Conference leads business communicators through 'Frontierland' despite Rather's absence

□ The presentations will cover topics such as public relations, writing, editing, ethics and broadcasting.

By Michelle Lyons THE BATTALION

CBS television news anchor Dan Rather, who was originally scheduled to speak at the International Association of Business Communicators' U.S. District 5 conference in College Station, will possibly address the audience via satellite.

Rather was assigned to cover Hurricane Opal, which is approaching the Eastern Gulf Coast. Those who purchased tickets for Rather's speech can receive a full refund or exchange them for Saturday's event.

Nancy Sawtelle, conference program chairwoman, said in a news release that Rather regretted missing the conference, and the IABC apologizes for the inconvenience.

"Mr. Rather made valiant efforts to be here, but was asked by network executives to travel to Florida for what apparently is a major storm," Sawtelle said in the release. The conference, Oct. 5-7 at the College Station Hilton Hotel, will feature business

communicators from around the country. Sawtelle said the aspects of communica-

tion include many duties.

"A business communicator is anyone who performs a communications duty public relations, writers, editors, broadcasters," Sawtelle said. "It's anyone who is involved in any aspect of communication on behalf of an organization."

Conference-goers will have the opportunity to participate in a contest called "What is a business communicator, anyway?" in which participants will receive prizes for the best definition.

The theme, "Frontierland - Trails to Discovery," reflects the changing technological nature of communications, Sawtelle said.

"It's a time for communicators to network with one another to discuss some of the new frontiers of technology that will be affecting

communication in the future," she said.

Ann Cole, conference chairwoman, said the conference is a good chance for communicators in U.S. District 5 to get together.

"It's a professional development conference for IABC members from our district," Cole said. "There are seven states in our district, including Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri.

Gretchen Krueger, conference publicity chairwoman, said the conference is open to all who are interested.

"The conference is open to anyone interested in communication in the 21st centuy," Krueger said. "We hope to give them helpful tips on how to use new technology.

Rather's speech may be shown via satellite and is entitled "The Frontiers of Broadcast Communication."

Participants can exchange their Rather tickets to attend the presentation by New Mexico State University futurist Lowell B. Catlett.

"It's time for communicators to network with one another to discuss some of the new frontiers of technology."

> Nancy Sawtelle IABC conference chairwoman

Catlett will be the keynote speaker Saturday morning with a speech entitled, "Frontier Worlds: Future Minds and Future Tech.'

Dr. Douglas Starr, an A&M journalism professor, and Dr. Don Tomlinson, an associate journalism professor, will also speak at the conference.

Tomlinson will present, "Ethics in Communication: Beyond the Libel Manual" Saturday morning along with Genevieve Stubbs.

Starr will discuss tips and techniques for writing a company newsletter.

Starr said there are differences between writing a news article and a newsletter is the time elements. A news article covers items that are usually no

Dan Rather, CBS television news anchor, address the IABC conference via satelli Rather was originally scheduled to speak the conference, but was assigned to cover Hurricane Opal.

more than 24-hours old, while a newslet ter can cover items that have occurre over a period of months.

One of the most important things to for on when covering "old" items in a newslett is the next step of the event, he said, whi is called the second-day approach.

"It's an old newspaper technique, said. "You also apply it to newsletters."

Registration for the conference is open. In addition, there are special re tration rates for students. Students can al



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University of Houston Medical School Friday, 6 October 1995 Time: 1:30 p.m. Room 413 Heep Building

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Director of Community Education Friday, 20 October 1995 Time: 1:00 p.m. Room 105 Halbouty

Women's Health Issues Sally Miller Nurse Practitioner Scott and White Clinic, College Station Monday, 23 October 1995

Time: 3:30 p.m. Room 413 Heep Building What Every Woman Should Know About **Breast Cancer**

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