



News... in a Minute

Howard Cosell dies at 77

NEW YORK — Howard Cosell, whose caustic "tell it like it is" personality made him the world's most celebrated sportscaster and turned "Monday Night Football" into a national institution, died Sunday. He was 77.

Cosell, who underwent cancer surgery in 1991, died of a heart embolism at New York University's Hospital for Joint Diseases, grandson Justin Cohane said.

He was the strident, colorful voice of ABC radio and television from 1953 to 1992. It was a period of phenomenal growth and change in America's pastimes, spurred by television's cascading millions and increased greed among athletes and promoters.

He is survived by two daughters, Jill and Hilary. His wife, Mary Edith Cosell, died in 1990.

Freaknik party ends

ATLANTA — After a second night of looting and traffic jams, the huge Freaknik street party slowly dispersed Sunday as revelers made one last cruise around the rainy city before heading home.

Freaknik was expected to draw more than 200,000 black college students and other youths to downtown Atlanta, but students who attended said about half that number came this year.

The large crowds, traffic jams and unruly behavior in past years led officials to close off 200 blocks and crack down on lawbreakers. But police efforts didn't prevent trouble over the weekend.

Revelers Friday night ransacked 11 stores near Underground Atlanta, a downtown shopping and entertainment complex.

Suspects

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Other charges were expected to follow. The government has said it will seek the death penalty.

Brothers Terry Lynn Nichols, 40, and James Douglas Nichols were ordered held as material witnesses.

"We have at least, one and there could be others," said Weldon

Kennedy, FBI agent in charge of the investigation. "There is much work left to be done."

CBS Radio reported that authorities were focusing on Terry Nichols as a possible suspect and were looking for as many as three additional people.

No sources were cited for that information.

Clinton prays with nation, mourns bombing victims

OKLAHOMA CITY — President Clinton led an anguished nation Sunday in prayers for victims of the federal office building bombing. He also outlined a series of broad steps to give the government new powers to fight terrorism. Clinton said the bombers should be executed.

"If this is not a crime for which capital punishment is called, I don't know what is," Clinton said in an interview on CBS' "60 Minutes" after presiding over a nationally televised memorial service.

Clinton also directed his administration to replace the office building devastated by last Wednesday's blast and appointed Attorney Gen. Janet Reno to oversee a 60-day high-level review of the vulnerability of federal buildings. There are more than 8,000 such structures in the country.

He said Americans may have to exercise some "discipline" in their freedoms in order to allow law officers to prevent terrorism at home.

On a day he designated a national day of mourning, a solemn Clinton told a nationally televised memorial service: "Those who are lost now belong to God. Someday we will be with them. But until that happens, their legacy must be our lives."

"In the face of death, let us honor life," he told Oklahoma City mourners.

Clinton also denounced paramilitary groups and those who glorified the Branch Davidian cult members who died in a bloody standoff with federal agents two years ago.

"Those people murdered a bunch of innocent law enforcement officials who worked for the federal government," Clinton said.

He said there are potential problems in trying to crack down on paramilitary organizations.

"I don't want to interfere with anyone's constitutional rights," he said. However, he said that no one has the right to violate laws against life and property.

Among the steps announced on Sunday by Clinton:

● Legislation to establish a Domestic Counterterrorism Center to be headed by the FBI; creation of a special fund to be used for infiltrating suspected terrorist organizations and other means of combating terrorism.

● Legislation to give the FBI increased authority to comb through hotel and motel registers and to search phone logs, greater access to credit card records.

● Pressing for passage of the administration's Omnibus Counterterrorism Act, which would give the government more power to fight terrorism greater authority to protect the confidentiality of sources in official proceedings. This provi-

"In the face of death, let us honor life,"

PRESIDENT CLINTON

sion has been criticized by civil liberties groups.

"We have got to take steps aggressively to shut it (this kind of violence) down," Clinton said.

"I'm going to do everything in my power to do just that."

Before flying to Oklahoma, Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton planted a dogwood tree on the South Lawn of the White House in remembrance of the children who died in the blast last week.

"Today, our nation joins with you in grief. We mourn with you. We share your hope against hope that some may still survive," Clinton said at the memorial service. He shared a platform at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds with the Rev. Billy Graham, the evangelist.

"We pledge to do all we can to help you heal the injured, to rebuild this city, and to bring to justice those who did this evil," Clinton said.

Right-wing extremist stabs Japan senior cult leader

TOKYO — As police and dozens of reporters looked on, a right-wing extremist on Sunday ambushed and fatally stabbed a senior leader of the doomsday cult suspected in the lethal nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subways.

The attack occurred as Hideo Murai, 36, head of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth) cult's "Science and Technology Ministry," was returning to the cult's Tokyo headquarters Sunday night. Murai was one of the five top leaders of the cult.

Murai underwent surgery, but died of blood loss and internal injuries several hours later, according to a hospital spokesman.

The stabbing was the latest chapter in a wave of violence that has deeply shaken Japan, which has long taken the safety of its streets as a matter of national pride.

Reporters and TV crews have been staked out in front of the cult headquarters for days, and several networks broadcast video showing a man pushing through the throng and slashing at Murai.

The attacker dropped his bloody weapon, a long-bladed kitchen knife, in the melee that followed and was arrested. Police identified him as Hiroyuki Jo, 29, a member of a rightist organization.

Japan's state-run television network, NHK, said Jo told police he wanted to punish Murai because of trouble caused by the cult.

The cult has denied any connection with the Tokyo attack, which killed 12 people, or with

two cases last week in which hundreds of people complained of stinging eyes and sore throats at a train station and shopping center in Yokohama, just south of the capital.

Yet the cult has been the focus of an intense police investigation since the March 20 subway killings.

Japanese media reported over the weekend that police were planning to round up top leaders of the cult — including founder Shoko Asahara — as early as Monday in connection with the subway attack, and reporters had been staking out Aum facilities around the clock.

Police have conducted daily searches of cult compounds since the subway killings and discovered tons of chemicals and equipment that could have been used to produce sarin, the kind of nerve gas used in the subway attack.

Reports quoting anonymous police sources said that officials have also uncovered evidence of rifle production facilities, biological warfare labs and even plans to purchase nuclear weapons from Russia.

Ten days after the subway attack, Japan's top police official, who was responsible for the investigation, was shot and nearly killed as he left home for work.

And, as Parliament passed a law banning the possession of sarin last week, hundreds of people were sickened by toxic fumes released at a major train station just south of Tokyo. Nearly two dozen more were hospitalized in a similar incident at a shopping center near the same station Friday.

Correction

■ In Friday's Daily Nebraskan, a story dealing with welfare debate in the Legislature erroneously reported that the bill capped welfare benefits to mothers after two children. The bill caps additional welfare benefits for mothers who get pregnant within ten months of applying for welfare.

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