

# Venezuelan president survives coup attempt

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Loyal soldiers repulsed an attack by rebel troops and tanks on the presidential palace Tuesday, crushing an attempt to overthrow one of Latin America's most stable democracies.

A newspaper reported that 14 people were killed in the early morning attack in Caracas. Government forces arrested 300 rebel soldiers as the rebellion against President Carlos Andres Perez quickly collapsed.

By Tuesday afternoon, Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa said loyal troops had "completely suffocated" the rebels, who had earlier abducted

one state governor and staged attacks in the western cities of Maracay, Valencia and Maracaibo.

Ochoa told reporters at the government palace that four leaders of a rebel paratroop regiment were among those arrested, including Lt. Col. Hugo Chavez, who in a TV address urged fellow fighters to surrender "before more blood is shed."

Sporadic gunfire broke out Tuesday afternoon near the palace, apparently from soldiers looking for snipers, said an AP photographer at the scene.

The motives for the coup attempt were unclear, but it followed violent protests and labor unrest arising from a growing disparity between rich and poor in Venezuela.

The government of this oil-rich nation has admitted that just 57 percent of Venezuelans are able to afford more than one meal a day.

A border dispute with neighboring Colombia has created tension between Perez and the military. Soldiers have seen their wages shrink dramatically because of inflation.

Senator David Morales Bello said

in Congress that three of Perez' bodyguards were killed in the palace attack. Perez escaped hidden under a overcoat and managed to get to a private television station, according to news accounts.

Perez telephoned Ochoa and told him: "No negotiations. Give them bullets. I want to be back in (the palace) soon," according to an account in the respected El Nacional newspaper.

Six hours later, Perez declared from the palace that the putsch had been defeated.

The government banned public demonstrations, broadened police arrest powers and suspended some constitutional civil rights guarantees for at least 10 days.

The United States, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, the Organization of American States and the European Community condemned the coup attempt in Venezuela, the second longest-standing democracy in South America, following Colombia.

President Bush called the attempted overthrow an "outrageous, illegal military coup."

**Daily Nebraskan**  
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## Devaney

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Devaney, 76, said he saw no reason why the regents would want him to retire as director, unless it was because of his age.

"If the athletic department wasn't doing well, I would understand," he said. "But since it's doing well, I don't see why they need a younger person."

Under his direction, Devaney said, the athletic department has doubled the size of Memorial Stadium, built

the Bob Devaney Sports Center and made both the men's and women's athletic facilities among the best in the Big Eight.

"Since I've been athletic director here, all of the athletic facilities here have been improved," he said. "I just can't understand what they're dissatisfied with."

Devaney said he probably would accept the position of fund-raiser for the department, if the board insisted he do so.

"I'm not going to go back and beg them," he said. "They know what I want."

In July the regents announced they had agreed on the contract with Devaney. But two days later Devaney criticized the regents, saying they should have discussed the situation with him face to face instead of negotiating through John Goebel, UNL's interim chancellor at the time.

Regent Robert Allen said some comments were made to one of the regents about Devaney's desire to stay on, but said the board had heard no formal request from Devaney.

"I think the press is making too much out of it," Allen said. "It's a good contract for him, and he'll be

able to continue as spokesman for the athletic department."

Allen said the search for a new athletic director would begin in April.

"It's time to get somebody younger to come in and take a leadership role," he said. "We need somebody younger to do the day-to-day things that are required in running a major university's athletic department."

Allen said UNL was a public institution and the regents had to act in the best interest of the state and the university.

"We owe a lot to Bob," he said. "He's done a hell of a job, and I think he'll see it's the right thing to do."

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## ASUN may oppose proficiency bill

By Kara Morrison  
 Staff Reporter

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska will vote tonight on a bill that would direct the Government Liaison Committee to lobby against the Nebraska Legislature's English proficiency bill.

LB1044 would impose new English proficiency requirements on foreign faculty and staff.  
 Law College Sen. Gene Collins,

who co-sponsored the ASUN bill, said LB1044 had unclear provisions for English proficiency. The bill also would require all faculty with rankings of assistant professor or above to teach a minimum of six credit hours per week, he said.

LB1044 "is just a bad bill," Collins said.

"I appreciate the fact that the Legislature is trying to cut fat, but they can't do it with such broad, sweeping mandates."

ASUN President Andy Massey said it was important for the university to be able to control its own policies on

such issues. In other business, ASUN will address the overselling of student parking spaces, Massey said.

If passed, he said, a bill would place a question on the March ASUN elections ballot asking students if they support urging the administration to sell "guaranteed, 100 percent parking, not just a hunting permit."

ASUN also will decide whether to put a gender neutrality question on the ballot, Massey said. The ASUN constitution's wording could be changed to include "she" and "her" with all references of "he" and "him."

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## Health Center fee requests down

By Rainbow Rowell  
 Staff Reporter

The University Health Center presented its student fees request for 1992-1993 to the Committee for Fees Allocation Tuesday night. UHC Director Kunle Ojikutu presented the \$2,933,141 request, a slight decrease from its 1991-1992 allocation of \$2,933,299.

Ojikutu discussed new UHC services offered to students including a wound self-care clinic, an urgent care clinic and extended hours on Tuesday evenings. "We're constantly looking for ways to

improve the care we give to students," Ojikutu said.

The UHC total expenditures for 1991-92 were \$3,940,740 — \$123,251 less than its total income of \$4,063,991.

"This surplus is due to prudent management of precious resources," Ojikutu said.

He said \$23,251 of this surplus was incorporated into the UHC budget and the remaining \$100,000 was placed in an equipment fund that is used to replace and repair medical equipment.

To increase revenue, the UHC recently has expanded its pharmacy services to include all faculty and staff.

CFA will vote on the UHC budget request Thursday at 6 p.m.

## Dean

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ridge, Colo. But she said she had never found anything interesting enough to contain her wandering spirit.

Her return to teaching came after the completion of a major project.

Dean recently finished a children's book about life on Monhegan Island, a small island off the coast of Maine. The book, due out in August, is the first in a series of picture-stories on different cultures.

Dean came to UNL last fall to teach while the book was being completed.

But she said she may not get to see the finished project for awhile. This fall, she is off to India to work on another book — this one on traditional Indian culture.

Dean's schedule does not allow much time for personal relationships. While she is in no rush to get married, she said, she does see it as a possibility for the future.

"If I ever met someone with the same spirit as me I'd think about getting married," she said. "There are so many things I want to do that I haven't done yet. I want someone to share those things with who won't mind my work."

Until that kindred spirit comes along, Dean said she will make do with her current significant other — her dog Fred. She and Fred have been together for nine years and she said he was her best friend.

She said there was only one thing missing in her life — a place to call home. This is a luxury she said she couldn't afford yet.

"I look forward to having a home somewhere so that no matter where I am, I can go back to it," she said.

## Lied

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coln's budget reductions and working on choosing three new top administrators, had not had time to develop a plan to reduce the Lied's deficit. He said he hoped a plan could be formulated by this summer.

Robert Chumbley, director of the Lied Center, said he was taking several steps to make the center more profitable. In addition to a just-completed reorganization of the staff, the center is attempting to reduce its operating costs, schedule less expensive shows that will pro-

duce greater revenues and increase private contributions, he said.

The most important step the Lied Center can take is selling more tickets, Chumbley said.

"What we need to work on now is increasing our revenues to cover our shortfalls," he said.

Chumbley said that nationally, performing arts centers like the Lied sold their shows to about 70 to 75 percent of capacity, and he said the Lied was approaching that level.

"We're knocking on that door now," he said. "If we can just do a little better job of selling tickets, it's going to make a big difference."