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Steering clear of danger



Blaine Chapman, senior animal science major from Lubbock, schools a young colt by tracking a steer in a recent training session. Tracking teaches the horse to stay close behind the steers

and accustoms them to the swinging of the rope. Chapman has been working with the colt for more than three weeks and is very pleased with the animal's progress.

Chinese democracy leader urges end to World Bank loans to China

HOUSTON (AP) — Chai Ling, a leader of the Chinese Democracy Movement, said Monday she hopes world leaders attending the economic summit will reconsider resuming World Bank loans to China.

"If China is to rejoin the family of nations, it must adhere to certain principles of basic human rights," Ling said during a breakfast meeting with reporters. "Until there are such changes in China, international pressure is the best way to encourage reform."

The 24-year-old, who until recently was living in hiding in China, said she came to Houston in hopes of getting world leaders to pay closer attention to the Chinese government's actions.

"I am here to emphasize the resumption of World Bank loans to China only slows the inevitable trend towards democracy for which so many people died last spring in Tiananmen Square," she said.

"Renewal of World Bank loans will merely

prolong the tyranny under which the Chinese people now live."

She said the resumption of the loans are for projects which do not directly benefit the Chinese people.

Ling had hoped to meet with the delegations of the participating summit countries meeting in Houston this week, but many have declined her request, said David Phillips, executive director of the Congressional Human Rights Foundation.

The Japanese government is refusing to meet with her this week as are the Germans and French, who say there is no need to meet with her in Houston because she lives in Paris. U.S. officials are not meeting with her either, although she has met previously in Washington with Vice President Dan Quayle and National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, Phillips said.

She also is sending a letter to Bush signed by 153 members of Congress who are supporting a moratorium on World Bank lending to China.

The Canadian delegation will be discussing the trade issue with Ling, and the British and Italian officials are undecided, he said.

Ling said certain incentives such as resumption of World Bank loans should be awarded only when there are fundamental changes in China.

Those changes, she said, include:

- acknowledgment of student democratic leaders as "patriots" not as "counter-revolutionaries."
- an end to jamming the frequency of Voice of America and harassing Chinese students abroad.
- resumption of pre-Tiananmen levels of international cultural and academic exchange.

She also is asking for increased private ownership and economic decentralization, specific steps toward a multi-party democracy and the release of greater numbers and more significant political prisoners.

TI seeks damages Suit names competitors

DALLAS (AP) — Texas Instruments Inc. filed suit Monday against five semiconductor makers, claiming they are violating a 13-year-old patent governing computer chip manufacturing.

The lawsuit is the latest in TI's 4-year-old campaign to benefit from its past technological advances, which cover more than 5,000 patents, including the forerunner of today's computer chip.

"TI is taking these actions to prevent the unauthorized use of its technology and protect the significant investments the company has made in development of intellectual property that is used in integrated circuits around the world," said company general counsel Richard J. Agnich.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court 02303001 in Dallas, accuses the companies of illegally using a TI-developed process for covering computer chips with plastic. It asks for unspecified damages.

A companion complaint filed with the International Trade Commission accuses the five companies of importing and selling plastic-enclosed chips without a license.

"Texas Instruments has been demanding some incredibly high royalty rates," said Jack Menache, general counsel at Integrated Device Technology Inc. in Santa Clara, Calif., one of the companies named in the complaints.

Menache said IDT officials met with TI representatives in December to discuss the patents, but no negotiations had been held in the meantime.

Menache said the process TI seeks to claim "touches a process that's been around for a long, long time."

Besides IDT, the other companies named were Analog Devices Inc., Norwood, Mass.; Cypress Semiconductor Corp. and VLSI Technology Inc., San Jose, Calif.; and LSI Logic Corp., Milpitas, Calif.

Officials at the other four companies said they had not seen the lawsuits and would have no comment.

A TI engineer is credited with co-inventing the integrated circuit in 1958, and the company is now the No. 2 U.S. manufacturer of computer chips behind Motorola Inc.

It wasn't until 1986, however, that TI began to enforce its patents.

Textbook committee examines videodiscs

AUSTIN (AP) — A New Jersey company is hoping Texas will become the first state in the country to leap into high technology by putting laser video technology in the classroom.

Videodiscs are the video version of compact discs used in audio recordings. Optical Data Corp. says the videodiscs can be used instead of, or as a supplement to, standard science books.

The State Board of Education textbook committee opened hearings Monday on 1991-92 teaching materials and was expected to look at Optical Data's proposals.

"If Texas chooses to adopt our program, it will be the first time in the country that an electronic instructional media such as videodisc has been recommended on a statewide basis," said Pam Herber, spokeswoman for Optical Data. "No other state has done this."

The textbook committee plans to make recommendations to the full State Board of Education Aug. 20. The board is scheduled Nov. 10 to choose the books that

will be used in public schools for the next six years.

Texas Education Agency spokesman Joey Lozano said Texas schools will purchase \$120 million to \$135 million of the adopted books and materials during the first year.

Optical Data says its videodiscs have a big advantage over filmstrips, slide shows, overhead projectors and video tape because the operator can move quickly from picture to picture without fast-forwarding or rewinding.

The high-tech approach to teaching science means a teacher wouldn't have to wait more than 10 seconds to move from one subject to another — on a disc that holds 54,000 images on a side.

Freeze-frame and slow-motion features also are possible. The teacher operates the videodisc system with a television remote control.

The technology already is having a trial run. More than 400 schools in Texas are using it, Optical Data says.

Judge: New school funding plan likely to be used

AUSTIN (AP) — A state judge said Monday he probably will allow Texas' new public school funding plan to be used this school year — even if he ultimately overrules it.

Opening a trial on whether the school funding law passed last month is constitutional, State District Judge Scott McCown said halting the measure now could be disruptive to school districts in the upcoming year.

"We don't want a school year in chaos," the judge said.

McCown said he hopes to decide by Sept. 1 whether the new finance law meets a unanimous Texas Supreme Court order to equalize funding between rich and poor school districts. This trial likely will take two weeks, the judge said.

Poor school districts which challenged the old system as unfair oppose the Legislature's latest plan, arguing that lawmakers didn't go far enough to help them.

Sixty-eight poor school districts are challenging the education re-

form plan, which adds \$528 million to state education funding for the 1990-91 school year. The money is being raised through tax increases, including a quarter-cent boost in the state sales tax.

The plan is designed to phase in an equitable funding system over several years, lawmakers said.

Leaders in the predominantly Democratic Legislature and Republican Gov. Bill Clements agreed to the plan after three months of special sessions this year.

Clements and other state leaders have said they believe the system will pass court muster.

But poor school districts say the law failed to make meaningful changes in the \$13.5 billion-a-year finance system, which relies on state aid, local property taxes and state federal money.

Only 13 of the 68 poor school districts asked McCown to immediately throw out the new law and write new spending plan.