

Aidid emerges from hiding

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Fresh from forcing a U.N. retreat on an order for his arrest, Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid emerged from hiding Thursday for a jubilant greeting from 4,000 shouting, dancing and drumming supporters.

Militiamen with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles guarded him when his van drove into a marketplace for his faction's weekly "peace" rally. Crowds pressed around the van, women danced to the sound of drums and people beat the sand with their hands.

The celebration came two days after the U.N. Security Council lifted an arrest warrant for Aidid that had put a \$25,000 reward on his head. It was issued in June after militiamen of his clan faction were blamed for attacks that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.

The search for Aidid in his southern Mogadishu stronghold had effectively stopped after a fierce battle in early October killed 18 American soldiers and more than 300 Somalis.

"He obviously has a lot of power in Mogadishu," U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley told reporters after meeting with Aidid before the rally. "The United States realized we made a mistake getting involved. ... I'm glad

to see the U.N. Security Council changed course."

Aidid, who leads one of the country's 15 major factions, is a powerful force mainly in southern Mogadishu and parts of central Somalia.

At the rally, three men played electric drums and guitars as Aidid addressed the crowd in his first public appearance in more than five months.

"All Somalis must understand wartime is over. Without outside interference, all Somali factions can solve their problems among themselves," he said.

In a sign of growing U.S. popularity, Oakley's convoy was cheered when Aidid militiamen escorted it through the crowd a few minutes before the clan leader arrived.

Aidid's faction had praised President Clinton for reining in the search for Aidid and deciding to pull out the 16,000 U.S. military personnel by March 31. Questions about relations arose after faction leaders warned against the resumption of American military patrols announced earlier this month.

"I did not hear any threats, implicit or explicit. I think the suspicion has dropped," Oakley told reporters after

his meeting with Aidid.

Mistrust of the United Nations remains strong in Aidid's faction, which has accused U.N. officials of ignoring it in political talks. Aidid has boycotted U.N.-sponsored local ruling councils being set up as a first step in rebuilding a governmental structure wrecked by Somalia's civil war.

"We do not need intervention. The U.N. should deal with humanitarian issues. We need help to build schools, hospitals, roads," Aidid said, looking relaxed in a brown-and-blue floral print shirt and blue pants.

"I told him they will be here for a long time. I told him it would be a big mistake if he allowed issues like that" to delay humanitarian efforts, Oakley said at a news conference at the American compound.

Oakley said Aidid promised to attend an international conference on aid for Somalia scheduled for Nov. 29 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Although the conference is to focus on humanitarian issues, Oakley said that "knowing Somalis, you can be sure there will be lots of political discussions."

American Airlines strike causes delays, confusion

DALLAS — Flight attendants struck American Airlines Thursday, forcing the nation's largest airline to cancel some flights. The carrier threatened to fire strikers and said it intends to use managers and non-strikers to keep most flights going.

The strike, which began at 8 a.m. Central time, delayed other flights and caused passenger confusion at airports across the country.

"We are in the process of shutting it down," said spokesman Ray Abernathy of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants.

The airline and the union failed to reach a new contract agreement in two days of federally mediated, last-ditch talks. They are split over pay, staffing and other issues.

The union, which represents 21,000 flight attendants at American, said its members would be off the job for 11 days, including the Thanksgiving travel period, among the year's busiest.

American said it was confident

flight attendants who cross picket lines and managers newly trained as flight attendants would enable it to staff flights in line with government safety rules.

In the past, flight attendants striking alone at other airlines have failed to close a carrier. If the flight attendants can persuade the more powerful pilots not to fly, they would stand a much better chance of shutting down American.

The pilots union estimated that only 10 to 15 percent of American's passenger flights operated Thursday. "The American Airlines system is presently in a state of chaos," said union president Rich LaVoy.

Passengers at some airports trying to get on American planes were stymied Thursday. However, it was not immediately known how many flights were canceled or whether the strike, the biggest against an airline since machinists struck Eastern Airlines in 1989, was having a broad impact.

Perot's popularity drops after debate over NAFTA

Thirty percent of Americans say they don't favor Perot

NEW YORK — Only one in three Americans sees Ross Perot as playing a positive role in helping the country solve its problems, and even Perot voters give him mixed ratings, according to an Associated Press poll released Thursday.

The conventional wisdom is that Perot's popularity was bruised badly during the trade fight, but the poll shows many are withholding judgment: 42 percent don't know enough to tell their impression of Perot, while 27 percent say it is favorable and 30 percent unfavorable.

Other findings: • Just more than two-thirds of those who call themselves '92 Perot voters have a favorable impression, but 32 percent now rate him unfavorably or don't know.

• Twelve percent think what Perot is now saying and doing will hurt the country's efforts to solve some of its

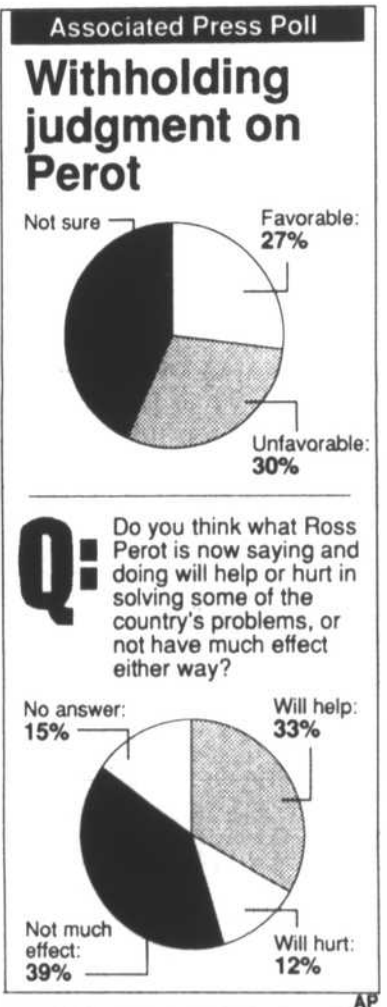
problems, while 39 percent don't see much effect positively or negatively and 15 percent are not sure. Men, high-income Americans, young adults and those born around World War II are somewhat more likely to be among the third who see Perot's role as helpful.

• Twenty percent of those polled say that if Perot had been elected president last November, he would be doing a better job than President Clinton. Most of these people are not Perot voters. They tend to be young, male, Republican and apparently anti-Clinton.

While 27 percent say Perot would be doing a worse job in the White House, the majority say he would be doing about the same as Clinton, or they're not sure.

The national telephone poll of 1,002 adults was conducted by ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa., part of AUS Consultants. Results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The poll was taken three days after Perot debated Vice President Al Gore on the North American Free Trade Agreement and ending the night before Perot's side lost the House vote.



Nebraska senators plan on NAFTA passage

OMAHA — Nebraska's senators predicted easy passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in the Senate, one day after the state's representatives threw aside party affiliation and voted to approve NAFTA.

"If it pass, no doubt about it," said Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb.

But he said passage of NAFTA is only the first step to boosting wages and creating jobs in the United States,

Mexico and Canada. "If we follow through, we can make this work," Kerrey said.

Sen. Jim Exon, D-Neb., said he remained undecided on NAFTA.

"It comes down to whether or not it means a net minus of jobs, or a net plus of jobs for Nebraska and for the country," he said. "But it's a foregone conclusion that it will be passed in the Senate, whatever I think."

Football will be more than a game Saturday

NEW YORK — Harvard visits Yale in The Game, Cal is at Stanford for The Big Game, the Civil War resumes between Oregon and Oregon State and it's Iron Bowl time with Alabama at Auburn. Victory Bells will toll in California, somebody will snatch the Old Oaken Bucket, grab the Bronze Pig or drink from the Beer Barrel on Rivalry Day in college football Saturday.

The Iron Bowl may have lost a bit of its meaning with the game no longer played at neutral Birmingham, but when Alabama pays a rare visit to Auburn, intensity never wanes.

"It never ends. It's 365 days a

year," Auburn coach Terry Bowden says. "People don't greet each other by saying, 'Hello.' They say, 'I'm an Auburn fan (or Alabama fan). Who are you for?'"

The Victory Bell will be ringing in Los Angeles, but it will be a trip to the Rose Bowl that really matters when UCLA plays Southern Cal at the Coliseum for the Pac-10 title.

It's also Tennessee vs. Kentucky for the Beer Barrel, Indiana vs. Purdue for the Old Oaken Bucket, Minnesota vs. Iowa for the Bronze Pig, Washington vs. Washington State for the Apple Cup, Mississippi vs. Mississippi State for the Golden Egg and Lehigh vs. Lafayette in their 129th meeting.

Bjorklund

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"If we're ever going to do anything to change these attitudes," she said, "we're going to have to send these kinds of messages."

Sgt. Bill Manning of the University Police said the case alerted Lincolnites to safety issues.

"The public was in a real excited state in the days right after her disappearance," he said. "There was speculation as to what did happen."

Since then, Manning said, the case's publicity has built, not only because it involved a death in small-town Nebraska but because those who knew Harms wouldn't let anyone forget.

"Nebraska isn't the site of a lot of instances similar to this," he said. "A lot of it, I'm sure, had to do with her friends and family."

They pushed to keep up publicity efforts and continued to investigate. Police officers also checked and rechecked leads and pushed themselves to solve the case, he said.

"It's a combination of everything that was going on," Manning said.

At the same time Harms was missing, Kenyatta Bush, an Omaha wom-

an, had disappeared, Manning said. The local press published more stories on Harms than the other woman, he said, because the Harms story was local news.

"I don't know that Candice Harms got as much attention in Omaha where Kenyatta Bush was," he said.

According to the state Bureau of Vital Statistics, the number of murders per year in Nebraska has averaged about 50 since 1987.

Manning said the Harms incident had enough impact on the community to affect some operations of local police.

For example, officers now normally do not make arrests when driving unmarked police cars, he said.

"I wouldn't expect people to stop for those any more," he said.

Prosecutors during the trial had said Harms probably thought Bjorklund was an undercover policeman because he was carrying a police scanner and a gun.

Kriss said the incident had changed the behavior of many civilians, too.

"The whole experience has frightened us," Kriss said, "but it's also made us more aware to protect ourselves."

"In that tragic and ironic sense, Candice Harms empowers all women. That's her legacy."

Officials to define commission's role

By Mark Harms Staff Reporter

Defining the role of Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Post Secondary Education is causing problems, even after the commission has been operating for two years.

Members of the NU Board of Regents and other higher education specialists will meet Friday to discuss what the commission's role should be at UNL and other state colleges.

"This has been a new experience for everyone," J.B. Milliken, NU corporation secretary, said. "This is an opportunity to see how things have gone over the past two years."

The Nebraska Council for Public Higher Education, a nonpolicy-making

body consisting of the regents, the Board of Trustees of State Colleges and the governing boards of community colleges, is meeting to discuss how far they think the commission should take its role.

Regents Chairman John Payne of Kearney said he thought the coordination commission was unnecessary.

"I feel it's another layer of bureaucracy," he said.

Regent Don Blank of McCook said the Legislature established the commission to oversee higher education in Nebraska. The commission is supposed to prevent unnecessary duplication of programs and ensure the state's money is spent wisely.

Blank said he approved of the commission's coordinating role. But he

said it sometimes intruded into the role of governing Nebraska's universities and colleges.

Blank said many state senators agreed with him.

Payne said members of the higher education council, who will meet at the Ramada Hotel, 141 N. Ninth St., at 10 a.m., would try to decide ways to avoid future problems. He would not specify what types of problems would be discussed at the meeting.

A special meeting of the board of regents had been scheduled Friday to approve the new president's contract and discuss tuition guidelines, Milliken said. The meeting was cancelled, and the issues will be discussed at the regents' regular meeting Dec. 4, he said.

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