

**World and Nation**  
**Datelines**

■ **Northern Ireland**  
**New Northern Ireland government created**

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — On a day many thought would never come, Protestant and Catholic adversaries on Monday formed an extraordinary Northern Ireland government that attempts to bring together every branch of opinion within this bitterly divided society.

The unprecedented four-party administration — due to receive powers Thursday from the British government — includes Catholics who long vowed never to accept Northern Ireland's right to exist, and Protestants just as unwilling to accept Catholics as political equals.

Triggering an exercise envisioned in the Good Friday peace accord but delayed for more than a year, the four biggest parties within Northern Ireland's legislature took turns unveiling their choices for a 12-member Cabinet, an exercise akin to a pro sports draft pick.

■ **Seattle**  
**World Trade Organization talks slowed by bomb scare**

SEATTLE (AP) — The World Trade Organization stumbled at the starting gate of its week of global talks Monday when authorities were forced to delay opening activities four hours for a bomb search.

And while the Clinton administration hopes the WTO sessions will showcase the benefits of free trade, demonstrators tried to use the meet-

ing to highlight a long list of grievances against the 135-nation organization that sets the rules for world trade.

Critics contend the Geneva-based WTO puts trade promotion goals above other legitimate interests such as human and worker rights and environmental protection.

■ **Washington**  
**Pollsters: Many unaware retirement age rising**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Social Security retirement age is going up — from 65 to 67 — and Americans will begin to feel the effects next year.

The changes have been in the works for 16 years, but pollsters say most people have no idea they're imminent.

Now 65, the normal Social Security eligibility age eventually will reach 67 for those born in 1960 or later. Also, taking early retirement at age 62 is becoming less of a good deal.

The changes initially affect people born in 1938, who will turn 62 in 2000 and become eligible for Social Security's early retirement option.

Those people can still choose to collect reduced Social Security benefits next year.

If they do, however, their early-retirement benefits will be slightly less than in the past.

■ **Russia**  
**Officials urge civilians to leave Chechen capital**

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian officials on Monday urged civilians

hiding in basements beneath ruined homes in Grozny to flee the Chechen capital — a risky endeavor with Russian rockets screaming relentlessly into the city.

Federal forces showed no signs of easing up raids on the breakaway republic of Chechnya even as a top international mediator held talks in Moscow to arrange a visit to the republic.

The Kremlin has dismissed international criticism of its campaign in Chechnya as meddling in Russia's internal affairs.

The Russians have intensified their bombardment of Grozny in the past week, leaving hundreds dead or wounded and destroying scores of buildings and homes.

Russian officials estimate 50,000 civilians remain in the city, many of whom are old, infirm or lack transportation to leave.

■ **Washington**  
**Clinton signs \$390 billion spending plan**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, after a year of quarreling with Congress, got the last word on the budget Monday as he signed a mammoth \$390 billion spending plan.

He said it represents progress but "leaves some challenges unmet."

The measure earmarked \$1.3 billion for a seven-year plan to hire 100,000 teachers to reduce class size in early grades.

It also included \$595 million for the first installment of a program to hire 50,000 community police by 2005. Further, it provided \$926 million for unpaid U.N. dues and \$1.8 billion to implement the Middle East

peace accord reached at Wye River, Md.

But the year ended with a long list of disappointments for Clinton. He failed to win any increase in the minimum wage, was denied an increase in cigarette taxes and lost battles for tougher gun controls and stronger rights for patients in managed care programs.

Congress also rejected his proposals to extend the solvency of Social Security or Medicare programs or to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare.

■ **Colorado**  
**Picasso etchings, tile missing from restaurant**

EDWARDS, Colo. (AP) — The Picasso restaurant is missing three artworks by its namesake.

Three original Pablo Picasso works valued at \$41,500 were stolen from the Picasso restaurant at the Cordillera Resort & Spa on Saturday afternoon, Eagle County Sheriff's Investigator Doug Winters said. The resort is about 10 miles west of Vail in central Colorado.

As of late Monday, there were no suspects in the theft of the two etchings and a tile, which were taken from the walls of the restaurant. The sheriff's office said the restaurant was open but had no customers at the time of the theft.

The tile is a 1968 self portrait titled "Visage d'hote."

Both etchings were done in 1933. They are titled "Dues Models Vetus Plate 42 from the Volland Suite" and "Le Pejos de Sculpteur devant une Breehanale au Tyaureau Plate 56 from the Volland Suite," the sheriff's office said.

**Radio host suspended for Jackson comments**

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — A radio talk show host began a weeklong suspension Monday for telling his listeners the Rev. Jesse Jackson wanted to get assassinated.

"There is a limit to what we will allow on the public airwaves," said Andy Stuart, vice president and market manager for Clear Channel Communications Inc., which suspended WSPD-AM radio host Scott Sloan without pay.

Sloan's number was unlisted, and he could not be reached to comment.

During his three-hour show on Nov. 17, Sloan said Jackson intervened in a Decatur, Ill., dispute to be a martyr like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who died April 4, 1968, after he was shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.

**Man gets sentence for killing**

By JAKE BLEED  
Senior staff writer

A Lancaster County District Court judge sentenced Kenneth Choma to 15 to 20 years in prison on Monday for the April 8 shooting death of a 42-year-old Lincoln man.

Choma, 21, shot David Higgins in the stomach while the two wrestled over a pistol in front of Choma's home. Higgins was hospitalized in critical condition but died three days later.

The shooting came after Choma threatened his girlfriend's mother, who lived with Higgins, with a gun.

Choma pleaded no contest to a manslaughter charge Oct. 21. In return, the state dropped the charges of third-degree assault, two counts of making terroristic threats and two counts of use of a firearm to commit a felony.

Choma's attorney, Robert Hays, asked Judge Karen Flowers on Friday to place the 21-year-old on intensive supervised probation, the most structured form of probation available.

“When I look at it, Mr. Choma, I am struck by the fact that not only did you invite the altercation, but you brought a gun to it.”

KAREN FLOWERS  
judge

"This is not a case where Mr. Choma actually shot Mr. Higgins but was the result of a struggle," Hays said. "He is a person who has the potential to succeed and lead a law-abiding life."

Hays also said Choma had previously been convicted of disturbing the peace and driving while intoxicated.

Deputy County Attorney Jeff Mathers responded to Hays' arguments by saying Choma showed no remorse for killing Higgins and that the 21-year-old should go to prison for the crime.

"Your honor," Mathers told Flowers, "this is not an appropriate case for probation; it is an appropriate

case for a prison sentence." When asked if he had anything to say, Choma simply said he was sorry for the shooting.

Before handing down the sentence, Flowers told Choma that, because he expected Higgins to come to his home and had a gun with him at the time, the crime was premeditated and therefore first-degree murder.

"When I look at it, Mr. Choma, I am struck by the fact that not only did you invite the altercation, but you brought a gun to it," Flowers said.

Flowers then sentenced Choma for the crime, adding that parole was possible after 7½ years.

**Debate rises from NU cell research**

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"It's very disturbing to think that people are harvesting organs of unborn children for medical research," he said. "We've wondered aloud if this were going on in Nebraska, and it deeply troubles us to know that it is."

Chris Funk, executive director of Planned Parenthood of Lincoln and pro-abortion rights supporter, said her organization approves of the university's actions.

"We support the right of women to donate fetal tissue, and we support medical research to help fight debilitating diseases," she said. "As long as the tissue is not sold, there is no incentive to have abortions. It's just like any other organ donation."

Parsons said the research could

fuel incentive for doctors to create a black market for fetal tissue.

"It would not surprise me at all if someone who aborts babies for a living would try to sell baby parts," he said.

"Some organizations have been known to lease office space or provide overhead payments in return for fetal tissue."

Funk said Parson's comments were frivolous.

"People are getting the impression that fetal tissue is being sold, and it is not," she said. "We're totally against the sale of human body parts for any reason."

"Women must present information and written consent to donate tissue. It's completely up to the woman."

Funk said she was appalled that

radical anti-abortion rights activists were using the research issue as a means for further debates on abortion.

"It is really outrageous that anti-abortion extremists are trying to intertwine abortion with medical research," she said. "It's outrageous that they look for any place to make a scene. This is a scene that doesn't need to be a platform for them to stomp around on."

Parsons said the research issue is more than another abortion debate — it is a public policy question that must be answered.

"Science is encouraging abortions," he said. "Anyone who has any sense of what is right or wrong should see that this is something that our culture shouldn't be doing."

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