

## Daily Nebraskan

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## Columbus man kills wife, two young children, himself

**COLUMBUS** — A man shot his wife and two young children to death early Wednesday, recorded a message to his family, called police and killed himself before officers arrived three minutes later.

The murders and suicide stunned neighbors and police in this east-central Nebraska city of about 19,500.

Daniel Reese, 24, had no criminal record and no known history of violent behavior, said Platte County Attorney John Kohl.

But Reese killed his wife Renee, 23; daughter, Megan, 6; and son, Jeremy, 4, in the master bedroom of the family's home with a semi-automatic 12-gauge shotgun, Kohl said. Each was shot in the head and there were no signs of a struggle, Kohl said.

"If you're familiar with that weapon, you know you can fire off shots very rapidly with it," Kohl said.

Reese became the latest in a list of parents accused of killing their children in highly publicized cases.

In Los Angeles, a 23-year-old housewife allegedly threw her two sons from a bridge Tuesday and followed them in a 50-foot plunge to the river below, police said. Donna Jean Fleming and her 3-year-old son survived but her nearly 2-year-old son died. Early Sunday, a father in Kill Devil Hills, N.C., shot himself about 150 feet from the burned van where his three children's bodies were found. They had been shot.

The Reeses had no large debts as far as the county attorney knew and no apparent history of domestic violence.

"It would appear to be just a hard working young family," Kohl said.

Family members in Monroe, a community of about 350 about 14 miles west of Columbus, declined

interview requests.

Reese left behind one clue to his motives: a tape-recorded message, about three to five minutes long, that was directed to his family.

Kohl said the cassette tape was left on the kitchen table.

Kohl would not allow a reporter to hear the tape or the recording of the phone call Reese had placed to the 911 emergency center before police arrived.

A dispatcher believed the call to the emergency center at 2:25 a.m. was serious enough to send police and state troopers immediately to the house on the city's west side, Kohl said.

The Columbus Telegram quoted an unidentified neighbor as saying Dan Reese told her two days ago that Renee Reese wanted to leave him. "He loved his wife and they were having marital problems," the neighbor told the newspaper.

## France accuses CIA of spying

**PARIS** — France has accused five Americans, including the CIA station chief, of economic and political spying and asked them to leave the country, a rare move that put the allies on a diplomatic collision course Wednesday.

In Washington, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said "it remains to be seen" whether the Americans would leave. He suggested disclosure of the affair was linked to France's presidential campaign, in which a wiretapping scandal has embarrassed Premier Edouard Balladur, the front-runner.

Two other U.S. Embassy employees implicated in espionage had been sent home earlier, officials said.

The U.S. Embassy refused all comment. But in a demonstration of the sensitive nature of the affair, Ambassador Pamela Harriman held an unusual half-hour meeting Wednesday with Balladur.

She was informed of the matter Jan. 26 and was summoned two weeks later by the Interior Ministry when the embassy failed to take action, the daily newspaper Le Monde said.

The U.S. Embassy has been notified "numerous times over numerous weeks" that the Americans "were engaged in activities incompatible with the status under which they reside in France," said a joint statement by the Foreign and Interior ministries.

The clandestine efforts went beyond the usual domain of industrial spying, often centered on the defense and aerospace industries, to target the audiovisual and telecommunications industries, Le Monde said. The Americans made their way into Cabinet circles and paid officials to obtain information, according to the paper, which quoted extensively from Interior Minister and counterintelligence documents.

The episode threatened to sour relations between the French and Americans, who could invoke the practice of reciprocity to expel France's top agent in the United States — an unprecedented move among allies.

## Unionists reject Anglo-Irish plan

**BELFAST**, Northern Ireland — Two years in the making, a new approach to governing Northern Ireland was unveiled Wednesday by Britain and Ireland as a framework for peace talks. Indignant pro-British unionists rejected it as "the IRA way."

In contrast to their Protestant rivals, nationalist Roman Catholic politicians were cheered by the 42-page document made public by the British and Irish prime ministers, standing side-by-side at a conference center in Belfast.

John Major of Britain and John Bruton of Ireland stressed that Northern Ireland's parties could amend or reject their suggestions in coming negotiations.

"This is not a take-it-or-leave-it offer. But this is our considered judgment on the best way forward," Major said in an interview.

The proposals include an elected Parliament in Northern Ireland with safeguards for the Catholic minority, changes in British law and the Irish constitution to guarantee Northern Ireland's right to choose its destiny and new bodies to promote cooperation within the divided island.

But the Rev. Ian Paisley, the dominant voice of hard-line unionism, denounced the document as "the IRA way, the Dublin way, the nationalist way and the republican way ... a one-way street to Dublin, every word of it."

The document is an attempt to lay the groundwork for a settlement in Northern Ireland, created in 1920 with a pro-British Protestant majority but torn since the late 1960s by Protestant-Catholic violence.

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