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What's up

Thursday

CHI ALPHA: is meeting for Bible study, prayer, worship and fellowship in 410 Rudder.

CHURCH OF CHRIST STUDENT ORGANIZATION: is meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the All Faith's Chapel. "Creation v. Evolution" will be the topic of discussion. All students are invited.

STUDENT Y FISH CAMP: applications for chairman, sub-chairman and recreation coordinator are available on the second floor of the Pavilion. Application deadline is Dec. 6.

AGGIE PARENTS OF THE YEAR: the Student Government Parents' Weekend Committee is now accepting applications for Parents of the Year. Applications to nominate your parents are available at the MSC, SPO, Commons, Library, Guard Room and the Student Government Office.

THE CANTERBURY HOUSE AND HILLEL: are having a bonfire Open House, directly across the street from Duncan Field at 7 p.m. There will be free hot chocolate and donuts. A one-year membership to the Gym's of Texas will be given away.

Friday

TAMU CHESS CLUB: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder. Players of all strengths are welcome.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

Group opposes Nativity scene

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A major Jewish group wants the government to wait for one more Supreme Court ruling, expected next year, before adding a Nativity scene to the national Christmas display near the White House, an official said Wednesday.

Jeffrey Sinensky, legal director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, pointed to a pending high court case that may clarify a ruling last March that allowed Pawtucket, R.I., to maintain a publicly owned Nativity scene set up on private property.

Based on that ruling, a Virginia man has offered to provide a creche for the National Park Service to set up as part of the National Christmas Pageant on the Ellipse just south of the White House.

For the past 11 years, the decorations for pageant have been non-religious. The Park Service is part of the Interior Department, which had no comment on the matter Wednesday.

Sinensky argued that putting up the display is premature.

"The situation is in a state of flux. The court has another Nativity scene case on its docket," he said. "Why

not wait one more season to allow the Supreme Court to decide? Then we'll all know the law."

Sinensky referred to a case now before the court over a private Nativity scene in Scarsdale, N.Y., set up on public land, and which city officials do not want.

Sinensky and others argue that erecting such representations of the birth of Christ on public property violates the constitutional doctrine separating church and state.

Sinensky said the high court's agreement to review the Scarsdale case is a sign the justices might refine their ruling.

"If the court had wanted to leave the issue alone, it would have refused to review our case," he said.

A decision in the case, not yet set for argument, is expected by July.

In a letter Tuesday to Interior Secretary William Clark, Kenneth Bialkin, the league's national chairman, said making the Nativity scene part of the Christmas Pageant is "insensitive to non-Christians."

"I just don't think it's wise for the government to take steps to utilize religious symbols in a public fashion," Bialkin said Wednesday.

CIA spy suspect gets delay in bail hearing

United Press International

NEW YORK — A Czech-born CIA employee who allegedly infiltrated the spy agency as a double agent and stole American secrets for 19 years was formally charged with espionage Wednesday.

A bail hearing for the suspect, Karl Koecher, 50, was postponed until today, however, at the request of his lawyer, Joseph Calluori, who said Koecher planned to plead innocent.

The lawyer said he did not have enough time with his client since Koecher "was snatched off the street" Tuesday. The lawyer said Wednesday's hearing was "a strange proceeding done for the benefit of the press."

Calluori said Koecher's wife, Hana, 40, was being held as a material witness and was not formally charged. Prosecutor Barry Bohrer said he planned to request that no bail be set, as the risk was high that both would flee.

Under a new federal law a defendant can be held without bail until trial if the government can prove there is a risk of flight or the defendant poses a danger to the community. The defendant has the right to a hearing.

Koecher and his wife were arrested 4:15 p.m. Tuesday as they were leaving their Manhattan apartment for Kennedy International Airport.

During the two-minute proceeding Wednesday, the couple stood calmly before U.S. Magistrate Reice Buchwald with their wrists handcuffed behind their backs and af-

firmed that they understood the formal accusation.

Koecher has been charged with providing classified national security information to the Czechoslovakian Intelligence Service, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

The defense lawyer said the gray-haired, bespectacled Koecher, who was casually dressed in gray corduroy pants and a black sweater, had a doctorate in philosophy from Columbia University.

The lawyer said Koecher and his wife, dressed in black slacks and a black and white tiger print shirt, worked together at a jewelry business.

Koecher was to be held overnight in the Metropolitan Correctional Center. His wife, said to have been a Czech intelligence courier from 1974 to 1983, was also being held.

The FBI said the couple sold their cooperative apartment Monday and were scheduled to leave on a jet for Zurich, Switzerland.

"They intend to reside in Austria and do not intend to return to reside in the United States," FBI special agent Kenneth Geide said in court papers.

The FBI said Koecher, who immigrated to the United States and became a citizen, met with an agent Friday and outlined a 19-year spying career that included such cloak-and-dagger tactics as passing classified documents in cigarette packs.

Officials did not say why Koecher was not arrested upon Friday's interview with the FBI agent or why he then tried to leave the country.

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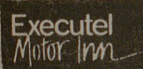


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