

Governing party loses at least 29 seats

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- The governing party suffered its worst election setback in 41 years of power Wednesday, losing at least 29 of its parliamentary seats to far-right and anti-apartheid rivals.

Riot squads with whips, tear gas and shotguns dispersed blacks protesting their exclusion from the balloting, and police said more than 50 people were arrested. Anti-apartheid leaders, who called a general strike, said 3

million people stayed away from jobs and classes.

With results in from 160 of 166 districts, it appeared the National Party would retain 93 or 94 of its previous 123 seats. The far-right Conservative Party improved from 22 to 38 seats and the liberal Democratic Party moved from 20 to 33 seats, the most ever for an anti-apartheid faction.

Independent commentators said it was the

first time since the National Party came to power in 1948 that it failed to get a majority of the popular vote.

The Conservatives, who want tougher enforcement of racial segregation laws, lost by only five votes in Vereeniging, former district of National Party leader F.W. de Klerk.

With his party narrowly retaining its outright majority in Parliament, de Klerk, who was not a parliamentary candidate, is expected

to be elected next week for a five-year term as president.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha and Defense Minister Magnus Malan were re-elected by margins sharply lower than in the white election of 1987. The Conservatives, who favor stricter racial segregation, won their first-ever seats in Pretoria, the capital, and in Cape Province and the Orange Free State.

Sources report explosion at missile complex in Iraq

NICOSIA, Cyprus -- Many sources report an explosion Aug. 17 at an Iraqi missile plant south of Baghdad and some put the death toll at more than 700, but Iraq's obsessively secret government has said nothing.

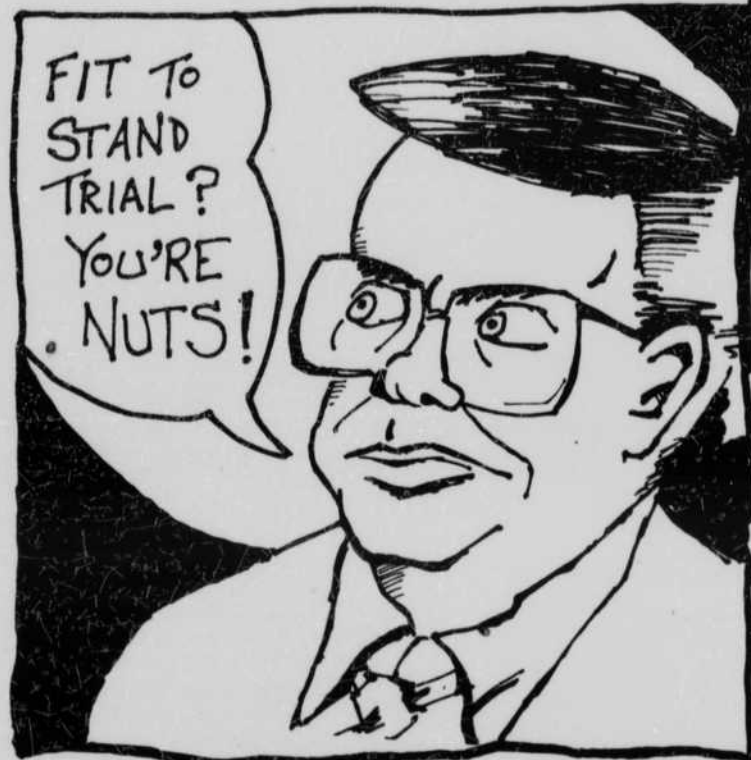
Western diplomats reached by telephone Wednesday in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, confirmed an explosion occurred at the huge missile complex but said they had no details.

No information was available on what caused the explosion, but there was no immediate indication of sabotage.

In London, the daily Independent quoted diplomats and Middle East sources Wednesday as saying 700 people were killed, including Egyptian engineers helping the Iraqis develop a new missile.

An official of the rebel Patriotic Union of Kurdistan reported by telephone that sources in Iraq said 700 bodies were removed from the plant and the casualty toll might reach 2,500 dead and wounded. The official, known to The Associated Press, asked that his name and location be concealed.

Judge rules Bakker competent



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- A federal judge ruled Jim Bakker competent to stand trial on fraud charges Wednesday after a government psychiatrist testified the PTL founder was not going crazy when he broke down last week.

Bakker's trial was recessed and he was sent to a federal prison in Butner for psychiatric evaluation last week after he was found in his lawyer's office hallucinating and hiding under a couch.

"For the first time in three years, the whole situation came home to him and he began to cry," Sally Johnson, chief of psychiatric services at the prison, told U.S. District Court Judge Robert Potter Wednesday.

Potter asked Bakker, who was brought to court in leg irons and handcuffs, to stand and answer questions.

Asked if he was able to assist his lawyers, Bakker said, "I'm very tired, but I believe I can."

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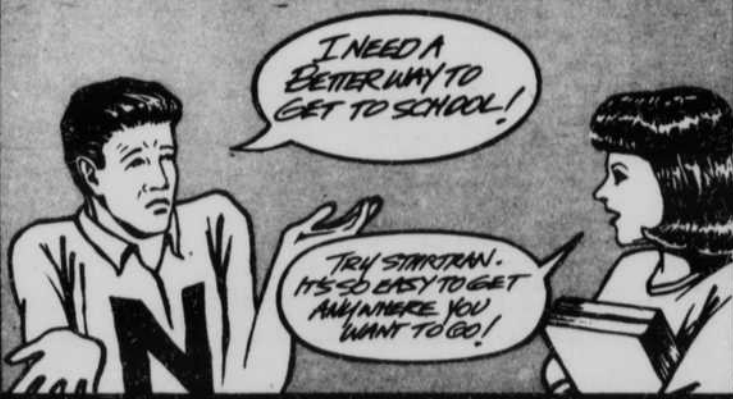
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