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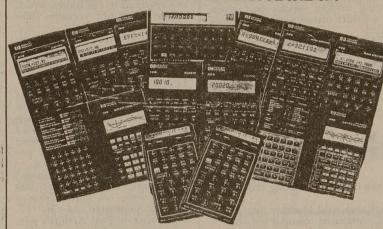
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The Battalion Page 4

Professor studies morals of bullfights, Christianity

By Denise Thompson

STAFF WRITER

"Like any other creature, the bull is going to die. It is not a question of whether he deserves to die. No creature deserves to die; no creature

doesn't deserve to die."

Tim Mitchell, visiting assistant professor of Spanish, said this to summarize the point of his lecture, "Exemplary Cruelty: The Bullfight versus Christianity.

Mitchell, who carried out research in Spain, presented a lecture to a audience of about 30 Monday night concerning the religious obsession of scholars concerning the bullfight.

Although Mitchell's original research topic concerned the poetic violence of Spain's ballads, he said the death of a famous Spanish bullfighter lead him to focus on the

morality of bullfighting.

Because most of the scholars studying bullfights suggest the bull is a sacrifice and the matador a priest,

Tuesday, February 21, 1989

what a bullfight did not mean.
"With their light, I was able to see what the bullfight wasn't," he said. "It wasn't a sacrifice in the conventional meaning of a sacrifice. It wasn't a ritual in the conventional meaning of a ritual. It wasn't about male and female relations or sex roles. I have been able to deconstruct previous scholarship by by 05301demonstrating all of the things that the bullfight wasn't."

Mitchell then focused his thoughts to discerning what a bul-lfight is. He had to answer several questions before he could reach an

"Isn't bullfighting rather immoral when you get right down to it?" he asked. "What right do the Spanish have to make a fiesta out of animal killing? Does not this sport perpetuate the same ignorance of the victim that Jesus Christ came to reveal? How is it that Spain, one of the most Catholic and God-fearing countries in the world, could harbor this alleged immorality within its busom?"

Although the questions posed great deal of concern, Mitchell si he came to one conclusion each in

he asked a question. The sad truth is, if there was t violence and no victims, men a women would still die," he sa The bullfight has nothing to and nothing to apologize for Spaniard is fool enough to think the bull is evil and deserves to punished. To turn around and d that the bull is an innocent victim to miss the point altogether.

"Is the bullfight cruel? Of cou But no crueller than death itself. one thinks that death is of the natu of things, the reaction will be not reflexive. Why does nature wiped whole populations with disastructure who who who will be not reflexive. man an athlete and another adwa As a realistic cultural text abordeath, the bullfight replicates blind workings of nature herself."

Mitchell used the lecture as a sn

posium for feedback before his wo is published at the end of the year.

Activists ask state legislature to regulate pesticides in Texas Poli

AUSTIN (AP) — A coalition of environmental and consumer groups, claiming that Congress has failed to adequately regulate pesticides, Monday called on the Texas Legislature to do the job instead.

'The system established by the government to test pesticides to assure they are safe to use has failed, as has the process designed to remove especially dangerous pesticides from the market," Tom Smith of the group Public Citizen said.

"The Texas Legislature will have to step in where the feds have failed," he added.

Smith's group, along with the Sierra Club, Consumers Union and Texas Center for Policy Studies, said the

use of pesticides is increasing.
"Seventeen years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency was directed to evaluate the health effects of the pesticides existing on the market without adequate tests. Today, more than half of those pesticides remain essentially untested, and several pesticides that have been proven to present significant health risks remain on the market," said John Hildreth of Consumers Ken Kramer, director of the Texas chapter of Sierra Club, said that Texas doesn't keep accurate

California does, however, and Kramer said m than 90 million pounds of pesticides were used their

"And Texas has a larger number of acres of agric tural land being treated with pesticides than Californ does, but not as large a population. Thus, pesticide in Texas is massive," he said.

Hildreth noted that residential pesticide use is in

creasing with more homeowners purchasing pro sional extermination and lawn care services, sayingth problem affects more than just rural residents. "Consumers in cities and suburbs use five times m pesticides per acre than farmers, and residential use

increasing rapidly," he said.

Smith said that Congress' failure means the Legalature should "take action to assure the products weather than the congress of the products weather than the congress of the co

The groups called on lawmakers to require the pesticide be proven safe before it could be used.

Senate repeals little-known Medicaid law

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate on Monday voted to repeal a law that apparently slipped unnoticed through the 1987 Legislature and raised the ire of the elderly in

The law, which was never applied, would have allowed the Department of Human Services to recover the property and estates of nursing home patients and other Medicaid recipients after they died. House with a 28-2 vote. The idea was to recoup money

for the Medicaid program. The provision was included in an 86page bill whose main purpose was to authorize continuation of the human services agency.

After the DHS in early 1988 published rules to implement the law, concerns were raised by legislators and general public, as well as the elderly. Some attribute Sen. Temple Dickson's victory over former Sen. Grant Jones in the Democratic primary to Dickson's effective campaign use of Jones' vote for the bill containing the Medicaid lien provi-

Bill sponsor Hugh Parmer said, "The first principle this bill illus-trates is that we ought to read carefully lengthy bills and be sure we know everything that's in them.

"The second principle is, when we make a mistake ... we ought to be willing to stand up and say we made a mistake. We ought to fix it, and that's what Senate Bill 1 does. It repeals the authority, which we should never have given the Department of Human Services, to lace liens against the homes of Medicaid recipients."
Sen. Carl Parker said he was

"confused by the logic behind this

"How does protecting an inheritance of young, healthy folks that don't care enough about their parents to take care of them help other old people?" Parker asked. "It just takes money out of the pot that would be available for other needy

Parmer, D-Fort Worth, said, "I think what you will find most of the time is that not only are mom and dad poor, but the kids are poor too, and this old home is about the only thing left that mother and dad have to leave those children.

"It just doesn't make any sense, if you want to expand Medicaid, to make the poorest people in Texas -who are ultimately themselves likely to be the recipients — pay the freight for expanding Medicaid,"

What's Up

Tuesday

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Texas Instruments will offer information on careers in data processing at 7 p.m. in the University Im

COSGA: will have a general committee meeting at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder.

THE PLACEMENT CENTER: will have a job search workshop at 5:15 p.m. in MINORITY ASSOCIATION OF PRE-HEALTH AGGIES: will meet at 7 p.m. in

WICI: will meet at 6 p.m. in 215 Reed McDonald.
FORT WORTH HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 704 Rudder.
SADDLE AND SIRLOIN: will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
PRE MED/DENT SOCIETY: Dr. William Fife will talk about "Hyperbaric Medic

ne° at 7 p.m. in 204 Harrington.

ACM: will have a bowling party at 9 p.m. at Chimney Hill Bowling Lanes.

AGGIE GOP/COLLEGE REPUBLICANS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder.

ECONOMICS SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder.

ARLINGTON HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 205 MSC.

RHA FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rud-INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 127

MSC GREAT ISSUES: will meet at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

TAMU ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY: will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Flying To

INTERNATIONAL WEEK: committee for Buffet International will meet at 8:30

LE CERDE FRANCAIS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 125 Academic.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0200 DEBATE SOCIETY: will present their first semester debate resolved: "Texas

should abolish capital punishment" at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder.
ON CAMPUS CATHOLICS: will discuss Mary and the Rosary at 9 p.m. at A

PRO-CHOICE AGGIES: an informational meeting at 8:30 p.m. at 202 B Lincoln (across from University Cycle). This is a new organization and anyone interested should attend and share ideas.

RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have registration from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in 150 Read for a rock climbing clinic, spring break rafting/kayaking trip, handball doubles, basketball 3 point show, billiard singles, canie trip, mountain bike the presented of the latest and wreetling.

horseshoe doubles and wrestling

Wednesday

AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder. EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER: will have Holy Eucharist at 6:15 p.m. at the NEWMAN: will have a special liturgy and a mid week study break at 7:30 p.m. a

CATHOLICS ON THE QUAD: will discuss "Sex and the Single Catholic" at 9

p.m. in Lounge B on the quad.

TAMU SAILING CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. at Mr. Gatti's.

TAMU SPORTS CAR CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in Rudder.

AGGIES ABROAD: will meet at 7 p.m. in 305 Rudder.

BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE: will have an executive officers meetings.

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have an informational meeting about studying Denmark at 10 a.m. in Bizzell West. There will also be information given at 1 a.m. about Fullbright grants and Marshall scholarships.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ACCOUNTANTS: will meet at 7 p.m.in

UNITARIAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION: will have an Italian potluck supply

AUSTIN HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 6 p.m. in 704 AB Rudder.
RHA: will have President's Round Table at 8:30 p.m. in 704 Rudder.
OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 704 Rudder.
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have an Aggie supper at 6 p.m. at AM

STUDENTS OVER 25: will meet at 7 p.m. at K-Bob's restaurant. Bring you ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0200

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonal no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's lips a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are not on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

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