

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Workers would be warned under House bill

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday moved toward setting up a new program requiring the government to individually notify between 100,000 and 300,000 workers annually that they face a high risk of cancer and other diseases from job exposure to hazardous substances.

Final action on the bill was postponed until today after Democrats beat back an effort by Republicans to replace it with a weaker substitute.

The substitute bill would have required a two-year study first while giving the Occupational Safety and Health Administration more money to enforce new hazard-labeling requirements placed on employers in the past 15 months.

Despite the threat of a presidential veto, labor unions and health groups said legislation is necessary to address the nearly 100,000 deaths and

some 350,000 disabling illnesses blamed on occupational hazards each year.

While the notices themselves cannot be used as evidence in civil suits, opponents led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers claim the process will trigger billions of dollars in liability suits against employers by their workers and former workers.

The substitute measure offered by Reps. James Jeffords, R-Vt., and Paul Henry, R-Mich., was defeated 234-191, with Democrats voting 217-33 against and Republicans voting 158-17 in favor of it.

Having lost the key test vote, Republicans began offering amendments in an effort to weaken some of the provisions of the bill by Democratic Rep. Joseph Gaydos of Penn-

sylvania, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee's health and safety subcommittee.

Gaydos' bill would create a new board in the Department of Health and Human Services to determine what workers are most at risk. Once identified, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health would then be required to notify them of the risks.

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## Democracy needed for peace, presidents agree

WASHINGTON — President Reagan welcomed Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte to the White House on Wednesday, and they agreed there can be no lasting peace in Central America without democratic rule throughout the region.

Duarte was offered an enthusiastic official reception as he began a state visit. He showed his appreciation for U.S. support by kissing an American flag displayed on the White House south lawn.

After a ceremony that featured full military honors, Reagan said peace prospects for Central America have

been enhanced because of the agreement Duarte and four other area presidents signed two months ago.

"If peace is to prevail, so must democracy," the president said, adding that a successful outcome of the Aug. 7 accord remains "far from certain."

Duarte, in a similar vein, said Central Americans "still have a long way to go" in implementing the peace plan.

"I am convinced that there cannot be peace in Central America without freedom and democracy," he said.

Some administration officials have been privately critical of Duarte for signing the peace agreement, contending that it does not address key questions, such as Soviet-Cuban military ties with Nicaragua's leftist government.

But there was no hint of any discrepancies between the two countries in a day-long series of activities that, in addition to the welcoming ceremony, also included an elaborate luncheon for Duarte hosted by Secretary of State George Shultz and a White House dinner Wednesday night.

## Clarification

A cutline with a picture on the front page of Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan incorrectly identified the instrument that musician Erving Curtis played. Curtis played a vibraphone, which has metal bars that sustain notes, not a xylophone, which has wooden bars that give sharp, piercing notes.

## In Brief

### Taxpayers expect an explanation from IRS

WASHINGTON — More than 90 million taxpayers are about to get unexpected greetings from the Internal Revenue Service — a reminder that the new tax law is like nothing they've ever seen.

The IRS announced it is spending \$7.6 million to mail the brief, six-sided brochures in hopes of reducing the level of confusion when taxpayers begin filling out their returns early next year. Those returns will be the first reflecting the new tax law for most people.

### Soviets will not retaliate for press restrictions

MOSCOW — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that new restrictions on Soviet journalists in the United States will make their jobs more difficult and expensive, but that the Soviet Union will not retaliate.

The State Department said last week that regulations placed on about 30 Soviet journalists in Washington and New York are intended to mirror restrictions faced by Americans working in Moscow.

From now on, Soviet journalists will have to live in apartments selected by the U.S. government. The State Department also makes their airline and hotel reservations and bills the Soviet Embassy.

### Trade deficit dips to \$15.7 billion in August

WASHINGTON — The nation's persistent trade deficit showed its first decline in five months as it narrowed slightly to \$15.7 billion in August, but an unexpected dip in U.S. overseas sales clouded the improvements, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

Despite the one-month improvement, acting Commerce Secretary Bruce Smart said the deficit "continues on an unacceptably high plateau," with the United States still buying nearly twice as much as it sells.

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## Belly to the Bar, Bears

ESSEX, Mont. — Black bears and grizzlies are bellying up to a natural bar and getting falling-down drunk.

Bears are gathering along Burlington Northern railroad tracks east of this northwestern Montana community where a train carrying hundreds of tons of corn derailed in 1985. Some of the corn was left at the site.

"It's actually fermented to the point now it's putting out quite an aroma and drawing bears in," said Loren Hicks, a wildlife biologist for Plum Creek Timber Co., a BN subsidiary. "The bears are actually intoxicated up there."

"We looked at one bear that was blotto," Hicks said. "I'd never quite seen one fall off a corn pile and into a ditch like he did."

As many as nine bears at a time have been seen at the site and crowds have gathered along a nearby highway to watch, he said.

"It's creating something of a circus up there, a roadside circus," Hicks said.

Wildlife officials would like to stop the bears from gathering, to keep them out of the path of trains and away from poachers, but it's not easy.

"Once bears have realized the rewards of going to a place like that, it's hard to break them



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

of the habit," Hicks said. "There was no way we could ring enough bells, ring enough buzzers or fire enough rubber bullets to keep those bears away from that site."

The answer may come from a method applied to one of man's smellier creations — the outdoor privy. BN crews have mixed quick lime, used to break down organic compounds and reduce their odors in outhouses, with the corn-laden soil.

## Reagan decries Bork debate as 'ugly spectacle' of politics

WASHINGTON — President Reagan on Wednesday decried the battle over Robert H. Bork's Supreme Court nomination as an "ugly spectacle" of high-pressure politics and promised to keep fighting in the face of all but certain defeat for Bork.

"I am determined to fight right down to the last ballot on the Senate floor," Reagan said in a brief Oval Office address.

The speech was made available to the television networks, but only the Cable News Network carried it live, followed by a response in which Democratic Sen. Terry Sanford of North Carolina lashed back.

Senators opposing Bork "are tired of having our integrity impugned," Sanford said, adding that "it is time for that corrosive dialogue to stop."

In the Senate, meanwhile, Democratic and Republican leaders continued arguing over the timing for a vote, with Democrats insisting on quick action and the GOP demanding enough time to make a case for the conservative appeals court judge.

Fifty-four senators are on record against Bork, all but ensuring he will lose when the vote is taken in the 100-member body.

Reagan, however, said that although the public may have heard that the battle over Bork is over, he also had another cause in mind.

"I'm doing this because what's now at stake in this battle must never in our land of freedom become a lost cause, and whether lost or not, we Americans must never give up this particular battle: the independence of our judiciary," he said.