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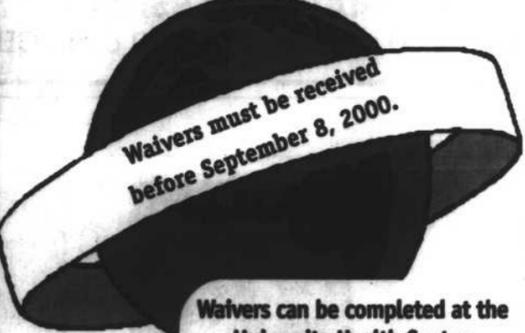
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Nixon's daughter denies book's charges

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Patricia Nixon Cox, daughter of the late President Richard M. Nixon, flatly denied a published allegation that her father struck her mother.

She also cast doubt Monday on the suggestion that Nixon took a mood-altering drug without a prescription while in the White House.

"Because I lived at home with them and my sister, I can state unconditionally that at no time during 1962 or ever did my father ever strike my mother or did my mother ever have physical signs or bruises of the type claimed in this book," she told The Associated Press.

Her late mother, Patricia Nixon, "was my father's strongest supporter and really believed in what he was trying to accomplish," Cox said in the interview.

Cox sought out the interview to rebut allegations in "The Arrogance of Power," a book by

BBC journalist Anthony Summers that was published Monday.

"My parents ... are not able to speak for themselves now," she said. "The allegations published in this most recent book describe things that never took place."

The most specific of Summers' allegations was that Nixon struck his wife either just before or just after losing his 1962 bid to become governor of California, when he angrily told reporters, "You won't have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore."

Summers writes that retired Washington lawyer John Sears, who worked in Nixon's successful 1968 campaign for president, told him that he had been told "that Nixon had hit her (Pat Nixon) in 1962 and that she had threatened to leave him over it."

The book also said that in 1968 Jack Dreyfus, founder of an investment firm, gave Nixon 1,000 capsules of the mood-altering drug Dilantin, an anti-

convulsant used to counter epileptic seizures. Dreyfus later supplied another 1,000, it said.

Dreyfus told The New York Times he gave Nixon the drug "when his mood wasn't too good." Dreyfus claimed the drug deals effectively with fear, worry, guilty, anger, rage, depression and other conditions.

"While I have no direct knowledge of what, if any, medications my father may or may not have taken throughout his life, I did have personal and daily contact with him," Mrs. Cox said. "What I do know is that his personality and his mood did not change. He was consistent."

She doubted he took medication for mood swings, because "my father believed

"The allegations published in this most recent book describe things that never took place."

**Patricia Nixon Cox
Nixon's daughter**

unless something was very serious, you just avoided medication. He wanted to always be sharp and concentrated."

Despite annual physical examinations, whose results were made public, she said "there has never been any suggestion of the type contained in this book" that Nixon consulted New York psychotherapist Arnold A. Hutschnecker by telephone while in the White House.

Whether or not her father consulted Hutschnecker, such a report "belongs to a darker age," Mrs. Cox said. "It is unworthy of anyone to suggest that there is something disgraceful about anyone, including prominent public figures, seeking the advice of a trained medical professional for any reason."

Presidential race continues to be tight

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Al Gore and George W. Bush are locked in a dead heat in two new presidential polls, evidence that Gore is holding his post-convention poll bounce and could make it a close race in the coming weeks.

The CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll of likely voters showed Republican Bush at 46 percent, Democrat Gore at 45 percent, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader at 3 percent and Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan at 1 percent.

A poll by ICR of Media, Pa., showed Gore at 44 percent and Bush at 41 percent among registered voters.

Bush led Gore by as much as 18 points in polls before the Democratic National Convention in mid-August,

but Gore has closed the gap and has even led slightly in some polls.

Bush led among independents in the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll by 44 percent to 36 percent and they were tied among independents in the ICR poll. In the ICR poll, Gore led among women by 10 points, but trailed among men by 5 points.

In the two-way matchup in the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll, Bush had 49 percent and Gore had 47 percent.

The CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll of 664 likely voters was taken Friday through Sunday.

The ICR poll of 784 registered voters was taken Thursday through Sunday. Both polls had error margins of 4 percentage points.

Peru overturns sentence of American; new trial set

■ Four years have passed since the woman was found guilty of planning a rebel attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIMA, Peru — More than four years after hooded military judges convicted American Lori Berenson of planning a rebel attack, Peru's military overturned her life sentence and cleared the way for a new, civilian trial, officials said Monday.

The 30-year-old New York native was found guilty of treason by the secret tribunal in January 1996 for allegedly helping the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement plan an attack on Peru's Congress. The attack was foiled by Peruvian authorities.

The tribunal released a statement saying that Berenson's sentence was overturned on Aug. 18, and her case was passed to a civilian court on Thursday.

First public word of the decision came earlier in the day in a statement from Berenson's defense attorney, Grimaldo Achahui, on Radioprogramas, Peru's leading station. He said she would remain imprisoned pending the new trial.

"We have fought to the last moment so that she would be judged in a civilian court where she will avail of due process with all guarantees of a right to a defense," Achahui said.

Berenson's case has been a sore point in U.S. relations with Peru. Washington has repeatedly pressed for a new trial, saying the

secret nature of the court violated her rights.

The U.S. government also has criticized as too harsh the living conditions she has reportedly been held under in Peruvian prisons.

The decision came despite the insistence by President Alberto Fujimori that Berenson, a former Massachusetts Institute of Technology student, is a terrorist and will remain in prison.

There was no immediate comment by Fujimori's administration about the move. After the announcement, he canceled a scheduled news conference.

Though Berenson has maintained her innocence, Peruvians caught in the crossfire of rebel violence during the 1980s and early 1990s have a difficult time sympathizing with her.

She has been vilified by government officials and the media for her alleged involvement with the rebels — a violent leftist group best known for its invasion of the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima in December 1996.

The rebels held 72 hostages for four months before Fujimori ordered a bold rescue that saved all but one of the hostages. All of the guerrillas were killed.

Before her conviction, Berenson was presented to the news media in a wild spectacle during which she angrily screamed support for Peru's poor and shouted: "There are no criminal terrorists in the MRTA," referring to the rebel group. "It is a revolutionary movement."

The statement was considered by most Peruvians to be an admission of guilt. Berenson and her supporters have maintained that she was not allowed to present evidence at her trial or to question prosecution witnesses.

The government maintains that secret military proceedings with hooded judges were necessary during Peru's bloody battle with leftist rebels because civilian courts were releasing too many suspects and judges feared reprisals. The practice was abolished in late 1997.



Scholarship IN Society

Dr. Robert Butler, a visiting English professor from Alcorn State University, will discuss his impressions upon arriving at UNL from a Historically Black College/University.

*"Out from the Cocoon:
An Exchange Faculty's First Impressions"*

3:30 P.M.
Thursday, August 31
Nebraska Union Auditorium

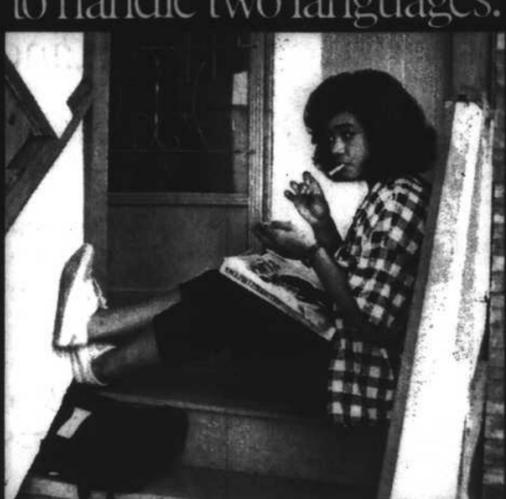
SCHOLARSHIP IN SOCIETY, sponsored by the Graduate Studies Office, celebrates its second year and aspires to make students more aware of the varied career opportunities open upon receiving graduate education. For more information, log on to the Graduate Studies website (www.unl.edu/gradstud) or contact Sara Granberg-Rademacker at 472-5062. Dr. Butler's presentation is co-sponsored by the English Department.

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