

# Nation/World

from The Associated Press

## Reports: Liggett to admit cigarettes are dangerous

NEW YORK (AP) — Liggett Group Inc. will publicly acknowledge that cigarettes are addictive and cause cancer under a settlement with all 22 states suing tobacco companies, broadcast reports said Wednesday.

Liggett also is expected to cooperate fully with the states in efforts against other tobacco companies, ABC and NBC News reported.

Liggett, the smallest of the major U.S. tobacco companies, will turn over "a treasure trove" of incriminating new documents under the settlement, which could be announced as early as Thursday, NBC reported.

Liggett broke with the industry in March 1996 when it settled with five states seeking to recover the public health care costs of treating sick smokers. Liggett also settled a federal class action lawsuit filed by smokers.

## Pilots reach tentative agreement with airline

WASHINGTON — Negotiators for American Airlines and its pilots have reached an agreement in principle in a contract dispute that threatened to shut down a major portion of the nation's air travel, spokesmen for the pilots and the airline said Wednesday.

Capt. Michael Cronin, the pilot union's chief of legislative affairs, said negotiators were still working on details, but that a proposal would be presented to the pilots union board Friday.

## Clinton selects Tenet as new CIA director nominee

WASHINGTON — Moving quickly to replace shelved nominee Anthony Lake, President Clinton Tuesday chose acting CIA Director George Tenet to head the nation's spy agency.

Tenet accepted. His nomination met with wide approval among members of Congress and with Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., the Intelligence Committee chairman who questioned Lake's nomination.

## Israeli Supreme Court lets construction continue

JERUSALEM — Teen-agers threw rocks and prisoners rioted in Israeli jails, but most Palestinians obeyed their leader's call for peaceful protest Wednesday after Israel's Supreme Court refused to block construction of a Jewish neighborhood in Arab east Jerusalem.

The massive unrest and violence predicted by Israeli intelligence did not materialize — even after the court ruling, and after yellow bulldozers started carving up the Jerusalem hillside under the guard of dozens of troops.

# Supreme Court embarks on indecency law debate

## A decision on the law's constitutionality is expected in July.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Debating the future of the Internet, several Supreme Court justices raised doubts about a federal law that restricts online access to sexually explicit material to keep it from children.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor suggested in arguments Wednesday that the Internet could be viewed as a public place, "much like a street corner or a park," where speech has strong First Amendment protection.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer said the Internet law could "make large numbers of high school students across the country guilty of federal crimes" for having online conversations about their sexual experiences.

The Clinton administration mounted a spirited defense of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which makes it a crime to put indecent words or pictures online where children can find them.

"The Internet threatens to give every child a free pass into the equivalent of every adult bookstore and every adult video store in the country," Justice Department lawyer Seth P. Waxman told the court.

But the attorney for those who challenged the law said it also would keep indecent material away from adults who have a right to see it.

"The government cannot reduce the adult population to reading or viewing only what is appropriate for

children," said lawyer Bruce J. Ennis, representing groups including the American Library Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

A three-judge federal court in Philadelphia blocked the law from taking effect last year, saying it would unlawfully chill adults' free-speech rights.

Sexually oriented material is protected by the Constitution's First Amendment if it is deemed indecent but not obscene.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule by July in its first case involving the global computer network — a place where Ennis said "average citizens can speak to the world for free."

Several justices tried to decide what kind of communication to compare to the rapidly expanding Internet, which is thought to connect as many as 40 million people using more than 9.4 million computers worldwide. Justices' questioning during arguments does not necessarily signal how they will vote on a case.

O'Connor saw an electronic similarity to a park or street corner.

Breyer said, "The Internet is rather like the telephone."

Justice David H. Souter said the law could allow a parent to be sent to prison for allowing his or her child to use a computer to view sexually explicit material.

And Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said that under Waxman's analysis, the government could prohibit some

conversations in public places.

But Justice Antonin Scalia said that in any context it is lawful for government to require that pornographic material be kept away from children.

"We say tough luck, you have to sell it in stores" rather than on the street, Scalia said.

The law makes it a crime to make indecent or "patently offensive" words or pictures available online where they can be found by children. Violators could get up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Waxman said any child who knows how to "click a mouse" can go online and find sexually explicit material like that found in Hustler and Penthouse magazines.

"There's nothing in this act that gets in the way of adult-to-adult communication," Waxman said. Those who want to provide sexually oriented material can limit access to people using a credit card or adult-access code, he said.

Ennis said that would be prohibitively expensive for noncommercial groups and would not work at all for news groups and "chat rooms." He said the law would not be effective because a large amount of indecent online material comes from other countries.

However, he said parents can use computer blocking devices to keep adult-oriented material away from their children and leave adults free to view it.

## Corrections and Clarifications

The Daily Nebraskan incorrectly identified the moderator of a Community Conversations panel on racism Wednesday. The forum moderator was Ronald Lee, professor of communication studies.

Also, the caption for the front page photo stated that LB280 would allow same-sex marriages. The bill would ban same-sex marriages in Nebraska.

## Daily Nebraskan

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