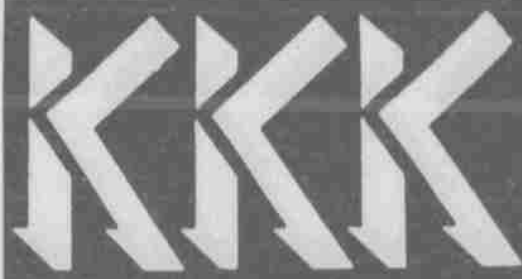


News Digest

By The Associated Press



Citizens of Klan birthplace unenthusiastic about march

PULASKI, Tenn. — Many whites in this southern Tennessee town of 7,500 are proud their forefathers organized the Ku Klux Klan 120 years ago to stop blacks and Northerners from seizing political power after the Civil War.

But those were different times and a different Klan, and residents say they are unenthusiastic about plans by the Klan to parade this weekend in protest of the first national observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

"I think the general reaction is that (residents) would prefer it not to happen," said Stacey Aymett Garner, 61, who's served as mayor for 21 years. "But I don't think anybody is real, real excited about the thing."

Mitchell Birdsong Jr., who two years ago became the first black alderman in the city that is about 20 percent black, said the main worry is

about the town's image.

"Everybody's concerned and they'd rather for them not to come," said Birdsong, 46. "If they (townspeople) had a choice in the matter, they (Klansmen) wouldn't be here. But this is something, unfortunately, we don't have a choice about."

The six-block march by the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is set for Saturday, two days before the national holiday in honor of King, the black civil rights leader who was assassinated on April 4, 1968, while visiting Memphis to assist striking sanitation workers.

A man officials identified as Grand Wizard Stanley McCullom applied for the parade permit on Dec. 17. City Attorney Jack Henry said the Klan had a right to march as long as members wore no hoods and did not litter or obstruct traffic.

City Recorder Bob Abernathy said

McCullom lives in Tusculum, Ala., although initial news reports listed his home as Tuscaloosa. McCullom is not listed in telephone directories for either town and could not be reached for comment.

The Klan is scheduled to assemble just off the town square in front of a modest brick building where the first KKK meeting took place.

A bronze plaque outside the building's barber shop and law offices tells visitors: "Ku Klux Klan, whose name stems from the Greek word for circle, was formed by community leaders concerned about lawlessness and the rise to power of northern whites and former slaves in the Reconstruction South.

It developed into a vigilante group that used disguises, such as colorful hoods and robes, and midnight rides to play on the fears and superstitions of those former slaves.

Rebel troops in South Yemen advance on presidential palace

MANAMA, Bahrain — Rebel troops and militiamen in Marxist South Yemen advanced on the presidential palace behind tanks Tuesday in the capital city of Aden, Persian Gulf sources reported. They said earlier that President Ali Nasser Mohammed was badly wounded.

Gulf-based shipping executives said Mohammed was hospitalized following a would-be assassination Monday during a coup attempt by leaders of a radical faction closely tied to the Soviet Union.

Reports reaching London from Aden told of unidentified planes bombing Aden airport Tuesday and of artillery and small arms fire in central Aden and in the city's port.

South Yemen, a key Soviet ally in the Mideast, lies near the mouth of the Red Sea on the southern end of the Arabian peninsula. The Soviet Union has important naval bases in Aden and on Socotra Island in the Indian Ocean.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman noted Tuesday that the United States has no

diplomatic representation in South Yemen and said there were "few, if any, Americans" there.

"Fierce fighting has been raging in and around the port district," said one executive. "Army and militia rebels have been advancing behind tanks and armored personnel carriers toward the presidential palace and radio station."

They said troops loyal to Mohammed controlled the airport district, where sporadic fighting was reported Monday night and early Tuesday.

At least four merchant ships were reported ablaze in Aden harbor, while opposing forces traded shellfire in four suburbs, the sources said.

Official Aden Radio said Monday that four coup plotters were executed after a summary trial.

It identified them as former President Abdul Fattah Ismail; Ali Ahmed Nasser Antar, a close associate of Mohammed and No. 2 man in the presidium; Ali Salem al-Biadh, the minister of local administration, and Ali Shayie, a ranking member of the ruling Yemen Socialist Party.

Diplomatic sources in London, insisting on anonymity, expressed doubts about the reported executions, and reported speculation that Defense Minister Saleh Musleh led the coup attempt. They had little information about Musleh.

A gulf shipping executive, who spoke on condition he not be identified, told the AP, "We have information received by wireless from the port of Aden about President Mohammed being hospitalized for serious injuries he suffered in the assassination attempt."

"We don't know if the Soviets have been involved in the fighting," said one Japanese trade company executive, who said he had received radio messages from a ship in Aden. "But what is certain is that the Soviets are there on the streets, blocking a few roads."

The Soviet Union maintains a sizable military presence in South Yemen, which has a population of 2.2 million and is one of the world's poorest nations.

In Brief

Libyan jets intercept U.S. plane

WASHINGTON — A lone U.S. Navy surveillance plane flying off the coast of Libya was intercepted Monday by two Libyan jet fighters, but the fighters made no threatening moves and eventually returned to Libya, administration sources said Tuesday.

The sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said two Soviet-made MiG-25 fighters unexpectedly closed on a Navy EA-3 from the aircraft carrier Coral Sea as the surveillance plane flew over the Gulf of Sidra, to the northeast of the Libyan capital of Tripoli.

Libya claims the entire gulf as territorial waters, a contention dismissed by the United States.

Nebraska Congressmen get low vote

WASHINGTON — Nebraska's two Democratic senators and three Republican House members scored low in tabulations of Americans for Democratic Action for their liberal votes in 1985.

Five senators and 20 House members received perfect scores from the ADA, the group announced Tuesday.

The ADA, a public interest lobbying group for liberal positions, rated members of Congress on 20 votes covering issues such as arms control, national economic policy, domestic social policy and human rights abroad.

Sens. J. James Exon and Edward Zorinsky received ratings of 25 percent each for their voting on the issues. Rep. Doug Bereuter scored a 15 and Hal Daub 5 percent.

Aboud introduces 'Son of Sam' bill

LINCOLN — Nebraska would join 24 other states in enacting "Son of Sam" legislation if senators approve a bill introduced Tuesday by Sen. Chris Aboud of Ralston.

Felons who sell their stories as movies, television shows or books would not profit from those sales under LB979. Instead, the convicts' victims would get the money.

In other action, farm trucks carrying crops from the field to storage or to market could exceed maximum weight limits up to 15 percent under an amended bill that won 26-8 first-round approval also Tuesday.

Also, the Legislature gave first-round approval to what could become Nebraska's first comprehensive program for regulating underground fuel storage facilities in an effort to prevent and detect groundwater contamination.

The measure is designed to allow the State Fire Marshal to identify, inspect and regulate underground fuel tanks and containers.

Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton, chairman of the Agriculture Committee, said LB217 was one of the most important water quality measures to come before the 1986 Legislature.

Spare muscle aids heart mending

SARASOTA, Fla. — Spare muscle from elsewhere in the body may soon be used to build new blood pumps for victims of severe congestive heart failure, sparing them from heart transplants or artificial hearts, a researcher said Tuesday.

The experimental technique would call for doctors to remove the muscle, treat it with electric shocks to strengthen it, then form it into a cone and attach it to a major artery anywhere in the body. They would then attach a pacemaker to make the muscle contract like a healthy heart.

Dr. Larry Stephenson, a surgeon from the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, said he believes the strategy could be tried in humans within two years.

Shuttle will return home early

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA said Tuesday it will bring Columbia and its crew home from space one day early to ease a crunch on a schedule of 15 shuttle launches this year.

Columbia, which lifted off Sunday 25 days late, will return Thursday morning after a four-day flight. Flight Director Jay Greene said that in coming home early, "we're not going to miss any objectives...some of the experiment degradation showed that maybe we don't need to go the full duration."

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Secret nuclear tests conducted, study says

WASHINGTON — The United States conducted at least 12 and possibly as many as 19 unannounced underground nuclear weapons tests between 1980 and 1984, an environmental group asserted Tuesday.

Citing research based on public sources of information, the Natural Resources Defense Council said the tests showed the Reagan administration had stepped up the pace of nuclear weapons research, despite government figures indicating a stable

rate of testing from the Carter administration.

Eight of the unannounced tests could be confirmed based on information obtained from the U.S. Geological Survey or the Hagfors Observatory in Sweden, which detected them in 1983 and 1984, the report said.

"At least four — and possibly as many as 11 — (other) tests apparently escaped detection," suggesting experiments with very small nuclear devices, the report added.

"This is indicative of an accelerated pattern that goes directly contrary to many of the things that Mr. Reagan and (Defense Secretary Caspar) Weinberger publicly state," said Robert S. Norris, a political scientist and one of four researchers who collaborated on the study.

"They speak of their desire to get rid of nuclear weapons, but they're building more of them and they are spending more on nuclear testing. And they are operating under a policy of keeping

some tests secret on a theory, I believe, that announcing all tests would draw attention to the weapons buildup that they would like to avoid."

While no concrete evidence was available, Norris suggested the smallest tests could be related to President Reagan's "Star Wars" research effort. Published scientific papers also suggest that scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California worked on "low-yield fission warheads" for use on anti-satellite weapons, he said.

The Pentagon declined immediate comment on the report, citing a standard policy not to discuss any details of nuclear testing.

Norris, in an interview, said the Reagan administration was not the first to keep nuclear tests secret. But he said the available evidence indicated only three unannounced tests had been conducted during the Carter administration.

During the Carter years of 1977 through 1980, 58 nuclear tests were publicly announced, he said. During the first four years of the Reagan administration, 65 such tests were publicly announced.

Newsmakers

Vinicio Cerezo, 43, the first civilian elected to govern Guatemala in 16 years said Tuesday his priorities upon taking office would be to improve the ailing economy and control human rights abuses.

The parents of a Los Angeles teen-ager who shot himself to death 14 months ago have filed suit against rock singer Ozzy Osbourne, contending their son was influenced by Osbourne song lyrics about suicide. John Daniel McCollum, 19, allegedly was listening to an Osbourne album titled "Speak to the Devil" when he shot himself with his father's .22-caliber pistol. Two of the album's songs refer to suicide.

Twenty-nine Nebraska senators have written an

A roundup of the day's happenings

open letter to "emphatically state" that they don't share the ideas of Sen. Ernest Chambers of Omaha in his recent praise of Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy as "a great man."

Sean McBride, 2, doesn't have a very big vocabulary, but he can say "hot," and that may have been enough to save his family, firefighters say. That one word of warning from Sean got him, his grandmother, sister and mother out of their burning Clearlake, Calif. home.

The brightest artificial star ever made in a lab has been produced by Lawrence Livermore (Calif.) National Laboratory physicists who used a battery of lasers in a building big enough for a football game.