



Tunneling Through

Christopher Jedrzejek, 3½, amuses himself in the playground at Tanglewood Park. He and his

mother, Lilianna, enjoy spending their afternoons together in the park.

Photo by Jay Janner

Judge rules convicted killer can file appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas death row inmate who came within hours of being executed last week is entitled to file an appeal because his attorneys didn't notify him of court proceedings, a judge said.

U.S. District Judge Norman Black said Monday that Clifford X. Phillips did not receive adequate notice last winter after the judge had rejected an appeal of Phillips' conviction.

Black issued a written order saying he will consider Phillips' case again.

Last week, Phillips, 52, was hours away from being executed for the 1982 slaying of Alley Theatre director Iris Siff when he received a stay from U.S. District Judge Gabrielle McDonald. Phillips submitted a handwritten plea arguing that his lawyers had given up on him.

Phillips claimed his two Houston lawyers — Jim Skelton and Robert Pelton — did not follow up on an August 1986 appeal of his conviction. He did not find out Black had rejected his appeal until it was too late for him to go to a higher court, Phillips contended.

But the lawyers said they were retained to stop Phillips' scheduled Aug. 18, 1986, execution, not to contest the capital murder conviction.

Attorney Michael Charlton, who agreed a few days ago to represent Phillips, said Monday that certain issues had not been raised in previous appeals by Phillips.

Charlton told Black that every death row inmate deserves "one good shot" at challenging his conviction.

But Assistant Attorney General Robert Walt said granting Phillips relief would "sanction endless, endless dilatory tactics" by death row inmates seeking to block their executions.

Phillips, who prefers to be called by the Islamic name of Abdullah Bashir, was convicted of robbing and strangling Siff, 58, while she was working late at the Houston theater.

Experimental TV class faces changes; students react negatively to course

By Drew Leder
Staff Writer

Three times a week at 1 p.m., Kyle Wilson turns on a television, tunes in his desired station and watches intently for an hour.

Kyle isn't a couch potato and he's not a soap opera junkie — he's a freshman business administration major and one of about 1,000 students enrolled in Management 211 at Texas A&M this spring.

Management 211, the Legal Environment of Business, is televised five times a day each Monday, Wednesday and Friday on Channel 31 and videotaped lectures are available in the Sterling C. Evans Library and at the Academic Computer Center.

The management department implemented the program five days before classes began this semester, after a request from the Associate Dean of Engineering, but administrators involved with the experimental program now say some changes are needed.

"There will be no decision to simply repeat what we've done — it didn't work," said Dr. Don Hellriegel, interim dean of business administration.

Hellriegel said that while the fate of this experiment will not be de-

ecided until the summer, the continuation of the televised classes will have to involve some changes.

Dr. Al Ringleb, associate management professor and course coordinator for Management 211, said that although he was not content with the program and would like to see improvement with it, it was a worthwhile experiment and he wants to continue the class on television.

"It was an attempt to determine how effective educational television would be," Ringleb said.

Hellriegel said student response to the televised class, indicated by class evaluation questionnaires, was negative.

"We're aware from student feedback that there are patterns of significant concern," he said.

Hellriegel said there will be a thorough evaluation of the student responses before a final decision is made about the future of the class.

Ringleb said that due to the large number of students who enroll in Management 211 each semester, there are certain advantages to presenting the class on television. For instance, he said, students can watch the lectures at their leisure instead of having to walk across the railroad tracks to the Kleberg Animal and

Food Science Center to attend class. The lectures had been held there in the past because of the accommodations there for large classes.

Another advantage of televising the class, Ringleb said, is that it provides the opportunity for several guest speakers to address the class. This was not feasible in the past because of the number of class sections a guest would have to attend and the number of students he would have to encounter. This spring, eight guest speakers were presented on the program.

Despite these advantages and an increase in grades of an average of five percentage points, many students have expressed dissatisfaction over watching classes on television.

Wilson, who is taking the class this semester said, "I've done worse in this class than in any other because it's on television. You don't pay as much attention to something you can't talk back to."

Sophomore Robin Summers said, "The professors have done a good job in their lectures, but there's a big weakness — no discussion."

The lack of two-way communication also is noted as a problem by Hellriegel. If the class is to be televised in the fall, he said, "a minimum

condition is that it's televised with a live class."

Hellriegel said the choice to implement a televised class is that of the college in which the class is offered.

"The college of business will not expand the program (to other classes)," he said, "and if we continue, there will be major changes."

In addition to Management 211, Educational Technology 645 classes at A&M are partially presented in a video format.

The idea for broadcasting classes on television is by no means a new one. Other colleges and universities have been doing it for years and, in fact, A&M had an extensive lecture broadcasting system in the 1960s and early 1970s.

KAMU-TV's General Manager and Director of Educational Broadcast Services Mel Chastain said classes ranging from English to accounting to engineering were presented on closed-circuit television as early as 1964.

Chastain said that A&M significantly reduced the number of classes taught this way in the early 1970s, after the influx of low-cost video recorders and tape recorders made it easy to make tapes in class, he said.

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