Scrap dealer reforms prisons

SOMALIA from page 1

are only two sources of clean water for the million residents of

But a fledgling government has started to emerge in recent months under a newly elected president, Hill said.

UNL African history professor Learthen Dorsey said it will be difficult to unify the country under one central authority, given the people's nomadic history. "The principle issue is whether they will be able to transcend their tribal affiliations," said Dorsey, who was in Somalia in the 1980s.

In 1997, a group of Somali businessmen contacted Hill and asked him to return to the country to help them establish a criminal justice system. Hill said he thought he was invited back because he was one of the few people who came with the United Nations mission that had actually followed up on promises made.

Many Somalis still harbor ill will towards the UN for how it operated, Hill said.

"(The UN) spent millions and 80 percent of that was on themselves and their compounds," Hill

During his trips to Somalia during the last three years Hill said he was relatively sure he was the only white person in the country, which lies on the east coast of Africa. The businessmen that invited Hill provided a 21man armed security force to escort him wherever he went.

Somali officials entrusted the well-worn last copy of their country's legal code from the former government to Hill this year so he could reproduce it.

Hill plans to return to Somalia next year and perhaps start working with the new government if it can become established.



Courtesy photos A Somali man stands in the ruins of a prison cell. The country's decimated infrastructure presents one of the greatest challenges to re-establishing a criminal justice system and central

In war-torn Somalia security forces such as this one have been a necessity. The heavily armed trucks, which carry a force of guards in the back, have become known as "technicals" because international aid groups working in Somalia budgeted for the security force as technical assistance.



Airline turmoil may hurt holiday travel

Airports will be crowded over Thanksgiving holiday with record number of travelers trying to reach their destinations

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - The lines and delays associated with holiday flying in the past could turn out to be relatively fond memories for airline passengers compared to this Thanksgiving week, the heaviest travel peri-

All the biggest U.S. airlines are in the group of employees and that, combined with an expected record number of passengers and more planes crowding already busy airports, means increased potential for flight disruptions between now and the end of the holiday crunch on Nov. 28.

"Travelers, be wary," says Brent Bowen, director of the University of Nebraska-Omaha's Aviation Institute.

The Air Transport Association says U.S. airlines will fly 20.5 million passengers during the period Nov. 17-28, up from a record 19.8 million during the same 12-day period

The group, which represents major airlines, estimates that the Sunday after Thanksgiving will be the busiest day in U.S. airline history, with 2.24 million passengers.

The most visible turmoil again is at United Airlines, the nation's largest, which alienated millions of passengers during a summer of cancellations and delays and recently acknowledged the resumption of 'serious operational problems" during a contract standoff with its 15,000 mechanics.

Hundreds of United flights already have been canceled this month because of what the airline maintains are unnecessary repairs by mechanics and their refusal to work overtime. The mechanics' union denies any such organized action.

Holiday passengers also will see firsthand evidence of fractious relations between United and its 25,000 flight attendants, who are distributing leaflets at selected airports to call attention to their demand for wage hikes.

The employee-owned airline is on pace to lose money for a second straight quarter after 18 profitable ones in a row.

"If United lets this drag out much longer, it could begin to be a permanent loss" of business, says Tom Parsons of Bestfares.com. an online discount travel agency. "Every report of delays and labor trouble hurts."

Other airlines, which all picked up big numbers of disgruntled United passengers over the summer, are vulnerable to their own holiday hassles.

Delta Air Lines, involved in testy negotiations with pilots seeking raises like those given to United's in August, says the pilots have begun refusing overtime assignments.

United blamed similar actions by its 10,500 pilots for much of last summer's

chaos. Chances of immediate problems lessened Friday, however, when the two sides agreed to take their talks to federal media-

Northwest Airlines is at odds with its mechanics union, which recently went to court and accused it of bargaining in bad faith after four years of fruitless contract talks. US Airways pilots filed a grievance over the airline's pending merger with United, although no slowdown is expected at this point. American Airlines' flight attendants are dissatisfied with their contract.

And pilots at Continental Airlines, eyeing

"If United lets this drag out much longer, it could begin to be a permanent loss" of business. Every report of delays and labor trouble hurts."

> **Tom Parsons** Bestfares.com online travel agency

the United pilots' average 24.5 percent wage renegotiated even though it doesn't expire until 2002.

The holiday rush started with harsh undertones Friday when United went to federal court in Chicago and obtained a temporary restraining order against alleged work slowdowns by its mechanics. A day earlier, the carrier declared an

operational emergency at Denver International Airport and at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to force mechanics to work extra hours.

The get-tough moves appeared to signal that no settlement with the mechanics is imminent. The bigger goal for the airline, industry analysts say, may be to clear up its labor woes by year's end to remove potential roadblocks to its \$4.3 billion merger.

That's of little comfort to Thanksgiving

"The traveler that United needs to worry about the most isn't the leisure traveler, it's the business traveler who's paying \$2,000 a ticket," says Parsons. "The business traveler might give them all the way through Christmas to straighten their problems out. But they've got to settle them soon."

Protestors march against Army school

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ga. - Police arrested 1,700 protesters who had marched into Fort Benning on Sunday demanding the closing of the Army's School of the Americas, a training center for Latin American soldiers.

About twice that number, including actor Martin Sheen, had entered the west-central Georgia post, chanting and carrying cardboard coffins and crosses, while others continued the protest outside the gates.

The demonstrations have been spearheaded for 11 years by Roy Bourgeois, a Catholic priest who served in Bolivia.

Bourgeois blames the school for human rights abuses committed by some of the school's former students. Army officials termed the charge absurd.

"I'd characterize it as false and as propaganda," Maj. Gen. John LeMoyne, the post commander, said at a news conference Sunday. "Roy's thesis is based on emotion and false-

Wearing plastic parkas, many of the protesters shivered in near-freezing temperatures and occasional rain as they marched to a point where they were halted by military and civilian police.

Police officials estimated 6,500 people gathered outside the gate for the protest, about half the number that appeared last year. The group School of Americas Watch organizes the demonstrations each year near the anniversary of the Nov. 16, 1989, killings in El Salvador of six Jesuit priests. A United Nations panel found 19 Salvadoran officers involved in the slayings had been trained at the school, the group said.

Col. G.T. Myers, Fort Benning's provost marshal, said most of the protesters arrested Sunday were charged with trespassing, given a warning and released. Some who poured fake blood on the street were charged with damaging government property, he said. A few of those charged may be prosecuted by the U.S. attorney's office, Myers said.

Sheen, who plays the nation's president in the television show West Wing, was arrested, Myers said, but the colonel said he did not know what laws the actor was accused of breaking. Sheen has joined the protests for the past three

All those arrested were given letters barring them from visiting Fort Benning for five years. Those barred from the post who are charged with trespassing there again within that period could be subject to a year in

Bougeois and Sheen gave brief pep talks before the march.

"I have a directive I mean to share with you," Sheen said. "To the secretary of Defense: Dear Mr. Cohen, as the acting president of the United States, I want you to declare the School of the Americas closed."

The School of the Americas is scheduled to close on Dec. 15 and be replaced by the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. The new school will be run by the Defense Department, under guiding principles of the Organization of American States. Bourgeois has said the name change is just cosmetic and his group will continue to protest against the school.

Kerrey bids adieu to constituents

KERREY from page 1

"At our best, politics and possibility can be one and the same," he said.

During his time in the Senate, Kerrey addressed controversial issues like Social Security and Medicare reform. He said elected officials have an obligation to take on such challenging issues, rather than just doing what is politically expedi-

"We are not elected just to speak public opinion," he said. "We are elected to say, humbly, what we believe is right, especially if it is unpopular. Sen.-elect Ben Nelson, a

Democrat who will replace Kerrey in January, said he would try to emulate Kerrey by thinking independently and being willing to work across party lines. "Bob Kerrey has always been

a man of conviction," he said. Even if people disagreed with him, they admired the fact that he was willing to have an open mind on issues.

Former Gov. Frank Morrison, a Democrat who served from 1961-67, said Kerrey's message on Saturday night was more inspiring than that of either of this year's presidential candi-

"If Vice President Gore would have waged a campaign with the kind of tone Bob Kerrey used tonight, he would have been elected in a landslide," Morrison said.

Morrison said he hoped Kerrey's political career was not over, and that his full legacy was yet to be crafted.

"I hope he's not through," he said. "I hope after his sojourn in academia, he'll come back into formulating public policies. I don't always agree with Kerrey, but something about the guy has the potential to lead the nation out of its morass of confusion."

Time will tell if Kerrey makes a return to politics. Saturday night's celebration, he said, was a time to reflect happily on the work he and his constituents did as partners.

"Together, we built, we dreamed and we learned that you don't have to be a lawyer to write a law," he said. "All you have to do is put a dream into

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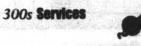
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