

Courts hold Brown to ruling

University must comply with Title IX gender quotas.

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an action hailed as a victory for sexual equality, the Supreme Court refused to free Brown University of rulings that the Ivy League school discriminated against female athletes.

Although Monday's court action is not a decision and therefore sets no legal precedent for other universities and colleges, the practical effect may be enormous.

Lawyers for Brown had argued that lower court rulings in its case could require schools nationwide to offer varsity sports opportunities for women based on "a stark numerical quota."

Those courts had ruled that Brown violated a 1972 law known as Title IX.

The law, credited by many with changing the face of women's sports and influencing society's attitudes about women, bans discrimination in education based on sex. All government-run schools and private schools that receive federal money are covered

U.S. Supreme Court

by the law.

Even before learning of the high court's denial of review Monday, Brown officials submitted a plan for complying with Title IX. A federal trial judge's must approve it.

The plan calls for increasing by about 60 the number of varsity team positions available to Brown female athletes so their total number mirrors the overall student population.

The school does not plan to cut any men's teams, and would give varsity status to three additional women's teams — lightweight crew, equestrian and water polo.

Brown's Title IX dispute dates to 1991, when Brown imposed universitywide budget cuts.

The school, which then funded 16 varsity sports for men and 16 for women, ended funding for four teams — men's golf and water polo and women's gymnastics and volleyball. The move affected 37 men and 23 women.

Some of the affected female athletes sued, contending that Brown, in

Providence, R.I., had violated Title IX. The court's ruling elated women's sports administrators.

"I think the message that goes across the entire country today is that those who have been dragging their feet are duly warned that the time is now," said Christine Grant, athletic director for women's sports at the University of Iowa. "It's a very clear message and long, long overdue."

In other action Monday, the Supreme Court:

- Rejected the government's effort to force Texaco to pay at least \$1 billion more in taxes on Saudi Arabian oil it sold between 1978 and 1981.

- Left intact a \$1 million libel award won against ABC television by an Iowa manufacturer for a news report on a Georgia county's garbage-recycling machine.

- Let stand six Branch Davidians' convictions stemming from a shootout that began the 1993 standoff at the cult's compound near Waco, Texas.

- Ruled in an Arizona case that parents seeking child-support payments from deadbeat ex-spouses cannot sue states to force overall compliance with federal efforts to help, but said some lawsuits might be allowed.

Nation/World

from The Associated Press

Bomb threats disrupt London's transit system

LONDON — A string of telephoned bomb threats tied London's air, rail and road traffic in knots on Monday and momentarily distracted politicians from the national election campaign. Authorities blamed the IRA.

Prime Minister John Major, expressing contempt for the Irish Republican Army, praised the "stoicism and good humor" of the traveling public, which struggled all morning with citywide traffic snarls. No bombs were found.

No one claimed responsibility, although the people who called in the threats used recognized IRA code words.

Opposition still demands Netanyahu's resignation

JERUSALEM — Benjamin Netanyahu tried to shore up his government and his reputation Monday after escaping prosecution in an influence-peddling scandal, but opposition leaders demanded he resign and face trial.

The opposition asked Israel's Supreme Court to overrule prosecutors' decision not to charge Netanyahu for his role in a political ally's short-lived appointment as attorney general. But such an action appeared unlikely.

Weather keeps investigators from suspected crash site

EAGLE, Colo. — Wind-driven snow Monday kept an Air Force recovery team known as the "Ninja brain surgeons" from dangling over a steep Rocky Mountain slope to examine the suspected crash site of a missing warplane.

A powerful helicopter needed to drop the team was grounded by the weather at an airport 40 miles away. A blowing snow advisory and howling winds whipped through the search headquarters, about a mile below the snowy mountainside where shards of gray metal were spotted Sunday.

The Air Force believes the wreckage is the A-10 Thunderbolt warplane that vanished April 2.

Jury questioning finished in Oklahoma bombing trial

DENVER — The judge and attorneys finished questioning prospective jurors Monday in the Oklahoma bombing trial after a laborious 16-day process.

The final panel of 12 jurors and six alternates was tentatively scheduled to be picked Tuesday after U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch hears some pending motions. The judge was considering selecting an anonymous panel to hear the case against Timothy McVeigh.

A total of 99 people — from unemployed contractors to a wealthy businessman — have been brought in for questioning since March 31. Six were dismissed in open court and an unknown number were excused after private sessions between the judge and attorneys.

Chirac dissolves parliament, calls new elections in France

The country's deficit must be cut in order to adopt the 'euro' currency.

PARIS (AP) — President Jacques Chirac dissolved the National Assembly Monday and ordered early parliamentary elections.

Saying France "needs new elan," Chirac asked voters for a new mandate in the first round of parliamentary balloting on May 25 and the June 1 runoff — about nine months ahead

of the originally scheduled March 1998 vote.

Struggling with 12.8 percent unemployment, down in the polls and facing new budget cuts this year to qualify for using the European Union's "euro" currency, Chirac was gambling that his conservative coalition could run now and still win.

Chirac's chief campaign battle cry before his May 1995 election was to fight unemployment. But initial efforts to slash long-held benefits and privileges to create jobs ran into a wave of strikes that winter.

Since then, unemployment has crept upward. Speculation had grown in recent months that Chirac could lose his majority if he waited for a vote next spring.

In a nationally televised speech, Chirac challenged what he called "archaic solutions founded on 'always more' state, 'always more' spending, 'always more' taxes."

The president called for reforms "to allow a reduction in public spending, the only way to lighten the burden of taxes and social charges that weigh too heavily on you."

The Lighter Side...

of The Associated Press



MATT HANEY/DN

Crooks, don't go to Smith County, Texas

TYLER, Texas — What more could a sheriff with 238 employees, horses, a 40-hound search team, boat patrols and personal watercraft need?

Armored personnel carriers, of course. Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith has added two to his crime-fighting arsenal, unveiling the vehicles last week.

Each 13-ton machine holds eight people. They have infrared sighting systems and can withstand 50-caliber bullets and even hand grenades. Used sparingly in the Gulf War, the vehicles had been stored for years.

Smith County got them free under a government surplus equipment program and will make them available to authorities throughout east Texas.

The vehicles will be used as a last resort when armed suspects refuse to surrender. Smith said all the heavy metal may have a "psychological effect on the crooks."

Iowa student killed at VEISHA

Police are looking for videotapes taken near where the man was stabbed.

AMES, Iowa (U-Wire) — A 19-year-old college student died Sunday after being stabbed during Iowa State's VEISHA celebration this weekend.

Harold "Uri" Sellers, 19, was stabbed once in the chest and found on the front lawn of Adelante Fraternity, 318 Welch Ave.

Sellers was stabbed with a sharp instrument, probably a knife, said Sgt. Jim Robinson of the Ames Police Department.

Police believe there may have been

a fight before the attack. It isn't known if alcohol was a factor. No arrests have been made.

Sellers, of Monroe, Iowa, was a student at the Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa. Friends of his who attend ISU said Sellers told them he was coming to Ames Saturday for the VEISHA celebration.

The man who stabbed Sellers is believed to have fled the scene with two other males. Police said witnesses at the scene saw the three males leave the area, heading south down Welch Avenue and then east on Knapp Street.

Police are looking for a white male, age 19 to early 20s, about 6 feet tall,

medium build, short black hair, possibly with facial hair consisting of a mustache, goatee and long sideburns, wearing a black leather coat, blue jeans and a tan shirt.

Robinson said police have interviewed dozens of witnesses and are attempting to locate any videotapes that were being filmed on Welch Avenue at the time of the incident. He said several Adelante members may have been on the fraternity's second-floor balcony, which overlooks the front lawn, when Sellers was noticed.

Editor's Note: The Ames Police Department's phone number is (515) 239-5133.

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