

News Digest

By The Associated Press

In Brief

Five senators to travel to Honduras

LINCOLN — Five members of the Legislature will visit Honduras while Nebraska air guardsmen are training there in April, Adjutant Gen. James Carmona said Thursday.

The senators making the trip will be among 17 people on the tour, which will include several reporters and "a few other civilians," Carmona said.

The senators will leave Nebraska on a C-130 plane April 20 and will spend one night in Panama before traveling to Honduras, where some 60 air guardsmen will be undergoing annual two-week training.

The senators are Speaker of the Legislature Bill Barrett of Lexington, Lee Rupp of Monroe, Dennis Baack of Dix, Lorraine Langford of Kearney and Jacklyn Smith of Hastings.

Gov. Kay Orr approved the Honduran training. Former Gov. Bob Kerrey had objected.

Court dismisses North case

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Thursday dismissed a suit by Lt. Col. Oliver North that sought to stop an independent counsel's investigation of his central role in the Iran-Contra affair.

U.S. District Judge Barrington D. Parker said North's contention that the office of independent counsel is unconstitutional was premature.

"The plaintiff has not suffered an injury of sufficient keenness to warrant the court's intercession," Parker said. "For that reason, the court finds that plaintiff's challenge to the constitutionality of the independent counsel machinery is not ripe for adjudication and that his complaints should be dismissed."

Soviets stage second nuclear test

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union detonated an underground nuclear explosion Thursday, the second test in the two weeks since the Kremlin ended a 19-month halt in nuclear weapons testing.

At the same time, a Kremlin spokesman rejected as "speculations and outright lies" American charges of Soviet cheating on arms accords.

But the spokesman, Boris D. Pyadysh, expressed optimism that the superpowers could soon agree to rid Europe of their medium-range missiles. He said Soviet envoys to the Geneva

arms talks had been told "to work for agreement in the shortest time possible."

The underground nuclear explosion in Soviet Kazakhstan was the second since Feb. 26 when the Kremlin ended the test moratorium that had been a centerpiece of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's foreign policy.

Soviet officials urged the United States to halt testing and have asserted that the American refusal to make the test freeze mutual forced the Kremlin to resume testing.

The unilateral Soviet moratorium

was announced Aug. 6, 1945, the 40th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan.

The Tass news agency said that at 5 a.m. Moscow time at the Semipalatinsk test range, a nuclear device was detonated with a yield of "up to 20 kilotons," the force of the U.S. atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Tass said the blast at the site 1,700 miles southeast of Moscow had been conducted "with a view to upgrading military technology," but the news agency provided no further details.

Scientists discover largest known galaxy

WASHINGTON — Astronomers say they have discovered the largest known galaxy, a giant spiral of stars 13 times as big as the Milky Way.

The galaxy, located 300 million light-years from Earth in the direction of the constellation Anoromeda, is an oddly shaped mass of stars and gases which puts out tremendous amounts of energy, says a report to be published Friday in the journal Science.

Researchers say the galaxy, called Markarian 348, is 1.3 million light-years in diameter. The Milky Way, in which the earth's solar system is located, is about 100,000 light-years in diameter.

A light-year is the distance light travels in a vacuum at 186,000 miles per second in a year's time, about 5.9 trillion miles.

Dr. Susan M. Simkin, professor of astronomy at Michigan

State University, made the discovery with Dr. Hong-Jun Su of Nanjing, China, formerly a visiting scientist at Michigan state, and Drs. Jacqueline van Gorkom and John Hibbard of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Socorro, N.M.

The galaxy appears to have at least one, and possible two, long spiraling arms which are tightly wound near the center and branch out at irregular angles.

Markarian 348 is the largest isolated galaxy seen outside of collections of galaxies known as galactic clusters, and one of the largest objects in the known universe, according to a statement by the National Science Foundation, which sponsored the work.

The giant mass of stars has been known to optical astronomers for more than 20 years, but was thought to be about the size of the Milky Way, an average-sized galaxy, said the foundation.

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Correction

The story "NU hires OSU admissions director," Daily Nebraskan, March 12, incorrectly stated that Alan Cerveny has been acting director of admissions since November 1985. Tony Schkade, not Cerveny, has been the acting director.

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