

Tobacco companies defend smoking effects

The Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — Cigarettes are not an addiction but merely a pleasurable habit, much like a morning cup of coffee or a dessert, the nation's top tobacco executives told Congress today.
 "You and I both know that Twinkies don't kill a single American," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. "The difference between cigarettes and Twinkies, and the other products you mentioned is death."
 The chiefs of the nation's seven largest tobacco

companies spent more than five hours Thursday testifying before the House Energy and Commerce health subcommittee, which Waxman chairs, about what goes into cigarettes and whether they're dangerous.
 The hearing was sparked by the Food and Drug Administration's consideration of whether to regulate cigarettes. If the FDA decides companies manipulate nicotine in cigarettes, it could label the chemical a drug.
 The government blames smoking for some 400,000 deaths a year. Each of the cigarette mak-

ers denied that there is proof cigarettes cause lung cancer, heart disease and a host of other ailments.
 They denied ever manipulating the amount of nicotine in cigarettes and they denied that the chemical is addictive. If it were, they said, 40 million Americans couldn't have kicked the habit since 1974.
 "I have a common-sense definition of addiction," said Philip Morris President William Campbell. "I'm a smoker and I'm not a drug addict."

Iraq

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lowed, the helicopters' identification beacons should have been operating routinely, Shalikhvili said. He did not say whether the Pentagon knew if the beacons were on or if they emitted the proper coded messages.

A Kurdish spokesman said the helicopters were ferrying U.S., British, French and Turkish officers from the U.N. office in Zakho, near the Turkish border.

The group planned to meet Kurdish leaders in Salahaddin, the central region of the Kurdish zone.

Clinton said those who died were a part of a "mission of mercy. They served with courage and professionalism, and they lost their lives while trying to save the lives of others."

The important work they were doing must and will continue,"

he said.
 The dead included 15 from the United States, three from Turkey, one from France, two from Britain and five Kurds, Lt. Gen. Richard Keller, the chief of staff of the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, said in a telephone briefing with reporters at the Pentagon.

"There were no survivors," Keller said. The bodies were being taken to the base in Turkey.

"I take full responsibility for today's tragedy," Perry said, adding that he and the general wanted to publicly express their sorrow and condolences to the families of those killed.

The Blackhawk and Soviet-made Hind helicopters have a similar shape but there are distinctive differences between the two.

The incident occurred at 3:30 a.m. EDT (9:30 a.m. local time in Iraq) about 35 miles north of Irbil and not far from the border with Turkey.

Williams

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many that have helped make him wealthy, and others that failed.
 "Diversification sounds good," he said. "But it's not always safe."
 Williams said the world is changing and technology and global connections will be important in the business world.

"The opportunities for business are much better internationally," he said. "Your futures are going to be tied more and more to the world market."

Williams said attending A&M was one of the best things he ever did.
 "A&M is like a family," he said.

Williams said he was part of a group of cadets who attempted to steal the Baylor bear in the early 1950s.

Most people however, remember Williams for his failed gubernatorial campaign in 1990,

in which he was defeated by Ann Richards.
 "I would have been governor if I hadn't liked to tell jokes," he said. "I'm not a politician, I proved that."

Williams predicted George W. Bush would defeat Richards in the election later this year because of the conservative values of most Texans.

The same conservative values will also keep Kay Bailey Hutchison in the Senate, he said. "She's proven she can fight," he said. "I have a lot of respect for her."

Baseball

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may play for the fraternity," he said.
 Copeland said the fraternity team won the first two years and

the Corps team won the last two years, making this year's game a tie-breaker.

Despite the rivalry, however, the game still helps build a stronger relationship between the two groups, he said.

"This game helps the camaraderie between the two organiza-

tions," Copeland said.

Tommy Shiflett, a senior kinesiology major and the catcher for the fraternity team, said the game is also beneficial for the fraternities themselves.

"The game gets guys from different fraternities together so it's not so segregated in the fraternity

system," Shiflett said.

Copeland said many of the players from the teams are students who could not get on the A&M baseball team, so they decided to continue playing baseball by participating in Saturday's game.

Mosel said the fraternity team is ready for Saturday's game.

"There's a lot of talent on the team. We've had a lot of good practices and we feel like we're ready," he said. "I hope the game is not a one-sided affair. I hope it's a close ballgame because that would be more fun. We're going to try to make sure everyone on our team gets to play."

Copeland said the Corps team also is ready for the game.

"We're looking forward to having a fun game," he said. "I hope we can continue more things like this to help the organizations get along better and to help the University."

The game begins at 3:15 p.m.

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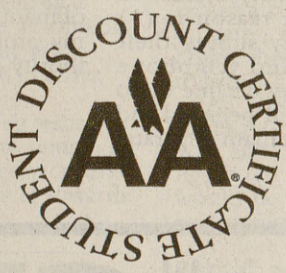
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