

U.S. to miss World's Fair

BERLIN (AP) — In the age of the World Wide Web and global telecommunications, does anybody want to go to a world's fair anymore?

U.S. businesses apparently don't. The United States announced Wednesday that it would not have a national pavilion at the Expo 2000 this summer — the first U.S. absence in the world fair's 149-year history — because it couldn't find enough private sponsors willing to cover the \$40 million cost.

Unlike the dozens of other countries that tap government coffers to build their pavilions, U.S. law doesn't allow taxpayer money to be spent on such events.

"We approached almost all of the Fortune 500" companies, said the U.S. Commissioner for Expo 2000, William Rollnick. "Nobody was interested."

Instead, the United States will build a virtual site on the Internet showcasing American culture — including performances throughout Germany by American artists, writers and intellectuals during the June 1 to Oct. 31 event — for a lot less money.

German officials expressed regret that their first-ever fair would be the first without a U.S. presence. "I think it's a great pity," said President Johannes Rau, visiting the German pavilion in Hanover on Wednesday. "The Expo without America is certainly not as complete as we'd have wished."

He said exhibits from more than 50 other nations and dozens of organizations would help offset the loss of the world's biggest player. "There are 190 other participants," Expo 2000 spokesperson Angela Karmik said. "I think people will also want to see them."

News in Brief Fidel Castro compares capitalism to Holocaust

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro launched a scathing attack on the capitalist system Wednesday, telling a summit of world's poor nations that the economic system caused suffering comparable to the Nazi Holocaust.

Castro, wearing a suit instead of his customary garb, denounced capitalism before 40 heads of state or government at the 77 summit, and called for the elimination of the International Monetary Fund, accused of spreading world poverty.

"The images we see of mothers and children in whole regions of Africa under the drought and other catastrophes remind me of the concentration camps of Nazi Germany," he said.

Referring to war crimes trials after World War II, the Cuban leader said: "We lack a tribunal to judge the economic order imposed where every three years more men, women and children die of hunger and preventable diseases than died in the Second World War."

Castro's complaints of inequality were echoed by other speakers at the opening of the summit. The organization was likely to seek less than \$1 billion from the Cuban leader's — which included a call for a 1 percent tax on all international transactions to finance a global development fund.

Draft resolutions called for developed nations to forgive the debts of poorer states, share technology and give poorer nations a greater say in international development funds.

Telstra forms alliance with Chinese Internet group

HONG KONG (AP) — Tycoon Richard Li's upstart Internet group scored a \$3 billion investment from Australian phone giant Telstra Corp. today, boosting his ambitions to create "the world's largest broadband Internet business."

The alliance between Telstra and Li's Internet group, Pacific Century CyberWorks, was announced after the Hong Kong and Australian stock markets had closed.

It will extend Telstra's reach significantly out of its home turf and into Asia.

The alliance also appears to solidify Li's bid for the top Hong Kong phone company, which was accepted in February — although the value of the deal has

fallen sharply along with the stock price of Pacific Century CyberWorks.

Telstra said the partnership will proceed only if Pacific Century CyberWorks closes on its purchase of the phone carrier, Cable & Wireless HKT. Enthusiastic traders pushed Cable & Wireless HKT shares up by 14 percent today as details dribbled out in news reports.

Telstra's chief executive, Ziggy Switkowski, heralded the alliance as the "defining moment for Telstra's position in Asia."

"Telstra is now in a position where they realize there are advantages in trying to build their business beyond the boundaries of Australia," said Jamie Spi-

teri, a broker with Shaw Stock Ltd. in Sydney.

Pacific Century CyberWorks to gain a powerful partner, a new source of cash and some additional telecom industry.

Telstra will invest \$1.5 billion in Pacific Century CyberWorks, which will be converted later into shares.

The two companies are also a mobile telephone joint venture held 60 percent by Pacific Century CyberWorks and 40 percent by Telstra.

Telstra also will give Pacific Century CyberWorks \$1.5 billion in exchange for assets Li's company will add to its mobile phone venture.



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Freshmen Leaders In Progress presents:

RHA CASINO 2000

April 14, 2000

"A Night at the Oscars"
Sponsored by RHA & Food Services

On the marquis for Parent's Weekend is the famous RHA Casino Night, Friday, April 14th. This year, your Residence Hall Association has teamed up with Food Services to bring you "A Night at the Oscars!" Enjoy a Vegas Style prime rib buffet from 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Cafeteria and a night of casino games from 7:00 pm until midnight on the second floor. You can use your meal plan for dinner and your guest meal option for their dinner meal as well. For those students with Aggie Bucks or cash, the prime rib buffet is \$7.95. Avoid the off campus hassle and park once in the University Center Garage (located in Koldus Building) for a fun night of dinner, games, tons of prizes and with time, midnight yell practice.

You will not want to miss
Palm Sunday Brunch, April 16,
in the MSC Cafeteria (temporary home for Sbis Dining Center) and the Commons Dining Complex. Again, meal plans and guest meals (if not already used) are acceptable.

ALL YOU CAN EAT Brunch
Breakfast \$5.95 - 8:00 am to 10:30 am
Lunch \$6.95 - 10:30 am to 2:00 pm



Josh Terkelsen
RHA Casino Director

Cynthia A. Zawieja
Associate Director
of Food Services

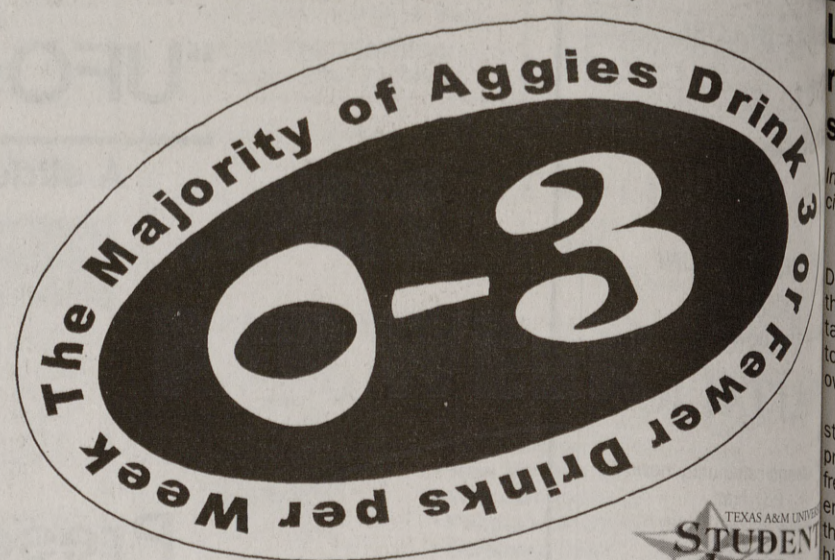


Celebrate Responsibly

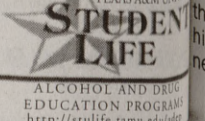
HEY AGGIES!

Did you know,

THE MAJORITY OF AGGIES DRINK 3 OR FEWER DRINKS PER WEEK



Data from June, 1998 CORE survey on a random sample of 861 students



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