

Citadel ordered to give women military training

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A federal appeals court opened the way Thursday for Shannon Faulkner to become the first woman to take part in military training at The Citadel.

A panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel agreed that South Carolina's all-male military college violated her rights under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment in refusing to admit her.

The 2-1 decision upheld an order last July by U.S. District Judge C. Weston Houck, who ended 151 years of all-male military education at the Charleston school.

Faulkner has been attending classes at The Citadel since January 1994 under an order from Houck. But Faulkner had not been allowed to take part in military training or wear a uniform while the case was being appealed.

The appeals court ordered the school to admit Faulkner to the corps of cadets in August unless it can come up with an alternative plan to give women military-style education by then.

"I'm very optimistic about getting in..."

SHANNON FAULKNER

First woman at Citadel

But the panel also said it was unlikely the school could have such a plan ready by the fall, when Faulkner will be a junior. Cadets cannot begin the program after their junior year.

"We're basically where we were last summer, playing beat the clock again," said Faulkner, a 20-year-old sophomore. "I'm very optimistic about getting in, it's just how are things going to work out."

Her mother, Sandy, reached by phone at the family's Powdersville home, let out a little cheer and laughed when told of the ruling but would not comment further.

The Citadel's lawyer, Dawes Cooke, said school officials have been working on an alternative plan.

Clinton won't sign pledge that promises no-tax hike

WASHINGTON — Calling it a matter of principle, President Clinton said Thursday he won't sign a pledge to refrain from raising taxes. To do so, he said, would run the risk of "breeding cynicism" among Americans.

In a television interview, Clinton also promised to examine Republican proposals to scrap the current income tax system in favor of a flat tax, but warned that most studies suggest such a move would boost the deficit and increase taxes on Americans earning less than \$200,000 a year.

"I'm going to put a pencil to a piece of paper and figure out how it works," Clinton told CNN.

Clinton said he supports efforts to simplify the tax system, but warned, "We must not explode the deficit. And we must not have a big

"I'm going to put a pencil to a piece of paper and figure out how it works."

Bill Clinton

U.S. President

tax shift from people making over \$200,000 to all people making under \$200,000. That's not the fair thing to do."

Clinton declined to make a pledge against raising taxes, an issue that has surfaced in recent presidential elections, particularly among Republicans. President Bush

took the pledge in 1988 and won the presidency, but he lost his support, and the 1992 election, after raising taxes.

Just last week, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, agreed to sign the pledge that he had refused to embrace in 1988, a decision that contributed to his loss to Bush in New Hampshire's lead-off primary.

"On principle, I think a president runs the risk of breeding cynicism to sign that kind of pledge when you have no idea what will come forward," Clinton said.

In a wide-ranging interview, the president rejected suggestions that he is too accommodating and shuns confrontation with Republicans, saying, "I like to fight. That's how I got elected president."

News... in a Minute

Drug will reduce heart attacks

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration is allowing makers of the anti-cholesterol drug Pravachol to advertise that it helps reduce heart attacks by 67 percent.

The labeling change makes Pravachol the only cholesterol-lowering medicine to state that it cuts heart attacks, a long-sought asset in the fierce marketing battle between cholesterol medicines.

But it does not mean doctors will use the Bristol-Myers Squibb drug any differently — it is still just for heart patients who have not been able to lower very high cholesterol levels with diet alone.

Only a fourth of U.S. heart patients take cholesterol medication because although the drugs do decrease the fatty substance in the blood, there was no proof it actually saved lives.

Then last fall, a landmark study indicated Merck's competitor Zocor reduced deaths by 30 percent. The Pravachol change stems from newer studies showing that drug helped reduce by 67 percent both fatal and nonfatal heart attacks.

Iraq offered new plan to sell oil

UNITED NATIONS — The United States and its allies on Thursday offered Iraq a plan to let it sell oil to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies for its people.

The Security Council was expected to vote on the proposal Friday. Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz, who is in New York, was consulting with his government on whether it would accept terms of the draft resolution, a British diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

The plan aims to deflect criticism that ordinary Iraqis are suffering from U.N. economic sanctions in place since Saddam Hussein's army invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Chances for lifting sanctions — which include a ban on oil sales — dimmed this week after U.N. weapons inspectors said Iraq may be making germ warfare agents.

Quake jolts Texas, New Mexico

EL PASO, Texas — An earthquake rocked Texas and New Mexico Thursday night, rattling dishes and jolting residents.

The 7:30 p.m. quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6, was felt as far north as Roswell, N.M., and as far south as San Antonio, according to the National Earthquake Center in Golden, Colo.

Some minor damage was reported, but no injuries, officials said. Concerned residents swamped law enforcement agencies with calls.

The epicenter was 20 miles east-southeast of Alpine.

Mistake-prone hospital stripped of millions in accreditation funds

TAMPA, Fla. — The hospital where a man lost the wrong leg and another patient was mistakenly removed from a ventilator was stripped Thursday of the accreditation it needs to continue getting millions in federal funds.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations took the action 10 days after a surprise inspection. The panel issued a statement announcing the punishment and wouldn't elaborate on its findings.

University Community hospital, one of three major hospitals in the Tampa area, has 20 days to appeal. In the meantime, it will retain the accreditation it received two years ago with high marks — a score of 95 out of 100.

Without accreditation, the private, not-for-profit hospital cannot qualify for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. The hospital last year received \$52 million from the government programs, accounting for about one-third of its patient revenue.

"We do not treat these incidents lightly," Ken Lightfoot, the hospital's

board chairman, said. "However, by singling out UCH, the industry regulators are refusing to accept the fact that all, and I repeat all, hospitals have similar patient incidents."

The problems at the 424-bed hospital began Feb. 20, when doctors amputated below the knee the wrong leg of 51-year-old diabetic Willie King.

Less than two weeks later, Leo Alfonso, 77, died after a technician mistakenly removed him from a ventilator, thinking he was another patient.

Later investigations revealed other mistakes, including an arthroscopic surgery performed on the wrong knee of a patient in February and a tubal ligation performed without consent that left a woman partially sterilized.

The American Medical Association wants to use the hospital as an example of how a hospital should not operate. It has called on the private accreditation board to release its findings and recommendations.

"Maybe the situation at the Tampa

hospital was unique," said AMA President-elect Lonnie Bristow. "But if it's not, we want to make sure everyone can learn from it."

Another threat to the hospital's funding looms from the federal Health Care Financing Administration, which controls distribution of Medicare and Medicaid money. It has set an April 20 deadline for a state team to inspect the hospital and determine if it has problems that pose an "immediate and serious" threat to patients.

Six days ago, the state banned all elective surgery at the hospital. Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration shut down the hospital's operating rooms for all but emergency cases after investigators last week discovered what it said were sloppy procedures that jeopardized patient safety.

State officials said the ban wouldn't be lifted until the operating rooms were deemed safe and until staff members and all 326 surgeons who use the hospital received a review of proper operating room safety procedures.

U.S. wages assault on Japan's autos

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has decided to wage an all-out assault on the heart of Japan's industrial might, its auto industry. The move could turn into the most bruising trade battle of all between the world's two largest economies.

Administration officials said the president's National Economic Council has given the go-ahead to drawing up a target list of more than \$1 billion in Japanese imports that could be subject to punitive tariffs of 100 percent if the two countries fail to agree in current talks.

The list of potential targeted products will be released in early May, if talks have not made significant progress by that time. The sanctions would go into effect after a 30-day public comment period, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The dispute involves efforts to open Japan's market for autos and auto parts, a sector that accounted for more than 60 percent of last year's record \$66 billion U.S. trade deficit with Japan. Japanese automakers have fought fiercely for

years to protect their home market.

The administration decision follows months of internal debate. One side argued that the hardline bargaining stance has proven to be counterproductive and was upsetting currency markets, which have pushed the dollar to record lows this year against the Japanese yen.

Others in the administration contended that now is the time to pressure Japan because of the dollar's weakness against the yen. They say Japan must recognize that the only way to restrain the yen's rising strength, which makes Japanese exports more expensive, was to reduce the country's huge trade surpluses.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry refused to disclose specifics of the administration's decisions. He said, "We believe that resolving these imbalances through negotiation is the best way to go, but if that fails, we will have to consider other options" available under U.S. trade law.

The current negotiations, which resumed Thursday in Washington, cover the sale of auto parts for in-

stallation at the factory and as replacement parts and the sale of vehicles.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, signaling a tough new tone, said last week that the United States would insist that breakthroughs be reached in all three areas, which negotiators have been bickering over for the past 20 months as part of "framework" talks.

The threat of sanctions worked earlier in the year in a trade dispute with China. The administration moved to impose punitive tariffs on \$1.08 billion worth of Chinese goods before reaching agreement in a dispute involving theft of U.S. copyrights and patents, which at the time was the largest amount in trade sanctions ever threatened by the United States. One source said the target list against Japan would be slightly higher than the Chinese figure.

The U.S. side is hoping the threat against Japan will work as well as the Chinese showdown. However, the Japanese have repeatedly said they will not be subjected to what they term unilaterally bullying on the part of the United States.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor Jeff Zeleny
Managing Editor Jeff Robb
Assoc. News Editors DeDra Janssen
Doug Kouma
Opinion Page Editor Matt Woody
Arts & Entertainment Editor Rainbow Rowell
Photo Director Jeff Haller

Night News Editors Ronda Vlasin
Jamie Karl
Damon Lee
Pat Hambrecht
Kai Wilken
Art Director Dan Shettill
General Manager Tim Hedegaard
Publications Board Chairman 436-9258
Don Walton
Professional Adviser 473-7301

FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9258.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1995 DAILY NEBRASKAN