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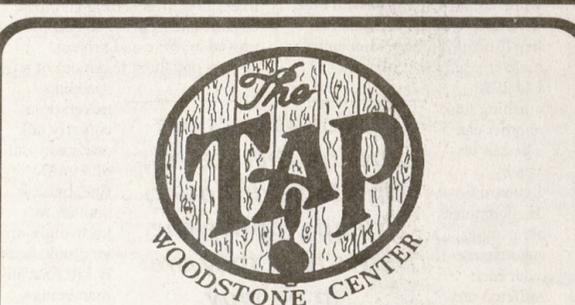
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China initiates control

BEIJING (AP) — China has extended its vague state secrets law to the Internet, ordering companies to register software used to transmit sensitive data and threatening punishment for any government secrets sent onto the Web.

The regulations, announced Wednesday, could scare off foreign firms eager to tap China's booming Internet market. They also underscore the communist leadership's ambivalent desire to exploit the Internet for business while constricting information considered threatening to its rule.

Everyone, from Internet sites to chat-room users, must gain approval from agencies protecting government secrets before publishing previously unreleased information on the Web, according to the State Security Bureau regulations released in the *People's Daily*.

"It's like saying you want to develop railroads and then throwing down a different gauge track not used anywhere else in the world," William Soileau, an information technology lawyer with Denton Hall in Beijing, said.

Perhaps most chilling for business are regulations requiring companies and individuals to register with the government, by Monday, all software used to protect transfers of sensitive information. They require companies to hand over the serial numbers and list the employees using the software, possibly making it easier for the government to track use.

So-called encryption software is used to prevent prying into everything from electronic mail to banking settlements. Popular products like Netscape Web browsers contain encryption software, as do some Microsoft products.

China passed the regulations quietly in October. But the foreign business community became alarmed when the commission published a follow-up directive in November.

That order said that foreign companies wishing to sell products using encryption software — such as programs that operate Websites — would have to submit the source code, or software blueprints. Software deemed unacceptable would have to be replaced with Chinese encryption software.

Toss it up



Sophomore heptathlete, Kendra Reimer, throws a shotput at the track complex, in preparation for the upcoming season.

Picasso Estate sells name for French

PARIS (AP) — Pots and pans in China, underwear in Southeast Asia, trucks in Chile, and now, a car from France. Hard to believe they're all Picassos.

In name only, of course. The Paris-based Picasso Estate, which represents the artist's heirs, spends millions yearly fighting the illicit use of what is arguably the most famous name in 20th century art.

Which is why many French were shocked when the Estate gave its blessing — for a price it refused to reveal — to the new Citroen Xsara Picasso, a snappy, high-sitting town car billed as practical and fun to drive.

Putting the name to the car "is a strategic decision designed to prevent other companies from stealing the name and using it," Claudia Andrieu,

the Picasso Estate's legal adviser, said.

"It's the family's approach to battling fakes," she said in a telephone interview. "A do-nothing attitude leads to exploitation."

Some purists, however, are horrified by what they see as crass commercialism. "Assimilating genius with a mass-produced consumer item is scandalous," wrote Picasso Museum director Jean Clair in the daily *Liberation*.

Clair said he was offended by Citroen's latest ad campaign, which depicts a tough-looking museum guard restraining a visitor from touching a nude bather in Picasso's "Figures au bord de la Mer" (Figures At the Shore).

The visitor then is presented a Picasso he CAN touch — the new Xsara.

Clair said the ad ridiculed the Picasso

Museum, belittling the guards to protect its priceless collection of masterpieces.

Comparing the museum's meager salaries to the hefty fortune earned by Picasso's heirs, he questioned the family's motives in their father's name as their fortune appears to have them from need.

The Picasso Estate represents interests of Claude and Paloma's children of Francoise Gilot; Marie-Therese, the daughter of Marie-Therese and his grandchildren Marina and Picasso, born to the artist's son.

Andrieu said the family is offended by the ad, and the partnership with Citroen.

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If you have any questions, please call

Lauren with Parents' Weekend Committee at 845-3051