicals. About 1,000 species remain worldwide, he said. Some bats have become extinct from habitat loss and others due to exploitation as a food source in developing countries, Tuttle said. Tuttle and several colleagues repeatedly approached major government and private conservation-oriented organizations about helping bats. A lot of them had a hard time "even concealing their shock that anybody expected them to help something with as bad a reputation as bats," he said.

Tuttle is quick to point out the benefits humans reap from bats. "There's hardly a store in any American city that doesn't in some way, directly or indirectly, depend on commodities from bats," he said, pointing out that foods like bananas, avocados, peaches and grapefruit are dependent on bats for fertilization and pollination. Bats' sophisticated sonar, longevity and disease-resistance makes them increasingly important for research, Tuttle said.

Bats are highly intelligent and easily trainable, Tuttle said. Some large fruit-eating bats that have been raised as pets have shown affection and loyalty associated with the family dog, he said. "Bats have been erroneously maligned for so many years that now the only sensational story you can really sell about bats is to show how 180 degrees wrong everyone's been about them," he said.

AUSTIN — A 19-year-old woman pleaded guilty Monday to kidnapping charges and told a judge she took a day-old girl from a hospital out of despair after she had a miscarriage. Prosecutors recommended a plea-bargained sentence of 10 years probation and 30 days in the Travis County jail for Cynthia Leyendecker Dominguez, who admitted posing as a nurse and taking a baby from Brackenridge Hospital on May 29.

The child, Lauren Faith Sepeda, was returned unharmed to her parents 36 hours after the kidnapping when an anonymous tipster told police he saw Dominguez with the baby at a public health clinic and recognized her from a composite drawing aired on television newscasts. Dominguez told authorities she hid a miscarriage from her husband and told him she had given birth to the Sepeda child after the kidnapping. She told District Judge Jon Wisser Monday she took the child because she desperately wanted a baby.

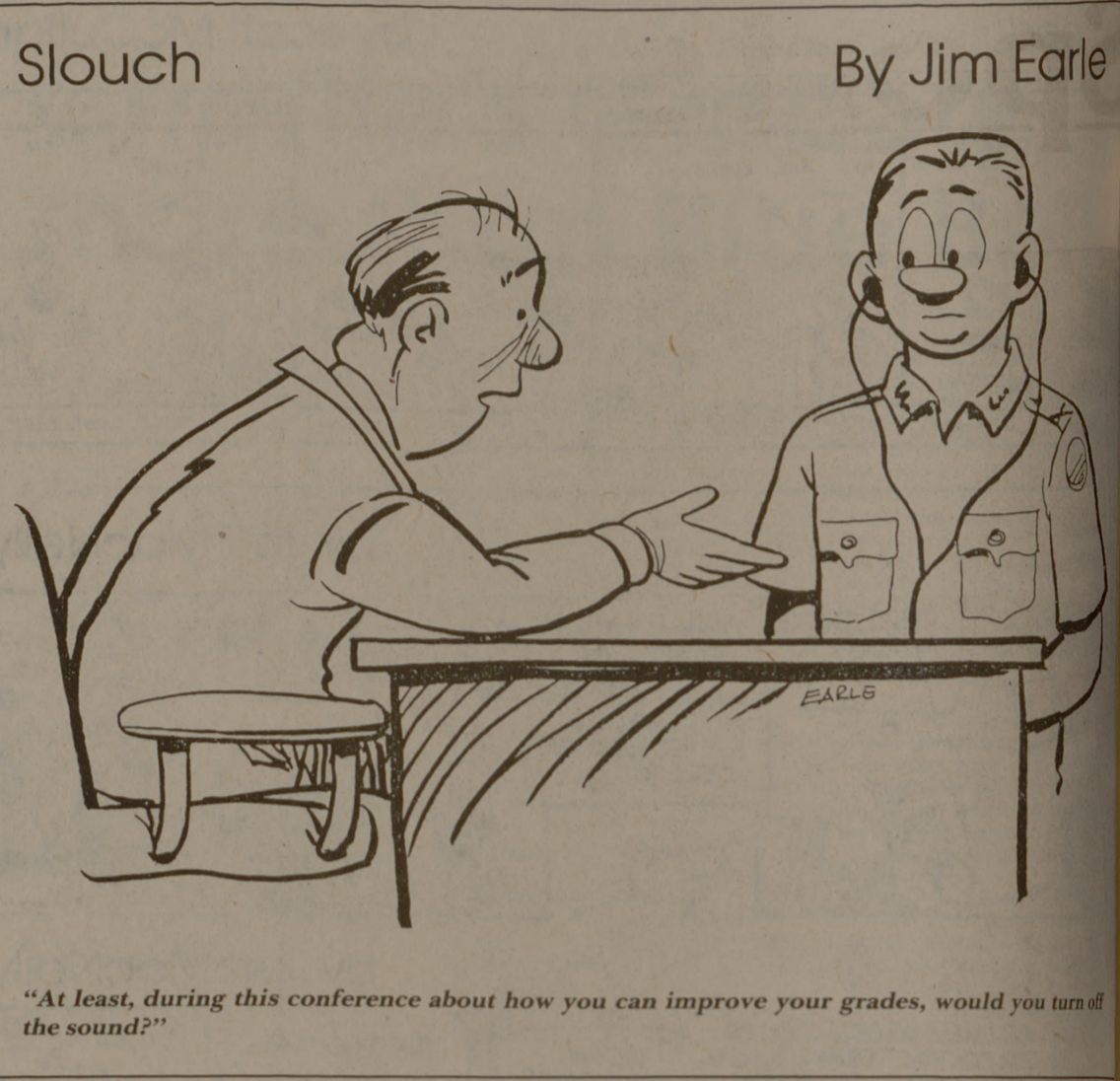
United Press International AUSTIN — Texas Democratic Party officials Monday said that although the Democratic National Committee has sent the state only half of the \$1.2 million it initially promised, there is still plenty of money to fuel the party's election hopefuls in Texas. State Democratic Party Chairman Bob Slagle said he never really expected to get as much money as the DNC originally promised and repudiated reports that the national party had "written off" Texas. "I'm privy to the states that have been written off. They get no money," Slagle said at a news conference. "Texas has not been written off. I don't know of any state getting more money than Texas."

The DNC originally promised to funnel \$1.2 million into Texas, but Slagle said the committee had trouble raising funds for Mondale before he "kicked the slats out of Reagan in the first debate." The DNC instead will send about \$650,000 to the state party, Slagle said, and Texas Democrats will add as much as \$700,000 to that total. Slagle said Mondale outscored President Reagan in Sunday night's foreign policy debate, although he admitted Reagan performed better than in the first debate on domestic affairs. "He (Reagan) was better than he was two weeks ago when he got run off the stage," Slagle said. "But if you compare Reagan last night to Reagan's image as the great communicator, Reagan still fell far short of the mark."

Dwayne Holman, Texas coordinator for the Mondale-Ferraro campaign, said the candidates each make at least one more campaign trip to Texas before the Nov. 6 election. He said Mondale will appear in El Paso on Friday and Ferraro would be in Houston sometime next week. No firm schedules were available. Meanwhile Monday, the campaign coordinator for the Reagan-Ford campaign in Texas criticized the Mondale-Ferraro campaign's chief counsel, for allegedly broadcasting "communist propaganda" in Vietnam in 1970. Ifshin has acknowledged travel to Hanoi and termed it a "mistake." Bob Bailon of the GOP criticized Ifshin for "lending aid and comfort to an American enemy."

Truman administration through the Carter years. "These policies, if allowed to go unchanged without dramatic alteration one more year, will add more to the national debt than had been added in the first 192 years of our constitutional government by 39 presidencies beginning with George Washington through Jimmy Carter," Wright said. "He is the Babe Ruth of deficit financing." The Texas congressman blamed the deficit problem on the president's \$135 billion tax cut of 1981 "for the wealthiest few" and the "astronomical" defense budget that topped \$300 billion this year. He said the president's proposed defense expenditures for the next three years exceed \$1 trillion. "We've got to take some serious

example, such as, 'I have to access the hard-copy database.'" Translation: "I have to go to the library and look up some stuff in books." "BASIC" isn't very basic in the computer world. It is just one more acronym. Computer people love acronyms. This one stands for Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. To further confuse matters, BASIC is not the most basic computer code. When presented with the word "boot" most people think shoes or perhaps "to get rid of," as in "he was booted out of his job." Not even close. "To boot" means to activate the computer's operating system. That sounds like simply turning on the computer, but please accept the fact that it means much more. Some computers go further by having "cold boots" and "warm boots." You can even "boot-up" but for some reason there is no such thing as a "boot-down." Surprisingly, to accomplish that you just turn the computer off. A "port" is not a place for ships to dock but a socket for an IO device. IO stands for input/output — computerese for getting information into and out of the computer. Ports are usually divided into se-



'Ordurant obfuscationists' plague computer writings

United Press International NEW YORK — Mark Goldberg doesn't look like a literary critic. He is, in fact, the president of Toolworks, a software company that develops and sells computer programs. Goldberg becomes a literary critic when he tries to make sure the instruction booklets that accompany his products are written in English. He is part of a trend among some computer and software companies, industry observers and consumers to yell loudly about the universal lack of clarity in written material that comes with computers, programs, and accessories. "I don't how it happens, but many computer programmers write backwards," Goldberg said. "And unfortunately, a lot of them write manuals." Every industry uses its own jargon as a way to separate the insiders from the civilians. But in dealing with customers, the marketing instinct usually takes over and everything is written in English. Not in the computer industry. "It's not just the computer terms like ROM, RAM, Byte, and Motherboards that are confusing," said a writer who asked that his name not be used, "but the normal words that are mangled beyond belief." Words that have perfectly clear meanings have been subverted by "ordurant obfuscationists," he continued. "Access used as a verb is a prime

Democratic funding ample Slagle said the committee had trouble raising funds for Mondale before he "kicked the slats out of Reagan in the first debate." The DNC instead will send about \$650,000 to the state party, Slagle said, and Texas Democrats will add as much as \$700,000 to that total. Slagle said Mondale outscored President Reagan in Sunday night's foreign policy debate, although he admitted Reagan performed better than in the first debate on domestic affairs. "He (Reagan) was better than he was two weeks ago when he got run off the stage," Slagle said. "But if you compare Reagan last night to Reagan's image as the great communicator, Reagan still fell far short of the mark."

Reagan called the 'Babe Ruth' of deficits

United Press International DES MOINES, Iowa — Calling President Reagan the "Babe Ruth of deficit financing," House Majority Leader Jim Wright on Monday urged an end to economic policies that are forcing farmers, businesses and banks out of business in record numbers. The Texas Democrat said President Reagan came to office in 1980 promising to balance the federal budget by 1983 when the national debt stood at \$39 billion, but Reagan's 1981 tax cut and record defense budget has pushed that figure above the \$200 billion mark. Wright said Reagan has added to the national deficit "by more than 50 percent" over the combined amount for the past 35 years dating from the

Truman administration through the Carter years. "These policies, if allowed to go unchanged without dramatic alteration one more year, will add more to the national debt than had been added in the first 192 years of our constitutional government by 39 presidencies beginning with George Washington through Jimmy Carter," Wright said. "He is the Babe Ruth of deficit financing." The Texas congressman blamed the deficit problem on the president's \$135 billion tax cut of 1981 "for the wealthiest few" and the "astronomical" defense budget that topped \$300 billion this year. He said the president's proposed defense expenditures for the next three years exceed \$1 trillion. "We've got to take some serious

causing the deficits to soar economically," which would be a combination of defense and spending cuts and increased revenues, including some form of tax increase, he said. Wright said Congress needs makers who will be willing to do those hard decisions, adding Iowa 5th District Democrat Sen. Dan Rostenkowski said date Jerry Fitzgerald is just a date. "We need young men in Congress who are independent and who come to grips with serious problems bite these hard bullets and do the things that are necessary to get the budget and live on a program policy this year and next year 12 years down the road," he said.