

News Digest

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Stillwater mourns players' deaths

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STILLWATER, Okla. — This was supposed to be a day of Super Bowl revelry in this college town, with the only worry being whether stores would run out of popcorn, beer and peanuts.

Instead, the mood Sunday was as cold and dreary as the rain soaking the streets following the crash of a small airplane bringing people home from Oklahoma State's basketball game against Colorado.

"It's like a part of the school died," said Justin Battista, a freshman walking in the rain toward Sunday morning Mass.

Ten people were killed in Saturday's crash in a field 40 miles

east of Denver, including two reserve basketball players and six staffers and broadcasters. The pilot and co-pilot were also killed.

There was no distress call from the crew before the crash, said Arnold Scott of the National Transportation Safety Board.

At Eskimo Joe's, a normally rowdy off-campus hangout, one student couldn't keep from crying as she seated the few customers who came in on the quiet morning. At a bagel shop near campus, there was no laughter.

"Everyone is pretty melancholy," freshman Chris Shumake said. "They're just walking around like zombies, sort of. You hear of airplane crashes like in Europe and overseas, but you never think

of it hitting home."

The hostess at Eskimo Joe's, student Crystal Kelso, knew the two players who died, Dan Lawson Jr. and Nate Fleming.

"Nate, he was that walk-on that everybody wants to see get in the game," she said. "I just remember chanting his name a couple weeks ago so they would put him in the game."

Kelso said Fleming planned to help her start a community outreach program with other student athletes. Fleming, who also excelled academically, was going to talk to young athletes about staying out of trouble.

She said Lawson was a good friend, even though they didn't always get along.

"Everyone is pretty melancholy. They're just walking around like zombies, sort of."

Chris Shumake
OU freshman

"It's always hard when you didn't get a chance to say goodbye, or didn't get a chance to say sorry for yelling at you a day ago or whatever," she said.

Katie McCollon, a high school senior who also attends Oklahoma State, said she and her parents knew many of those killed.

"I grew up in Stillwater," she said. "OSU is like three blocks from my house. It's really close to

home. OSU basketball is one of the highlights of the year for my family."

The school's game at Texas Tech on Tuesday night was postponed indefinitely. The Big 12 Conference said no decision has been made on other Oklahoma State games.

Sports information director Steve Buzzard said he expected the other players would spend the day in seclusion.

Barak gets blame for turmoil

Both Arafat and Sharon denounced concessions the prime minister made.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli politician Ariel Sharon rarely agree, but on Sunday both harshly criticized Israel's beleaguered Prime Minister Ehud Barak, blaming him for the current Middle East turmoil.

Barak had hoped peace negotiations this past week in Egypt would revive his sagging election campaign ahead of the Feb. 6 vote for prime minister. Both Israeli and Palestinian negotiators offered an upbeat assessment of the talks that concluded Saturday, saying they had never been closer to an overall agreement.

But a day later, Barak was under attack from both his Israeli and Palestinian rivals. Sharon, heavily favored in next week's election, denounced the concessions Barak offered to the Palestinians and made clear he would remove them from the table if he triumphed at the polls.

"These meetings (in Egypt) were not meant to seriously tackle the problems in front of us. This is some electoral stunt," Sharon said.

Arafat, meanwhile, unleashed his salvo from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"The current government of Israel has waged for the past four months a savage and barbaric war as well as a blatant and fascist military aggression against our Palestinian people," said Arafat.

There had been talk of a Barak-Arafat meeting this week in Sweden, but Barak's office said Sunday night that the prime



David Silverman/Newsweek

An Israeli man embraces a large, translucent campaign banner of right-wing candidate Ariel Sharon Sunday in Jerusalem, Israel. Sharon maintains his lead in the polls over incumbent Prime Minister Ehud Barak ahead of the upcoming Feb. 6, 2001 special elections for the leadership of the Jewish state.

minister had decided "not to continue political contacts with Arafat and his people until after the elections."

Sharon leads Barak by 16 to 20 percentage points in opinion polls that have changed little in recent weeks.

Most analysts say Barak needs some sort of peace agreement to energize his flagging campaign, and the Taba talks were seen as his last real shot at a pre-election breakthrough.

While both sides said the atmosphere at the talks was positive, they did not reach any concrete agreements and acknowledged differences remained on all the fundamental issues — especially on

sharing Jerusalem and the fate of millions of Palestinian refugees who want to return to homes in what is now Israel.

"Both sides have never reached a point where we were so close to agreement," said Barak. "It's quite natural that these (core issues) cannot be solved in a few days."

But with the election looming, Barak was running out of time.

Sharon said he would seek a long-term interim agreement with the Palestinians and opposed the comprehensive peace settlement that Barak had pursued.

In addition Sharon has given no indi-

cation he would offer the Palestinians additional territory — a position that would seem to preclude any possibility of a future agreement.

"We will be making every effort to reach a political settlement and make peace on maybe a different basis, but I believe, a true one," said Sharon, who met with U.S. congressmen Sunday in Tel Aviv.

Barak "did not bring peace. What has happened is due to the mistakes that he made. He brought a war to the area."

A total of 375 people, including more than 330 Arabs and more than 40 Israeli Jews, have died since the fighting began in September.

Weather

TODAY

TOMORROW

Snow
high 33, low 39

Snow showers
high 39, low 30

Daily Nebraskan

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Fax number: (402) 472-1761
World Wide Web: www.dailynebr.com
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

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College professors murdered at home

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANOVER, N.H. — The safe, close-knit feel of Dartmouth College was shattered Sunday by the apparent murders of two popular, longtime professors, a couple known for opening their home and hearts to others.

Susanne and Half Zantop had welcomed so many guests into their home "they practically seemed to run a hotel," said colleague Bruce Duncan.

Police initially were close-mouthed and didn't say until a late afternoon news conference, nearly a day after the bodies were found, that the deaths were considered a double homicide.

At the news conference, Attorney General Philip McLaughlin said he didn't know if anyone else was in danger.

"If we have a specific, reliable reason to believe the community is at risk, we would express that because that would be our duty," McLaughlin said.

The couple's latest guest had arrived at their home Saturday evening and found the door unlocked, said neighbor and friend Audrey McCollum.

"She went in and called out; there was no answer," McCollum said in an interview Sunday. "She turned and saw Susanne on the floor with blood around her."

The guest, identified by others as Dartmouth languages

"They were wonderful people. They were special — intellectually, humanly, everything."

Roxanne Verona
Dartmouth professor

instructor Roxanne Verona, rushed to the McCollum home to call police. McCollum said her husband, Robert, a doctor, then went to the Zantop home.

"He saw enough to know for certain they were both dead and had been dead for a number of hours," Audrey McCollum said.

Verona said police told her not to talk to reporters about the discovery, but she was willing to talk briefly about her friends.

"They are wonderful people," the instructor of French and Italian said of the Zantops, then corrected herself: "They were wonderful people. They were special — intellectually, humanly, everything."

Susanne Zantop, 55, was a professor of German and chairman of Dartmouth's German Studies Department. Her 62-year-old husband taught earth sciences. They had been instructors at Dartmouth for at least 25 years, said Edward Berger, dean of faculty for arts and sciences.

Planetarium celebrates McAuliffe's life

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, N.H. — Three years ago, Jeanne Gerulskis came to a new job that had her reliving the space shuttle Challenger disaster, all day long, every day.

A monitor in the lobby of the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium showed a continuous videotape loop of the explosion high in the sky that killed McAuliffe, a Concord High School teacher, and six other astronauts on Jan. 28, 1986. Adults stared at the disturbing video, sometimes in tears.

Children born since the disaster that riveted the nation often had a different reaction.

"They would say, 'quick, quick, come here — it's going to blow up again!'" said Gerulskis.

Soon after becoming the planetarium's executive director in 1998, Gerulskis removed the video and began to focus the planetarium on McAuliffe's life and vision, instead of her death. This year, the planetarium, which sees about 60,000 visitors annually, will commemorate her Sept. 2 birthday.

"No one celebrates the day Abraham Lincoln was shot. They celebrate his birthday," Gerulskis said.

The planetarium, the official state repository for McAuliffe items, has thousands of letters, poems and pieces of art, with items still coming in. None of them are on display. Around the lobby, visitors see a few photos and a painting of McAuliffe.

The closest thing to a shrine is a wall with two photos of McAuliffe, a copy of a Congressional Record tribute to her and a box full of biographical handouts.

One of the places the anniversary will be observed is Framingham State College in Massachusetts, McAuliffe's alma mater. The school has a Christa McAuliffe Center, which offers programs for teachers, and runs space flight programs for children.

On Sunday, the college planned to unveil a mural of McAuliffe. McAuliffe's mother, Grace Corrigan, who regularly gives speeches about McAuliffe's life and vision, was expected to attend.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

India

Death tolls estimated at 10,000 as search continues

BHUJ — Exhausted searchers using everything from sophisticated rock-cutting tools to their bare hands clawed through rubble Sunday, hoping to find survivors lingering among the thousands believed buried by western India's massive earthquake.

More than 6,000 bodies had been found since Friday's quake, and the death toll was expected to go much higher.

Some authorities estimated it would reach 10,000; others said 16,000 or more. A leading rescue official said there could be up to 30,000 dead in one town alone.

Friday's magnitude 7.9 earthquake — India's strongest in more than 50 years — struck on Republic Day, an Indian national holiday.

Congo

Congolese seek peace after former leader's assassination

KINSHASA — A European Union envoy called Sunday for a cease-fire among warring factions in Congo, amid hopes the peace that eluded the country under assassinated leader Laurent Kabila can be forged with his son in power.

After meeting with Joseph Kabila, who was sworn in as president Friday, special envoy Aldo Ajello said he hopes plans can be made next month for the long-delayed deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in the huge and chaotic central African nation.

Joseph Kabila was swept to power after his father was fatally shot on Jan. 16. Since the killing, the Congolese government and rebel groups have spoke of reviving a stalled peace process.

Kentucky

Colonel Sanders' famous KFC recipe found in former home

SHELBYVILLE — The handwritten note that Tommy and Cherry Settle discovered in their basement a year ago could be the answer to one of the country's best-kept culinary secrets — Colonel Harland Sanders' recipe for Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The Settles bought their Shelbyville home, a white mansion on U.S. 60 West, from Sanders and his wife, Claudia, in the early 1970s.

About a year ago, the couple were digging through a box of books from the basement and found a leather-bound datebook from 1964. Cherry Settle told the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Among appointments and other notes was a recipe for fried chicken that called for 11 herbs and spices, she said.

The recipe is known by only a handful of people, all of whom have signed confidentiality contracts, according to KFC's web site.

The Settles were considering selling the planner through an auction house, but first they contacted KFC, a unit of Tricon Global Restaurants Inc., to see whether the company could verify that the recipe was authentic, Settle said.

Last week, KFC filed a sealed lawsuit in Shelby County Circuit Court asking that the piece of paper found by the Settles be given to the company.

Washington, D.C.

Cheney says California is to blame for its energy problems

Vice President Cheney blamed California's energy problems on "a flawed deregulation scheme" and said Sunday that cumbersome state regulations have prevented any major power plant construction over the past decade.

The White House planned a strategy meeting Monday on the problem and is dispatching top energy officials to see governors of Western states affected by the power crunch.

"We'll begin to focus on this" at the meeting to which President Bush has "summoned the relevant Cabinet and agency heads," Cheney said on "Fox News Sunday."

The problem has prompted Bush to extend Clinton administration directives that force outside power suppliers to keep shipping electricity to California's debt-ridden utilities.