

# Hundreds rally against Confederate flag

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — More than 600 people set out Sunday on a five-day, 120-mile protest march to Columbia to urge state lawmakers to move the Confederate flag from the state house dome.

"Take it down!," chanted some marchers. "The people of South Carolina — white and African-American — want the flag to come down," said Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr., who had the idea for the march.

"The purpose is to say the people of South Carolina are in step, and we want the Legislature to get in step with the people of South Carolina," said the mayor, who carried the blue state flag with its white palmetto tree and crescent as he led marchers into the street.

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**Joseph P. Riley**  
Charleston, S.C., mayor

The marchers will walk only during daylight hours and plan to arrive in Columbia for a rally on Thursday, when pro-flag supporters have also scheduled a state house rally.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called for a tourism boycott of the state, saying the Confederate flag above the state house in Columbia is a racist emblem. Flag defenders say it is a symbol of Southern heritage and honors the Confederate war dead.

Only state lawmakers can move the flag from the dome, and several plans are under consideration. Organizers of the "Get in Step" walk say it should be moved from the dome to a place of honor.

Vans and shuttle buses will take people to the march so they can join as long as they can. It will start each day where it ended the previous day.

Novelist Pat Conroy, a South Carolinian, was on hand for the start of the march. But he said he would pick up with the marchers again on Thursday in Columbia.

"They would find me dead on the highway if I tried to make the entire march," he said.

Conroy said South Carolina lawmakers do not like being told what to do but predicted the march will help resolve the issue.

"It's going to be such hideous publicity,



**ABOVE: PROTESTERS HOLD** the Georgia state flag, which includes the Confederate battle flag and the state seal of Georgia, as they march in front of the Georgia Dome before Super Bowl XXXIV in Atlanta on January 30, 2000. Nearly 600 people were arrested in a larger protest Sunday.

**RIGHT: THE CONFEDERATE** flag flies over the State Capitol building in Columbia, South Carolina. The flying of the Southern flag has once again become a political issue because of the racist connotations many feel it endorses.

including this right here, that it will help," he said. One of those who marched Sunday was former Gov. John West, a state lawmaker when the flag was raised by the all-white 1962 General Assembly.

West, who served as governor from 1971 to 1975, led an effort to get lawmakers who raised the flag to ask for its removal.

"As I have had to say publicly, somewhat to my embarrassment, in hindsight, one of the mistakes I made as governor is not taking it down," he said. "It was not an issue then. Had it been an issue, I would like to think I would have taken it down."

Paula Byers of James Island said she had two great-grandfathers who fought for the South in the Civil War.

"The Confederate flag is my heritage, but it should have been taken down at the end of the Civil War," she said.

There was a single pro-flag demonstrator as the marchers left a park on the edge of the city's historic district after a brief rally.

Carter Sabo of Charleston stood with a Confederate flag and said he wanted to make sure the flag is given a place of honor at the state house.

## Internet businesses rare in Fortune 500

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite the startling rise in high-tech firms, just one purely Internet company — America Online Inc. — broke into the ranks of the Old Economy stalwarts this year, and only at No. 337 in the annual Fortune 500.

Other technology companies benefiting from the Internet boom climbed in the magazine's rankings, but there was little evidence of the Internet startups that have turned twentysomethings into millionaires because the list is based on 1999 revenue, not the companies' stock values.

MCI Worldcom Inc., one of the world's largest carriers of Internet traffic, hit No. 25, up from No. 80, in the list released Sunday and appearing in the magazine's April 17 issue. Dell Computer Co., the largest seller of computers in the country, went to 56 from 78.

Microsoft Corp., the company with the highest market value, rose to 84 from 109, and Cisco Systems Inc., which makes equipment for the Internet, advanced to 146 from 192.

AOL wasn't the only history-maker. Amgen Inc. became the first biotechnology company, landing at 463. And Hewlett-Packard Co., No.

13, was the highest-ranking Fortune 500 company with a female chief executive, Carleton Fiorina.

General Motors Corp. remained No. 1 for the 12th consecutive year, with revenues of \$189 billion, but Ford Motor Co. dropped from second to fourth place, displaced by fast-growing retailer Wal-Mart Stores Inc., previously in third.

GM's lead over Wal-Mart, which had \$166 billion in revenue, may look sizable, but Wal-Mart has had annual growth in the double digits for more than a decade, while GM's revenue dropped in 1998.

In third place was oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp., following the merger of Exxon Corp., previously No. 4, and Mobil Corp., ranked No. 6 in 1998.

General Electric Co. remained fifth in revenue, but led in profits, stuffing its coffers with \$10.7 billion. The grandfather of computer companies, International Business Machines Corp. stayed in sixth place, followed by Citigroup Inc., also unchanged from last year.

AT&T Corp. climbed from 10th to eighth, pushing down Philip Morris Cos. Inc. to ninth. Boeing Co. fell from ninth to 10th.

## Unkown pyramid discovered

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — French archaeologists have discovered the remains of a 4,000-year-old queen's pyramid south of Cairo, complete with texts of special prayers previously found only with kings.

The finding was one of several announced at the Eighth International Congress of Egyptologists, a weeklong conference that ends Monday and has drawn some 1,500 archaeologists to Cairo.

The French team, led by Jean Leclant, uncovered the foundation stones March 25 in Sakkara, an ancient royal cemetery about 20 miles south of Cairo. The pyramid belonged to Queen Ankh-sn-Pepi, the wife of King Pepi I.

The archaeologists dug into the queen's burial chamber and found a stone bearing pyramid texts, or special prayers to protect the dead and ensure sustenance in the afterlife. Until this discovery, such texts had been located only in the pyramids of kings. It is not yet known why they were in the queen's burial chamber.

"Who knows what else they may find?" said Gaballa Ali Gaballa, head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. The team will work at the site, now one of the country's largest, until the end of May.

In another discovery, Egyptian archaeologists said they found a

*"It may be intact, and inside there is likely a wooden sarcophagus and maybe even a mummy. We will start excavating next week."*

**Zahi Hawass**  
Egyptian archaeologist

painted tomb in the Western Desert from a 600 B.C. culture that exported wine to the Nile valley.

Leading Egyptian archaeologist Zahi Hawass, who is chairing the congress, said that through a hole in a wall of the tomb, he saw a burial chamber containing a stone coffin. The coffin was roughly 13 feet by seven feet.

"It may be intact, and inside there is likely a wooden sarcophagus and maybe even a mummy," Hawass said Sunday. "We will start excavating next week."

The tomb is in the so-called Valley of the Golden Mummies in the Bahariya oasis village of Bawiti, 215 miles southwest of Cairo. Archeologists made the discovery while re-excavating three similar tombs that previously had been found in the village, Hawass said. Ten houses built above the fourth tomb were removed, and Hawass

said the government will relocate the homes and compensate the families.

Bahariya oasis made headlines last year when 105 mummies were found during the excavation of a vast cemetery of Greco-Roman tombs.

In a third discovery announced at the conference, a joint expedition of Egyptian and French archaeologists said they found two additional chambers and a corridor in the collapsed pyramid of Maidum. Those ruins, some 56 miles south of Cairo, date to about 2600 B.C.

Antiquities chief Gaballa said the new rooms have so far been seen only through an endoscope, a 33-yard-long flexible tube that was inserted through the joints in the stones.

He said the purpose of the rooms is not yet known, but they may have been built to lessen the weight on the burial chambers below.