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## Teen-ager wrestles Reagan recovering from broken hip

### 6-year-old to death

MIAMI (AP) — A teen-ager who says he accidentally killed a 6-year-old girl while imitating pro wrestlers kicked and slugged her repeatedly, inflicting injuries more severe than those seen in many car crashes, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

Lionel Tate, 13, smashed Tiffany Eunick's skull, pulverized her liver, broke a rib and caused numerous cuts and bruises, prosecutor Ken Padowitz said in opening statements at Tate's first-degree murder trial.

"Tiffany Eunick was beaten to death," Padowitz told the jury.

Tate, who was 12 at the time, is being tried as an adult and faces a mandatory 25-year sentence with no parole if convicted.

Defense attorney Jim Lewis said the 1999 death was an accident. He said Tate did not understand he could harm Tiffany when he punched and threw her about "because he had seen pro wrestlers do that hundreds of times without injuring each other."

"This was child's play and unfortunately, child's play is sometimes dangerous," Lewis said.

Lewis tried unsuccessfully to force wrestling stars such as The Rock Johnson and Hulk Hogan to testify. The World Wrestling Federation is suing Lewis for libel for linking the girl's death to pro wrestling.

The death was one of at least four cases in 1999 in which pro wrestling was blamed after one child killed another.

Tate at first told police he and Tiffany had been playing and watching television. He said he picked Tiffany up and accidentally hit her head against a table. But prosecutors said the autopsy report was at odds with Tate's version.

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Former President Reagan is growing stronger daily and doctors may increase the pace of his physical therapy, his spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Reagan, 89, was listed as stable at Saint John's Health Center where surgeons repaired his broken hip with a pin, plate and screws during a 65-minute operation Saturday, said Joanne Drake, the spokeswoman and chief of staff.

"He participated in physical therapy sessions yesterday morning and

afternoon, sitting in a chair for over 30 minutes during each session," Drake said in a statement. "His appetite has increased."

"He looks stronger each day and his doctors are considering increasing the number of physical therapy sessions," she said.

Details of the therapy were not disclosed.

Former first lady Nancy Reagan has been with her husband since he fell and broke his hip Friday afternoon at the couple's Bel-Air home.

### News in Brief

#### Fire at capitol clears building

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A tractor-trailer crashed into the state Capitol and burst into flames Tuesday night, just as the Assembly was clearing out from a late-night session.

It was not immediately known if the truck's driver or anyone else was injured.

Smoke and flames billowed from the truck, which was rammed up the Capitol steps and nestled below the state Senate chambers. The Senate was not in session.

It was difficult to determine whether the fire had spread to the marble building.

The California Highway Patrol evacuated the building shortly before 9:30 p.m. A state trooper told lawmakers a big rig had crashed into the Capitol.

Stunned lawmakers rushed from the building and watched as firefighters fought the blaze.

Michael Fahn, a motorist, said he did not see the truck ram into the building but heard several explosions.

"I thought, 'My God, they are bombing the Capitol,'" he said.

The state Assembly had been meeting to consider legislation on California's power woes.

### SBISA

Continued from Page 1

"This week, the international area is serving Mexican food," Beard said. "Next week it will change. That way there will always be variety to choose from."

The Underground Food Court and Market were also updated. Taco Bueno was replaced with SeWraps, and the layout of the dining area was rearranged to provide more seating.

"We condensed the [market] 40 percent to add about 50 seats to the eating area," Beard said. "Seating seemed to be a student concern, so we addressed that."

Bernie's will continue to serve pizza, but the new version of the restaurant will also serve as a coffee house and the Outbound Dining area for Sbsisa.

"Students will be able to get take-out food, cooked in Sbsisa, from 7 a.m. to midnight," Beard said. "Bernie's will soon be furnished with plush leather couches. Hopefully students will find that it is a good spot for socializing."

Sbsisa originally opened in 1931 and served as the dining hall for the Corps of Cadets until Duncan Dining Hall opened in 1933. Except for minor repairs, Sbsisa has not been closed for renovations since 1976.

A grand reopening has been scheduled for Feb. 2.

Carter said Sbsisa's operating hours have changed. Students can view new hours online at <http://food.tamu.edu>.

## TAMU Student Research Week

March 19-23, 2001

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Student Research Week is a collaboration among the Office of the Vice President for Research, Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs, Office of Graduate Studies, Graduate Student Council, and the Department of Student Life.

### FINANCIAL

Continued from Page 1

payment before Tuesday morning was dropped from classes and charged \$100.

"It's a catch-22 for us," Piwonka said. "We want to be as lenient as possible, but as stewards of the funds, we can't accept less than the required payment. It's very likely this won't happen again — students now have the added incentive to get their payments in on time."

Junior education major Bonnie Pilkington did not discover she had been dropped from classes until Sunday night. She stood in line for more than three hours, missing classes, to find out what she owed.

"I added classes after initial registration with my counselor and she didn't tell me about having to pay immediately," Pilkington said. "I had no idea I was supposed to pay — I had already paid my first installment. I don't want them to take my classes away because of this."

At 11 a.m., the SIMS online computer system Bonfire, which allows access to student billing statements, reached a maximum capacity of more than 2,000 simultaneous connections. SIMS operators had to pull Bonfire offline to reconfigure the system to handle the number of people trying to access the system, said Thomas Putnam, director of Com-

puting Information Services (CIS). Bonfire was inaccessible for nearly an hour, and students sat on the floor of the Pavilion and waited for the system to come back online so SFS could resume accepting payments.

**"We want to be as lenient as possible, but as stewards of the funds, we can't accept less than the required payment. It is very likely this won't happen again — students now have the added incentive to get their payments in on time."**

— Bob Piwonka  
SFS director

Students making late payments have until Thursday at 5 p.m. to pay outstanding fees. Though considered dropped from classes, students who pay by that deadline will be reinstated in the classes they were registered for. After that time, the students' classes will be re-

leased on Bonfire and they will have to reregister.

"We're here from the time registration starts in November until the last payments are due," Piwonka said. "The bottom line is that if you add any fees to your account after you have registered, it is your responsibility to pay and see that your account is clear. You don't have to wait until day one of classes to cover you're delinquent."


Sophomore business major Teresa Church, who added classes in Fall 2000 after the billing period and paid the additional cost after classes began, could not understand why the same procedure was not acceptable this semester.

"Some sort of big announcement should have been made before registration, because this has caused a ton of students to miss class who they otherwise wouldn't," Church said after waiting more than five hours in line Tuesday.

"I figured all was fine, but Monday morning when I went to check my classes on Bonfire, it said my payment was inadequate."

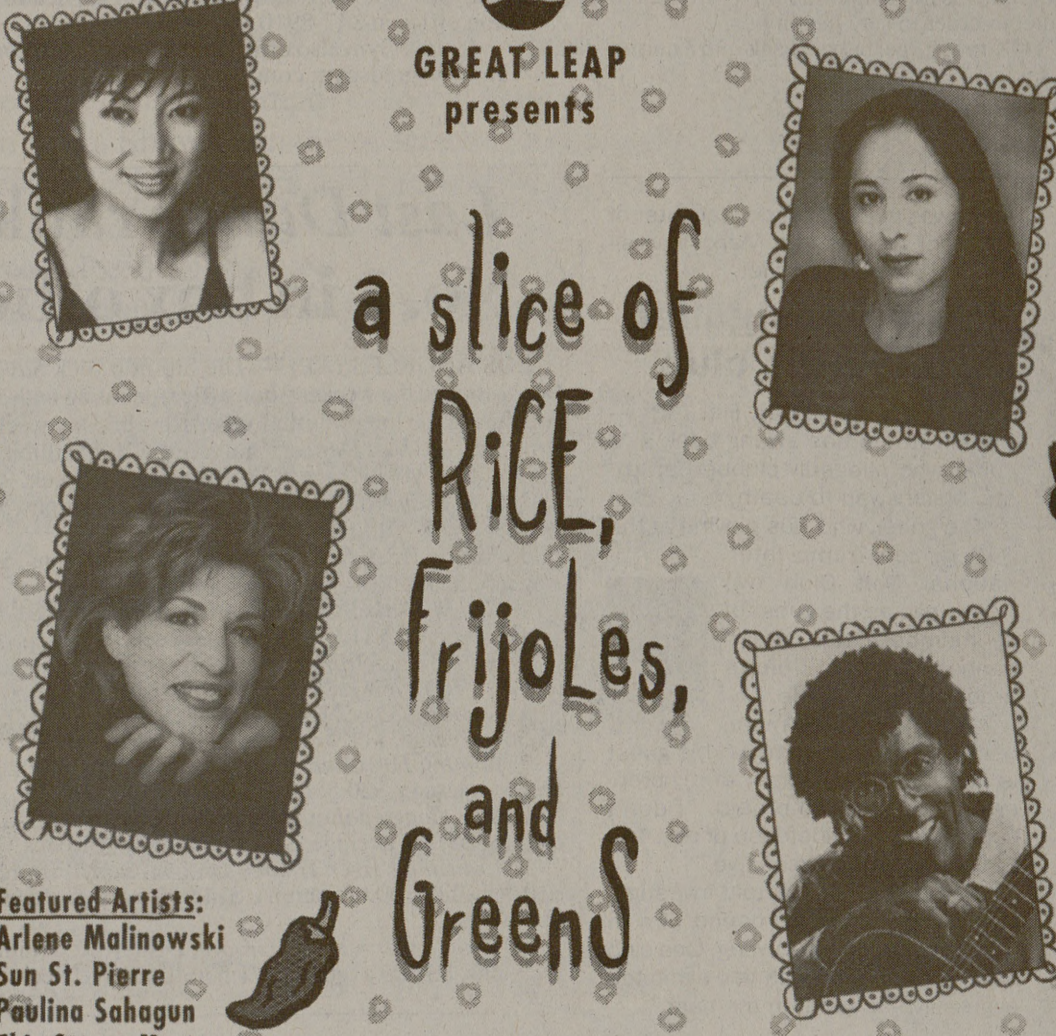
Church and the 1,600 others who were dropped from classes for similar reasons had no choice but to stand in line Tuesday.

Signs are now hanging in the Pavilion to warn students to pay additional charges the day they drop classes or fees to their account.




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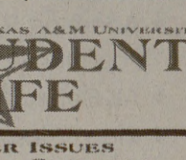
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**For More Information Please Contact:**  
Gender Issues Education Services (GIES) at 845-1107,  
come by 211 A YMCA Building, visit us on the web at  
<http://studentlife.tamu.edu/gies>, or contact us via email at  
[gies@tamu.edu](mailto:gies@tamu.edu).