Taiwan Strait conundrum analyzed by symposium

JAMES FULLER and PAUL TECNO
DAILY EGYPTIAN REPORTERS

With the issue of Taiwanese independence versus China reunification unresolved for nearly half a century—and the United States involvement intensifying—the SIUC Public Policy Institute organized a symposium to devise a roadmap to peace in the Taiwan Strait.

"Building New Bridges for a New Millenium," took place on Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Lacer Law School Auditorium and concluded Monday, Dec. 7 in the Student Center Auditorium.

"One of the potential flashpoints in the world today is in the Taiwan straits," Former Sen. Paul Simon said, "and one of the questions of the symposium is: How can we be constructive to see that there is no violence in the region?"

Simon said if he can get people to sit around a table, sooner or later they will realize that they have many things in common.

"The purpose of the symposium is: 'How do we get the U.S. to play a constructive role?'" he said.

"The symposium, like relations between the United States, China and Taiwan was not without its complications.

Former Sen. Paul Simon said it had an easier time getting people from opposing sides to attend the Middle East Symposium than at the symposium focusing on Mainland China and Taiwan.

Despite the absence of Lien Chan, vice president of the Republic of China (Taiwan)—who for a visa request denial from President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright— and the refusal of participation from Ambassador Li Zhaoxing of mainland China, those who did participate came up with six points of light in the form of recommendations for relations among the United States, China, and Taiwan.

They agreed that the United States, the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan should actively promote beneficial trade and investment relations. The three countries should work together to solve Asia's financial crisis and to develop long-term growth.

The United States, the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan should be represented in the World Trade Organization and should participate to the maximum extent possible in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization.

All parties agreed that it is in their best interests to participate jointly in free and open discussions in the United States concerning relations between China and Taiwan. They also agreed the United States should be far more flexible in allowing Taiwan's officials to visit the United States and should participate in discussions such as this week's symposium.

"Student exchanges, faculty exchanges and similar programs between the U.S., the PRC, and Taiwan should be encouraged to expand. In coming weeks, these recommendations will be developed further and refined by the SIUC Public Policy Institute."

"Even with these recommendations, there were still various viewpoints on the topic of China-Taiwan relations. Author Bethe Bao-Lord compared the Chinese to a man in conflict with a relationship between a man and a woman. "What should the relationship between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China be—separation, rivalry, divorce, marriage, 'it's death do they part?'" she said. "And what should the U.S. role be—marriage counselor, concerned friend, disinterested observer, or divorce lawyer?"

Bao-Lord said this is an opportune time to examine the relationship between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China as Asia continues to struggle with its economic crisis. She led a discussion on various issues concerning Taiwan-China relations.

Ronald Winter, University of Chicago president, said first: "The views of the U.S. in Taiwan and China were discussed first.

Tien Yuh Hau, a professor of international law and an adviser on defense, discussed a poll that was taken in Taiwan. The poll showed that 12 percent of Taiwanese view themselves as only Chinese, 44 percent see themselves as both Taiwanese and Chinese, and 38 percent view themselves as only Taiwanese.

"We're in the same situation of continued conflict between United States, China and Taiwan, " he said.

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CARBONDALE

- A Carbondale resident reported that his vehicle's window was smashed between 7:45 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. Sunday. Police have no suspects.

- An area woman reported to Carbondale Police that her vehicle's windshield was smashed and its head was dinged between 12:15 and 5 p.m. Sunday. Police have no suspects in this incident.

- A Carbondale woman told Carbondale Police that someone threw a rock through a window of her vehicle and damaged the hood between 12:15 and 2 p.m. Sunday. Police have no suspects in this incident.

- A Carterville woman told Carbondale Police that someone threw a rock through her vehicle and damaged the window between 4:15 and 5 p.m. Monday, while it was parked in the 200 block of East Main Street. Police have no suspects.

- A 25-year-old SIUC student reported to University Police that some of his artwork was stolen from the Allyn Building between 12:15 and 5:30 p.m. Monday while it was on display in the building. The victim valued the artwork at $900. The incident is still under investigation.

- A 26-year-old South Carolina man was arrested at 7:27 p.m. Monday on a warrant in the amount of $200 for failure to appear in court on an outstanding charge of possession of marijuana. Police impounded a cash bond and released the man.

- At 3:30 p.m. Monday, University Police investigated a report of domestic violence involving a Green Street Terrier. During the investigation, Marcellis A. Miller, 54, of Carbondale was arrested and charged with domestic battery. Police said Miller struck his girlfriend during the incident. Miller, 54, of Carbondale was arrested and charged with criminal damage to a vehicle after he smashed several windows of Miller's vehicle. Police impounded a $100 bond and released the man. Miller was taken to Jackson County Jail pending an appearance before a judge.

TODAY

- College Republicans meeting, 5 p.m., Illini Union Room, Cory 351-7267.

- Model Illinois Government, 5:30 p.m., Activity Room II, Phil 356-8160.

- Pi Sigma Epsilon candle business framing general meeting, new members welcome, every Wed., 6:45 p.m., Illinois Room, Student Center, Amy 331-1367.

- Prenatal Health and Welfare committee meeting, every Wed., 7 to 8 p.m., Student Center, SIC Office, Dorothy 356- 3343.

- PCCA general meeting, 7 p.m., Ohio Room, Student Center, Keita 955-9920.

- Kivon's Circle K, 7 p.m., Student Center, Missouri Room, Jeff 687-3595.

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., graduate school and financial aid information, 8 p.m., Illinois Room, Nigel 356-4842.

- Special Programs and Center Events holiday bingo, 9 p.m., Activity Room, Student Center, Amy 459-7160.

UPCOMING

- Interscholastic meeting, every Thurs., 4:20 p.m., Salle Room, Student Center, Brian 356-3311.

- Aviation Management Society meeting to meet guest speakers for trips, and be a member of the organization that will help your career. every Thurs., 6 p.m., CASA Room 90, Dave 351-6605.

- SUCU Geology Club meeting, Dec. 10, 5 p.m., Kittelson 4110, Ryan 526- 8136.

- AnimeCon will be showing animations and films from all over Japan. every Thurs., 6 to 8 p.m., Foster 1125 New Media Center, EJ 356-6774.

- U.S. Air Force CAP meeting, every Thurs., 7 p.m., Morton Student Center, Aaron 442-3991.

- art Strolling Collegee, every Thurs., 8 p.m., Activity Room D, Student Center, Sheila 351-0993.

- N.A.C.C. general meeting, Dec. 10, 6 p.m., lower level office, Gailen Cravin, 356-4842.

- Student Development meeting to learn more about programs and services provided to students 1 to 4 p.m., Student Center 3rd Floor Student Development, 455-3574.

- SUCU Radio/Television Department is producing a documentary on the "Way of the Wichita" Midwest University Radio.

- Readers who spot an error in a news article should contact the Daily Egyptian, 556-3311 extension 229 or 229.

Sahuki Calendar

Anyone with any information, stories or all types of commercials or air checks is required to contact Assistant Professor Johnson at work 453-6901 or at home 755-6291.

French talks started in the Colombo Palace Hotel, Fri., 4 to 6 p.m., Boddy's 453- 5418.

Spanish Table every Fri., 4 to 6 p.m., Cafe Melange 607 South Illinois Avenue, Dumas 453-5423.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Society with science fiction themed videos, Fri., 6 p.m., Student Center Activity Room II, Mike 549-3277.

Foreign Language Department tabletop for informal conversations, every Fri., 4 to 6 p.m., Cafe Melange, Straths 453- 3417.

SUCU School of Music will present the Saluki Strings and Orchestras, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Auditorium, 549-6709.


Stage Co. California State University, Long Beach, Dec. 14 to 16 in Central City, 229-7146.

Read your calendars! Always check with the Daily Egyptian, 556-3311, your favorite radio and television stations for upcoming events. The Calendar is free to print and carry to your computer at www.dailyegyptian.com.
Mailbox

A mysterious third floor at Student Center.

Dear Editor,

Where is it? A few weeks ago I had occasion to go to the Graduate and Professional Student Council Office. Not knowing the building, I was led by going to the Graduate School offices in the Administration Building. A secretary there was most helpful. She knew that the Graduate and Professional Student Council Office was on the third floor of the Student Center. Not only did she call over to confirm the location, but she also showed me the way there.

I’m a bit of a professional photographer, so I was very excited to find the office. I thanked her profusely for her time and assistance, and I left the Student Center with my camera in hand, ready to document the event.

I entered the elevator to the Student Center, and as I got off, I turned right. Noting the large office on the left at the hall junction, I entered in to ask where the Graduate and Professional Student Council Office was located. When I walked to the reception desk, I looked around and asked, “Hello, I need help. I am looking for the Graduate and Professional Student Council Office. It was on the third floor of the Student Center, but I can’t seem to find it.”

I left the building and went out to my car. I was very disappointed to find that the office had moved. I was about to give up when I noticed a sign that said, “Office of Graduate and Professional Student Council.”

The office was on the second floor of the Student Center. I was very happy to find it, and I took plenty of pictures. I hope you can use them in your article.

Sincerely,

A. Smith

The parking dilemma at SIUC continues.

Dear Editor,

The parking dilemma at SIUC is one that will always be debated and a solution to please everyone is hard to come by. I don’t want to come across as unappreciative, but the issue needs to be addressed.

I was on campus last week and noticed two cars parked in the middle of the road. This is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Sincerely,

J. Doe

Figarelli’s letter is inaccurate.

Letter to the Editor

Mr. Figarelli’s letter to the DAILY EGYPTIAN on December 2, 1998, was not accurate regarding the Student Recreation Center. The Center was opened in 1990, not 1992. The Center has been the subject of significant changes since its opening.

Sincerely,

M. Brown

SUVAGIA

continued from page 3

"She said she had a great summer. She always had a great time. She always wanted to go back." By going through her suitcase, we realized that she had many stories to tell about her experiences in Chicago. She had visited many different places, met a lot of people and even went to the movies with her friends.

Sincerely,

J. Doe

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Mailbox

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I entered the elevator to the Student Center, and as I got off, I turned right. Noting the large office on the left at the hall junction, I entered in to ask where the Graduate and Professional Student Council Office was located. When I walked to the reception desk, I looked a little confused, I asked, “Hello, I need help. I am looking for the Graduate and Professional Student Council Office.”

The lady at the desk said she didn’t know. I showed her the cover of the Professional Development Fund Pucket with the title “Graduate and Professional Students.” She looked at the cover and said, “Yes, I remember that. It was me who designed the cover.”

I took a picture of the cover and showed it to another lady who also said, “Yes, I remember designing the cover.”

I took picture of the other lady and said, “Thank you.”

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A. Smith

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Sincerely,

M. Brown

549-1111

Good Luck on Final Exams from Papa John's

Meeting Time | Scheduled Meeting Days | Date of Exam | Exam Period
---|---|---|---
08:00 | Begin with a T or R | Thurs. Dec. 17 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
08:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Tues. Dec. 15 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
09:00 | Begin with a T or R | Fri. Dec. 18 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
09:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Wed. Dec. 16 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
10:00 | Begin with a T or R | Thurs. Dec. 17 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
10:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Wed. Dec. 16 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
11:00 | Begin with a T or R | Fri. Dec. 18 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
11:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Wed. Dec. 16 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
12:00 | Begin with a T or R | Mon. Dec. 14 | 12:10-2:50 p.m.
12:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Mon. Dec. 14 | 12:10-2:50 p.m.
01:00 | Begin with a T or R | Tue. Dec. 17 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
01:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Wed. Dec. 16 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
02:00 | Begin with a T or R | Fri. Dec. 18 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
02:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Wed. Dec. 16 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
03:00 | Begin with a T or R | Mon. Dec. 14 | 12:10-2:50 p.m.
03:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Mon. Dec. 14 | 12:10-2:50 p.m.
04:00 | Begin with a T or R | Fri. Dec. 18 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.
04:00 | Begin with a M, W, or F | Fri. Dec. 18 | 8:50-2:00 p.m.

Night classes which meet only on Monday
Night classes which meet only on Tuesday
Night classes which meet only on Wednesday
Night classes which meet only on Thursday
Night classes starting before 7:00 p.m. and first meeting day is a Monday or Wednesday
Night classes starting before 7:00 p.m. and first meeting day is a Tuesday or Thursday
Night classes starting after 7:00 p.m. and first meeting day is a Monday or Wednesday
Night classes starting after 7:00 p.m. and first meeting day is a Tuesday or Thursday
Saturday and Sunday Courses
Make-up examinations for students whose petitions have been approved by their dean
Better Than Ezra stops through Carbondale

DELUXE: New Orleans based trio brings music to area this evening.  
KELLY E. HERTLEIN  
DAY EDWINIAN REPORTER

Charming the "Southern Girl" while performing a hard-groove edge sound to the patrons of the Copper Dragon Brewing Co., Kevin Griffin and company are releasing a little "Fricion Baby," to the audience.  

A New Orleans-based trio Better Than Ezra will perform at 9 tonight at the Copper Dragon Brewing Co., 700 E. Grand Ave. Tickets for the show are $13, and Big Runga is the opening act.

Achieving recognition within the music industry, the band's 1994 album, "Deluxe," sold over 200,000 copies and received platinum status.  

After the release of Better Than Ezra's 1996 CD, "Fricion Baby," which also went gold, Smith said producing the new disc, "How Does Your Garden Grow," gave the band the opportunity to explore new ground.

"A third album always seems pivotal to a band," Smith, vocalist and guitarist said. "When I listen to my favorite bands, I want to know if the album is going to take me to new places, or is the artist just going to go over the same old ground?"

Trying to avoid repetition, the band attempted several new sounds and skills for its newest release, drawing inspiration from numerous sources while fulfilling "Fricion Baby" dreams.

Griffin, singer and songwriter for the band, said the lyrics had to be drawn from new experiences to exhibit a sound the band wished to produce.

"It seems like we'd release an album then have to play catch-up the next time we recorded because our ideas would always be progressing so much," Griffin said. "Since we did "Fricion Baby," I was starting to write from a different angle than usual. I was getting inspired by different things. We wanted to try some new directions on this one."

The motivation behind the new ambience of the band was the addition of experimental instruments, such as the piano, harmonium, a keyboard instrument in which the tones are produced by various keys, and the vibraphone. Griffin added and influence that you can explain a moment in time, when you get into a car with that one person who knows you so well, the music just comes out and it's a great feeling."

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COLA, COBA dean search narrows

ELIMINATION: Pool of fifty applicants now down to about ten.

Rhonda Scarr-
DAILY EYPTIAN REPORTER

Members of the dean search committee in the College of Liberal Arts have narrowed a pool of about 50 applicants down to around 10 as they look to select a candidate in the upcoming semester.

The committee is now in the "short-list" stage of the search, and members of the committee are making further inquiries, talking again to references and reviewing resume of the final 10.

Rob Jensen, acting dean for COLA, said the list will probably be down to a list of a half a dozen, Jensen said.

Marjorie Morgan, head of the dean search committee, will meet Tuesday with Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost John Jackson to recommend a list of three.

"I would hope that we could begin interviewing candidates in January," Morgan said. "I think we have a sizeable pool of appropriate candidates." This is the closest the college has come to filling the office since last spring when previous finalist Herman Schnapp declined the position, and the search for a dean was tabled another year.

While the dean search remains a priority for COLA, the college is also planning a busy spring semester.

Other plans include technological improvements and additions to faculty for the 1999-2000 school year.

Freshman English composition computer labs will be upgraded, and a new computer lab will be built in Quigley Hall for the Department of Art and Design.

The college is planning to bring online a new computer teaching facility designed specifically for technology education.

"It is going to be a marvelous facility," Jensen said.

The college also has approved the recruitment of 26 new assistant professors that will teach in the fall of 1999.

"We have had a number of people either resign or retire," Jensen said. "Now we will be getting in a number of bright new faces."

The College of Business and Administration is near conclusion of its dean search.

The COBA search is finishing negotiations with candidate Dan Worrell, prior dean of the College of Business for the University of Texas at Arlington.

In a similar situation, COLA, candidate James Dworkin, associate dean of business at Purdue, declined the position offered him last spring, re-opening the search in June.

Allan Kanne, head of the COBA dean search committee, said ongoing negotiations with Worrell look promising.

"We will definitely know something by the first of the year," Kanne said.

Working students find sleep hard to come by

UP ALL NIGHT: Learning better time management aids in balancing school, work

Astraea L. Dillard-
DAILY EYPTIAN REPORTER

Marjorie Dew has to get out of bed every Friday morning at 4 o'clock to work at the Recreation Center from her home in Meadow Ridge.

Dew, the supervisor of the equipment desk in the Recreation Center, said she prefers not to sleep on Friday mornings.

"I don't go to sleep," Dew, a junior in Liberal Arts, said. "I go to sleep around 10 and then go straight to work." Dew works the midnight shift, says, because that's just what it is to be a college student.

"One particular night three guys came into the restaurant drunk and rude after the bar had closed," McChristian said. "One of the guys had the audacity to reach his arm behind the counter to get his change."

These are incidents that McChristian has had to get used to working on the weekend.

Although she puts in time-consuming hours, she said her school-work does not suffer.

"I get my work done," McChristian said. "I get my work done on Sunday night."

Friday and Saturday nights are horrible because everyone comes to the restaurant drunk and rude after the bars had closed.

Wendy's job at the Recreation Center over the 12 a.m. shift is challenging. Dew works the midnight shift goes for beyond 2 a.m. during the week and 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. on the weekend.

Dew said, "Sometimes I take naps so I can do my homework at night and then go straight to work." Dew's job at the Recreation Center mostly consists of paper work, but when a student injured herself, Dew had to stay and help the area be prepared to perform first aid at any time.

"It's really difficult for Dew to balance her schoolwork, her job, social life, involvement in organizations, cleaning and cooking in her apartment, but she has a simple solution to her busy life."

"It's all about time management," Dew said.

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Important Reminder for Students Graduating or Leaving SIU!

Students who are not planning to return to SIUC for the Spring Semester can opt to purchase an extension of their self-campus student insurance coverage for 60 days past their last date of university enrollment. The last date of coverage for students who complete the Fall 98 semester is the last date of official university enrollment.

For further information regarding this coverage, please refer to the "1998/99 Extended Medical Care Benefit Plan Brochure", or visit the SHP web page at www.shp.siu.edu/shp. The Student Medical Benefits Office (student insurance) is located at Room 418, Kenbar Hall or can be reached via phone at 453-4413.

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BUDGET
continued from page 1

"Actually our international enrollment figures are up," Henry said.

University officials anticipated a loss when the tuition decrease was approved, but believed that the benefits would outweigh the loss.

Henry said the University has not determined where the shortfall will be felt or how long it will take the University to regain the ground it lost.

"How soon the money is made up depends on enrollment and other factors," Henry said. "The task that faces the University is to determine where these dollars will be cut."

International Student and Scholars Associate: Director Carla Coppi said although the University has yet to see the benefits of the tuition decrease, she and others still optimistic that it will happen.

"Sadly, we have not yet seen the benefits of the decrease," Coppi said, "but we are expecting it. It was a wonderful move by the University."

Coppi said she believes the University will see a strong increase in international enrollment next year, after the tuition decrease goes into effect, based on what international students have said.

"The international students are so happy about it," Coppi said. "They are telling their friends and family and a lot of students are planning to come here."

"I am absolutely confident that this is a wonderful thing for our enrollment. It sends a message to the world of how committed we are to our international students."

INCIDENT
continued from page 1

Avoiding further tension with mainland China, the United States denied Chau access to the country. Neither China nor Zoufeng were present at the symposium.

In his press release, Simon criticized the denial decision as an example of the United States "bowing to the whims of the dictatorship in China — and in the process fleeing from our ideals and winning no respect in China or anywhere else."

And yet with the history of broken visitation plans over the last two years, should Simon have expected any different? Throughout the conflict — and the war games by China and the United States in the 80-mile-wide Taiwan Strait, the United States has somehow managed to maintain true to the Taiwan Relations Act. The act basically says the United States will defend Taiwan in the event of an unprovoked attack, and defend its evident policy of strategic ambiguity that former Ambassad or Winston Lord has denied even exists.

What Lord would not deny is the key role the United States' positioning with Taiwan plays in any good relations the United States hopes to have with China, a nuclear nation with expanding political reach and an economy, growing almost as fast as its nationalisms.

"Taiwan is the single most sensitive issue in our relationships with China," Lord said at the symposium Monday.

Interestingly enough, Lord also said "China will compromise if we're firm enough." This is an ironic statement coming from the former key man in relations with China — especially just after the U.S. government said in and denied Chau a visa.

U.S. policy dictates that the Taiwanese and China should work things out themselves — the United States should not give Taiwan a "blank check" that the United States military does not want to cash.

So what we have is a U.S. government that is willing to send a naval armada — complete with the U.S.S. Nimitz and the U.S.S. Independence carrier group — when China was firing missiles just in the midst of Taiwan's 1996 presidential election, but also claims it does not support Taiwan independence. If asked to explain this, the government would respond that they also don't object to Taiwan independence.

Chairman of the Board and Managing Director of the American Institute of Taiwan Richard Bush would call this "strategic clarity and tactical ambiguity."

In other words, a plan without the details of how to carry it out. Or, as U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar called it, "a U.S. policy that sides with Taiwan, but avoids a war."

"Don't tell that to China, although they might stop being our friends altogether. President Clinton would have to do something else to betray our fundamental beliefs."
Michael Kuan, professor of political science at Brown University, said that nationalism is on the increase. "Due to increased education in Taiwan, people are able to express themselves better," he said, "while in China, people at the lower levels still do not know what they want regarding this issue." 

Stephen Chen, Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, said the Chinese believe that Taiwanese are Chinese, and therefore Taiwan should be a part of the People's Republic of China. Issues including the United States' role in securing the Taiwan Strait were also discussed.

China fired five missiles in the Taiwan Strait during Taiwan's presidential election in 1996, prompting the United States to send two battle groups in the vicinity of the Taiwan Strait. The act binds the United States to defend Taiwan from an unprovoked external attack.

China saw this movement as the United States meddling in their affairs.

Enrique Gellato, a University of Illinois at Chicago professor in Office and Records, said the U.S. needs to be very cautious in its security policy. "We ran the course of creative ambiguity, and now the U.S. should defend Taiwan if China aggressively attacks.

"I have security in everyone's interest, and the U.S. holds the key to the peace in Taiwan Strait. Henry Su, a Taiwanese businessman based in Carbondale, said that this is a threat. "It is said that we are talking about military action during a free election," he said. "There is always a threat from China — even with the democratic system in Taiwan." But Rajan Simon said the key to the emotional issue of China-Taiwan relations is to diffuse emotions so that national decisions can be made.

Located only about 135 miles away from Tokyo, with a population of 1.2 billion people, China has the world's largest army with some 6 million troops. But some analysts think China lacks the naval capability to invade Taiwan, which is supported with defensive weapons sold to them by the U.S. military.

Still, Admiral Eugene Carroll Jr., deputy director of the Center for Defense Information, said a Chinese invasion of Taiwan would have to be defeated. "Before it's ever on shore, or you're not going to defeat it," he said.

Cox said both countries remain committed under freedom and democracy, and this issue would be 'academic' if Communism were not present.

I hate to see Chinese fighting against fellow Chinese," he said. "Participants agreed the United States' role would be one that ideally lets Taiwan and China work things out for themselves.

"I'm very wary of getting involved," Winston Lord, former U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, said. "I don't think we need a new bridge," Lord said. "Our policy is not broken, it should not be fixed."
Gingrich exits stage right

ELLEN GEMERMAN
Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON - At a moment when Newt Gingrich, ordinarily might be making a killing as a president Clinton's lawyers, delivering zingers about the former's performance at congressional impeachment hearings Tuesday, the retiring House Speaker was clearly engaged.

His work, Lighting the Capital Christmas tree, was not a platform for Gingrich's broadside political sense might have forced the GOP to take a harder line, but so far, the President's impec tuation vote might be playing nationally.

Gingrich explained that the lighting ceremony, he smiled for cameras under spindly rain before ducking back behind closed doors.

Since announcing his intention to resign, the speaker is visible only at such staged moments.

In the swirl of politics, he has become the Invisible News. Some, say the Georgia Republican has the right idea.

He is filling out a term, a former Speaker-elect Bob Livingston, a Republican, officially takes over Jan. 6. His allies praise what they call Gingrich's performance in his effort to realign the party from inside.

Speakers Bureau reports that for $50,000 per engagement, Gingrich is in demand.

But it is Gingrich's absence that has brought a sense of change to Capitol Hill at a critical moment.

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British to legalize tissue cloning

MARGARET MILLER
Los Angeles Times

LONDON - Britain should legalize the cloning of tissue from human embryos in the hope of treating intractable diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and cancer, a government advisory com mittee said in a report published Tuesday.

The panel of experts supported British existing ban on cloning babies but pointed to the lifesaving potential of human tissue cloning, even if it is performed for therapeutic uses.

Although such applications are still some years away, we believe that it would not be right at this stage to rule out limited research using such techniques, which could be of great benefit to seriously ill people, said Colin Campbell, chairman of the independent Human Genetics Advisory Commission.

The British recommendation is expected to influence similar debates in the United States, U.S. officials said.

Tuesday's announcement drew praise from other scientists, but protests from anti-abortion groups - and pause from critics, who believe that things are moving too quickly in the fast-developing science.

Like the majority of people in Britain, I am totally against the deliberate creation of cloned human embryos that are made to be com

Warrick Reynolds
Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW - Authorities found the severed heads of four foreign hostages in a sack draped outside a village in the war-ravaged republic of Chechnya on Tuesday - an especially gruesome end to one of the last major attacks by the Islamic State of Chechnya.

The four men, three Britons and a German, had been hired to install a cellular telephone network in Chechnya when they were abducted Dec. 3 after a shootout between the team's bodyguards and unidentified gunmen.

Their death is an appalling and barbaric act, said Ray Verh, director of Human Rights Watch, British company that employs the engineers to the successorlist region despite warnings that it was too dangerous.

We were especially shocked by this horrific news, as we were making every effort to secure the safe return of the hostages," he said. "We had opened a dialogue with the kidnappers and received confirmation that the hostages were all alive as recently as last week.

Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov told local reporters that his security forces had launched a rescue operation after receiving an anonymous tip that apparently triggered the killings. He said he was outraged and blamed the killings on "foreign secret services," presumably from Russia, who want to disrupt his republic.

The victims were British citizen Thomas Hitchings, British security contractor Benjo Petch, Peter Kennedy, and New Zealander Stanly Shiot.

Their heads, found near the village of Warrick Reynolds, were identified by one of their former bodyguards. The rest of their bodies were still missing.

The killings drew vehement denunciations from the Russian Foreign Ministry, New Zealand and Britain's government. "We will now have to find out the truth," said British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. "We need to know who was behind this and what is being done to bring to justice those who committed such repugnant murders."

Chechnya fought a two-year war to secede from Russia, a conflict that ended in 1996 with a treaty that left its political status uncertain. The Russian government insists that the republic is now an independent state, but no country has recognized it as such.

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Earth is warmest in past twelve centuries

JOSEPH WARDEN
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The warming of the Earth's this century is without precedent in at least 1,200 years, a new study has fully explained, by any known combination of natural causes, one of the federal government's top climate scientists said this week.

Now, a research that documents climate change as far back as the Holy Roman Empire is strengthening the argument that humans are partly responsible for the rising temperatures, said Jonathan Overpeck, head of the paleoclimatology program for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"There is no period in which we can recognize in the last 1,200 years that we are living on a global bank," said Overpeck, who presented his findings at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco. "That makes what we're now seeing more unusual, and more difficult to explain without timing to a 'general grasp' in which we're seeing climate change as fast as it's ever happened in human history."

Overpeck made the assertion at the eastern half of the United States, he asked in an extended December 19th wave. The realizations threaten to disrupt decades of US climate goals.

Although the warm spell is not, of itself, evidence of global warming, a series of publications in the past two years has intensified the debate over humankind's contribution to climate change.

New scientific findings presented in San Francisco appeared to simultaneously add clarity and confusion to the debate. While some researchers reported strong links of human-induced warming in the past century, others scientists acknowledge enormous uncertainties that complicate the task of forecasting climate change in the future.

One of the speakers, James E. Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, argued that scientists know too little about the impact of human-induced warming to predict changes in climate with confidence. Hansen

"The forcings that drive long-term climate change are not known with an accuracy sufficient to discern future climate change," Hansen said.

Overpeck, in his speech, said this century's regular temperatures are appearing more as natural as scientific influences improve their understanding of climate change. The only period in the past century produced the hottest years on record, he said, but the magnitude of change appears to be without parallel since at least 800 A.D.

Until very recently, many scientists favored the notion that man-made climate warming in the Middle Ages was in part due to a combination of natural causes and human activities. By the 14th century, they argued, warming had returned to normal levels.

The Medieval Warm Period, a phenomenon called 'temperate temperatures throughout the sea', was estimated by the Vikings to be colder than that of the 1980s, according to the University of National Academy of Sciences.

"The forcings that drive long-term climate change are not known with an accuracy sufficient to discern future climate change," Hansen said.

"The Medieval Warm Period holds the key to understanding the future of climate change," Overpeck said.

"We're not sure what the future holds, but we know that it won't be the same as before," Overpeck said. "It's not just a matter of knowing the climate will change, but knowing how it will change and how fast it will change."

Overpeck said that the Medieval Warm Period data can explain the rapid 20th-century warmth, "but over the past century, warming has been much less pronounced."

"It's not just a matter of knowing the climate will change, but knowing how it will change and how fast it will change," Overpeck said.

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Some college teams burned by bowl contention for a berth in the Fiesta Bowl, then being named by the Sugar, Orange, and Holiday bowls, Kansas State is bound for the Alamo Bowl and Wafeld is contemplating the possibility of supporting a Division I-A playoff.

"Now I would start thinking more of a championship format of an eight-team playoff than I would, say, one week ago," Wafeld said Monday. "There might be more incentives today. Based on the numbers of bowl bids I've had (for the media), I think people feel that we're going to have. When something like that happens for the first time in the air, so we'll have to see what happens. I'm going to keep telling people over and over, you don't want to be caught off guard when you want to consider a playoff, change isn't likely to occur anytime soon."

"I think that the (present) bowl championship system is about as close as we'll likely get in the near future," to a playoff, said Penn State assistant coach C Spitzer, who chairs the Division I board of directors -- a group of 15 college athletic administrators that gave the NCAA final approval over all changes in NCAA rules that apply to Division I schools. "The NCAA is fully pov- ered by university presidents who have a broader view of institutional priorities that go beyond football rankings. . . . The question is, is the six-team format that we currently have to change the current system? I don't see much of a clamor among college coaches to change the current system."

Penn State University, as an institution, is not opposed to considering the idea, and I am not opposed personally. But most of my colleagues are much more opposed to it than I am."
Trying to look over the horizon

PRO BASKETBALL
NBA kills All-Star Game

The 1999 NBA All-Star Game is the latest casualty of the 160-day-old lockout. The Feb. 14 contest, scheduled to be played at the First Union Center in Philadelphia, was canceled Tuesday.

Last of the major events in the five-month-old dispute between owners and players has prevented the season from starting. November and December games have already been canceled, and it appears unlikely that action will begin any time in the near future.

The NBA is negotiating with Philadelphia to find ways of softening the impact that could cost the city as much as $35 million. City hotels, which set aside 5,300 rooms for the NBA, were expected to earn in more than $5 million.

With the 2000 All-Star Game already slated for Golden State and the 2001 classic set for Washington, the 76ers won't be able to host the mid-season contest until 2002.

On Monday, 16 locked out players scheduled a charity game to be played in Atlantic City, N.J. on December 19.

MLB
DiMaggio's condition improves dramatically

New York Yankees legend Joe DiMaggio, who reportedly had fallen into a coma and was read his last rites overnight, recovered dramatically in the days between Monday and Tuesday afternoon.

The 84-year-old recently underwent surgery to have a cancerous tumor removed from his right lung. His doctor, Dr. Earl Harr, the former star out¬ fielder said last week that he was recovering from surgery to have a cancerous tumor removed from his right lung.