



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

## Seagulls are washing ashore by the hundreds at Lake Ioannina

IOANNINA, Greece -- More than half the seagulls of Ioannina Lake in northwestern Greece have died and are washing ashore by the hundreds, the Greek Ornithological Society said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the society said pesticides used by farmers probably are to blame.

About 500 dead seagulls had been found and 500 more were expected to wash up, said the spokesman, Martin Gaethlich. The

seagull population of the lake is estimated at between 1,500 and 2,000.

The Ioannina Veterinary Laboratory said the dead birds showed no sign of disease, and poisoning was being investigated.

Gaethlich said other species of birds feeding from the lake, including crows, remained healthy.

Ioannina Lake, about seven miles long and two miles wide, is

one of the most beautiful natural sites in Greece.

"Pesticides are the only remaining possibility. Farmers use them along with herbicides right after plowing and seagulls follow the tractors to feed from the ground," Gaethlich said.

Farmers started plowing early because of warm weather but a lack of rainfall "didn't help the toxic substances dissolve," he said.

## Ditch to stem drug flow

WASHINGTON -- A 4-mile-long ditch that a Justice Department official compared Wednesday to a "buried Berlin Wall" is planned for a stretch of the U.S.-Mexican border to stem drug smuggling into Southern California.

But the plan is being criticized as "too little, too late" by a group that advocates building fences along the border and blasted as repressive by immigrant rights organizations.

Associate Attorney General Francis A. Keating II said he proposed the idea last fall as a way to discourage drug smugglers from driving loads of cocaine, marijuana and heroin across the border near San Diego.

The plan being undertaken by the Immigration and Naturalization Service was approved last month by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, Keating said.

The ditch, which Keating likened to "our buried Berlin Wall" will be deep and wide enough to discourage smugglers from driving trucks and cars across the border along a 4-mile stretch of flat desert east of San Ysidro, Calif.

The associate attorney general, who is leaving office with the start of

the Bush administration, said the desert stretch in the Otay Mesa area east of San Ysidro is a major drug smuggling route.

"This is not intended in any way to interfere with legitimate traffic or trade, it is not intended to stop illegal entry," he said in an interview.

The Border Patrol has tried to stop vehicle traffic across the desert by digging shallow trenches, but smugglers have been able to fill in the ditches to drive through, said Keating, who oversaw law enforcement agencies in the Justice Department, including the Border Patrol.

But the plan has its critics.

"The drainage ditch is too little too late if it is to be taken seriously as a method of deterring illegal entry," said Patrick Burns, assistant director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

"There is a serious problem at San Diego of which a very, very small component is high-speed drive-throughs" by drug smugglers, said Burns, whose organization is preparing to release a study proposing ways to "harden" the U.S.-Mexican border.

Burns said a barrier of earth reinforced with concrete would be a more

effective means of preventing drug trafficking across the desert.

Eugene Hernandez, an official of the Mexican-American Political Association in Los Angeles, called it "a very repressive and a very ill-founded idea."

"Once again, we appear to be obsessed with dealing with symptoms instead of trying to find solutions" to illegal immigration, said Arnoldo Torres, national political director for the Washington-based League of United Latin American Citizens.

Keating confirmed a report in Wednesday editions of the Los Angeles Times, which said the 5-foot deep and 14-foot wide ditch was planned for completion by next fall.

The isolated Otay Mesa area, a gateway into Southern California for illegal immigrants, is believed to be the most popular crossing spot along the entire 1,900-mile U.S.-Mexico border.

About one third of the 1.2 million illegal immigrants captured along the border last year were apprehended at Otay Mesa.

Up to 400 vehicles are believed to cross the border illegally into San Diego each month, officials said.

## Warheads reportedly removed from five missile sites after accident last year

WASHINGTON -- The Air Force removed the warheads from five of its 50 MX nuclear missiles late last year after a summertime accident in which one missile came loose and fell to the bottom of its underground silo, according to a published report.

The five missiles were part of the same production lot and Air Force investigators discovered a common problem that forced the safety action, the Washington Post said.

The service is still trying to decide how to repair the five missiles, each of which is designed to carry 10 warheads, the paper added, quoting unidentified sources.

The Air Force refused to confirm the account on Wednesday, acknowledging only that a single MX missile had been taken off alert last June following an accident.

That accident previously had been reported by newspapers in Wyoming, where F.E. Warren Air Force Base is located. The nation's MX, or Peacekeeper, missiles are all de-

ployed at F.E. Warren.

The Air Force also insisted Wednesday, without elaborating, that the nation's entire MX force of 50 missiles was on alert "at this time."

"We have 50 missiles that are deployed and operational at this time," said Lt. Col. Don Christianson, a spokesman at F.E. Warren.

Christianson refused to say whether any problem missiles had been replaced with new missiles in order to maintain the alert force.

The spokesman agreed, however, that one MX missile had been taken off alert, its warheads removed and its components broken down as part of a safety investigation after an incident last June.

"Last summer, we received indications of an electrical disconnection with a Peacekeeper (MX) missile inside its silo," Christianson said.

"An investigation was conducted, and a structural failure in a support skin was found to be the cause. There

was no safety threat. The reports of the investigation are classified, however, so I can't go further."

The Post said Wednesday the missile had fallen between six inches and a foot when it came "unglued" from its underground launch canister. The canister envelops the missile and is used to propel the four-stage MX from its silo before the main rocket motor is ignited.

The newspaper said the fall of the 195,000-pound missile was sufficient to cause "grave damage" and to require "extensive repairs." And when the Air Force further investigated the matter, it concluded the missile was one of a batch of five that had been subject to a particular production problem, the paper said.

Air Force officials responded by ordering removal of the 10-warhead packages atop each of the other four suspect missiles to relieve the weight and pressure on their canister bonds pending corrective action, the paper

## Death brings relief to victims' families

SEATTLE -- Ted Bundy's execution Tuesday ended an ordeal for some families of his victims, while others found it hard to comprehend that a moment they had sought for years had finally arrived.

"Good," sighed Vivian Rancourt, mother of Bundy victim Susan Rancourt, when reached at her La-Conner home and told of Bundy's early-morning execution at Starke, Fla.

"The only thing I can say is, thank God, it's finally over."

Eleanore Rose, whose daughter, Denise Naslund, was slain by Bundy, was taken aback.

"I feel kind of numb in a way. My daughter's murderer was taken care of. He paid for what he did," she said. "It seems like I was sentenced to a lifetime of waiting. Now there's really nothing to wait for."

In Grand Junction, Colo., the father of a woman believed to have been murdered by Bundy said he was relieved, although investigators said Bundy did not confess to the slaying.

"We're just happy he's been executed because it should have happened a long time ago," said Robert Nicholson, father of Denise Oliver-son.

"It's been a nightmare for 14 years and he's devastated too many families and manipulated the justice system into a three-ring circus," Nicholson said.

In his final hours, Bundy, 42, called his mother, Louise Bundy, twice at her Tacoma home.

"He kept saying how sorry he was, that 'there was another part of me that people didn't know,'" she said afterward, adding that he sounded "very much at peace with himself."

## Armed forces chief assassinated by six gunmen in Honduras, according to reported witness

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- A former armed forces chief who helped the Reagan administration organize the Nicaraguan Contra rebel forces in Honduras was ambushed and killed Wednesday, officials and witnesses said.

Salvador Lobo, director of emergencies at the State Hospital School, told reporters Gen. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez died of gunshot wounds near his home in the capital's Florencia district.

Witnesses said six gunmen waited for Alvarez Martinez outside his home and poured submachine-gun fire into his car. The driver was also killed and Alvarez Martinez's son-in-law was wounded, police said.

One witness, Alba Luz Guzman, told The Associated Press the men "intercepted me and forced me to get

out to flee afterwards in my automobile."

Radio America, a local station, said anonymous callers claimed responsibility on behalf of the Popular Liberation Forces, a leftist group.

Police found Guzman's car four miles away.

Alvarez Martinez, 56, was chief of the armed forces from 1982 to 1984 under the government of President Roberto Suazo Cordova.

He was once considered the most powerful figure in Honduras and worked closely with the Reagan administration to set up the operations of U.S.-supported Nicaraguan rebels in Honduran base camps.

A fanatic anti-communist, Alvarez Martinez frequently denounced the leftist Sandinista government of neighboring Nicaragua.

Beverly and Donald Burr, whose 8-year-old daughter, Ann Marie, disappeared from a Tacoma home near Bundy's nearly 30 years ago, had hoped Bundy could have shed light on their mystery. Bundy was 14 when the girl disappeared Aug. 30, 1961.

But Bundy denied killing the girl, said Robert Keppel, a Washington attorney general's investigator to whom Bundy confessed the 11 Washington killings.

Belva Kent, of Bountiful, Utah, said that although she had not been told if Bundy admitted responsibility for her daughter's disappearance in the mid-1970s, "I'm glad it's over, and that's about all."

The mother of Shelley Robertson, 24, of Denver, who disappeared June 30, 1975, said she remains opposed to the death penalty.

"Killing Ted Bundy won't make me feel better and it won't bring back Shelley," Roberta Robertson said. "A lot of people seem to want it out of a vengeance. But, it gives people a false sense of security and it's terribly expensive."

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