

## Execution protest



Richard Woodward, an agricultural economics assistant professor, displays the banners that were to be held at a vigil to protest the 250th execution of a Texas inmate since the resumption of the death penalty in 1982. Woodward is the acting local chair of

the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. The organization is made up of individuals fighting for the abolition of the death penalty. The vigil was for the execution of Richard Kutzner. The vigil was postponed because Kutzner received a stay of execution.

## American prof back in California

### Chinese-born U.S. citizen deported after spy conviction

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An American professor from China after being convicted of spying arrived back in the United States on Wednesday, removing one source of tension between the two countries just before Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to Beijing.

Li Shaomin, a Chinese-born U.S. citizen, was reunited with his wife and daughter moments after arriving in San Francisco from Beijing.

"Thank you all; I'm very tired. I'm really glad to be home to see my family. And I would like to thank my government for its support," said Li, who taught business at the City University of Hong Kong.

Li deflected questions about his case. Airport spokesperson Ron Wilson said Li met with State Department officials for a debriefing for a few minutes and was expected to travel to Washington. He did not provide details about travel plans, but a spokesperson for Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., said Li was expected to arrive in Washington on Thursday.

This case and those of other U.S.-based scholars have threatened to complicate Powell's visit to China this weekend. Both sides of the meeting will help heal relations hurt by the April 1 collision of a Navy spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet.

After meeting in Vietnam with China's foreign minister, Powell said he was pleased by the developments in Li's case. He also said he was confident there would soon be action on several cases.

"I think the relationship is on the upswing now, that these tensions are behind us," he said.

China apparently has agreed to deport Gao Zhan, an American University professor, and Qin Guangguang, who has taught at American universities. Both were sentenced this week to 10-year prison terms on charges of spying for Taiwan.

## Victims: Released offenders will commit new crimes

DENVER (AP) — Sexual assault victims expressed fear Wednesday that convicted sex offenders being released because Colorado's highest court threw out a mandatory parole program will commit new crimes.

"I think people really don't understand from a survivor's perspective when these things come up how that really shakes your world up," said Melissa Bishop, 32, a special education teacher who was raped in 1989. She said she had a "mixture of anger and fear."

The Colorado Supreme Court

ruled last year that lawmakers had made a series of mistakes that nullified a state law imposing mandatory parole for sex offenders who committed their crimes from 1993 through 1998.

The court said the offenders' paroles should be stopped and anyone locked up for violating parole had to be released. On Monday, the court voted 4-3 not to rehear arguments.

The first 43 offenders released under the court's ruling left prison Tuesday, and 73 others were to be freed soon.

Corrections Department Director

John Suthers said about 250 convicted sex offenders now on parole will be allowed to stop serving the terms immediately. He said more than 1,000 inmates whose sentences will end in the next 20 years will be placed on reduced parole terms — if they are placed on parole at all.

The decision to release people who had been sent back to jail for violating parole was particularly worrying to victims' rights groups. They also lamented the lack of follow-up for the convicts, although the released inmates have 72 hours to register as sex

offenders.

"Without some kind of structure in our community and criminal justice system, I feel like a lot of people are at risk," said Janine D'Anniballe, director of the Boulder-based group Moving to End Sexual Assault.

"To have thought that you have it taken care of, and then to find out that because of some legal glitch things will not be the way you thought they would, is very discouraging," Bishop said.

Some groups said the releases might make victims of sexual assault

less likely to come forward and prosecute their attackers.

"For our clients, it continues to give the message that reporting doesn't pay off, that people can get off in this system," said Karmen Carter, executive director of the Rape Assistance and Awareness Program.

Police said law enforcement agencies would be pushed to register the newly released convicts.

"We're just going to have to take in stride," said Colorado Springs Police Sgt. Tim Hogan. "We don't have any capacity to add any precautions

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