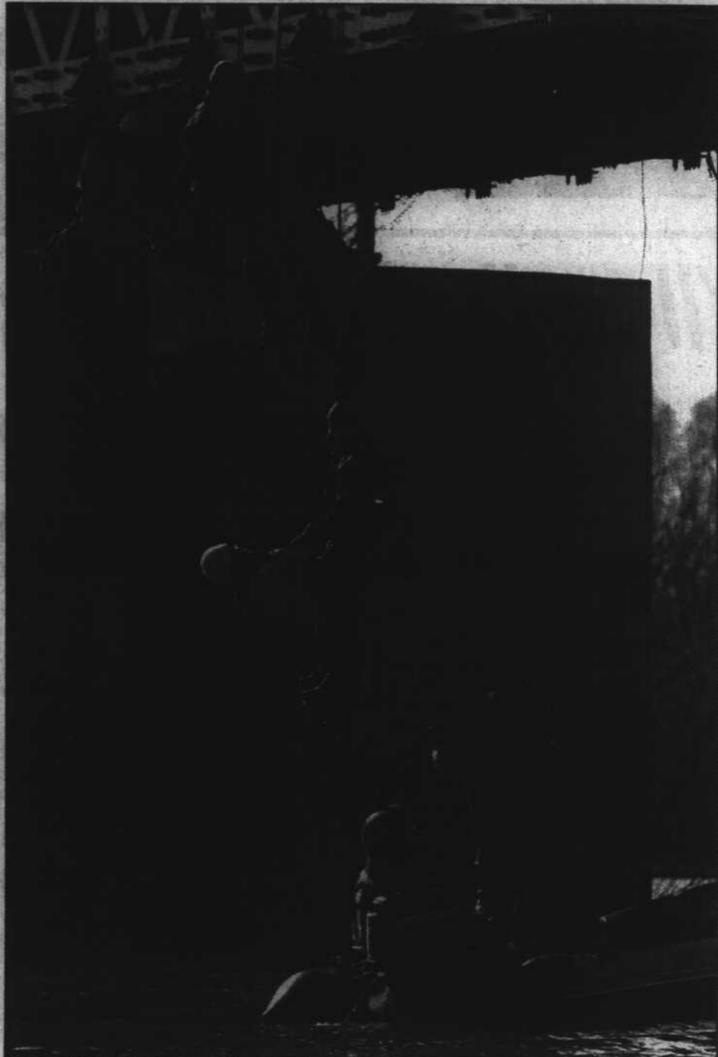


News Digest

Page 2 Daily Nebraskan Wednesday, March 28, 2001

PROTEST: Police lower an anti-nuclear activist from a bridge Tuesday leading to the Gorleben nuclear waste storage facility near Lueneberg in northern Germany. Four Greenpeace activists attached themselves to the bridge in an effort to block the railroad tracks running across it. An estimated 1,400 activists blocked the tracks to stop the Castor shipment of spent nuclear fuel arriving from France. Police arrested hundreds of the activists, some of whom were reported injured.



Sean Gallup/Newsweek

Bush stresses tax cuts, rates

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Rejecting criticism that he's been too gloomy, President Bush told Midwesterners who endured the Rust Belt recession a decade ago that tax cuts are vital to reversing recent layoffs and the stock market slump.

"The need for action is urgent," he declared Tuesday.

Bush made his case in a city that took an economic beating on his father's watch. He called the economy "winded but fundamentally strong" and predicted it would come roaring back if taxes are cut by at least \$1.6 trillion over 10 years as he has proposed.

"I strongly believe that meaningful, real tax relief can ignite another generation of growth," Bush said.

The president embraced Republican lawmakers' plans to backdate the tax cuts so Americans get an injection of spending money this year. He dismissed a Democratic alternative introduced Tuesday for a one-time \$300 tax rebate.

He also traced the roots of the sputtering economy and energy shortages to former President Clinton's tenure as he sought to apply pressure to Democratic lawmakers, including Michigan's two senators.

He broke no new policy ground in his 30-minute speech,

but addressed Democratic criticism that his gloomy assessments have helped lower consumer confidence and weaken the economy.

"It's the president's job to look for warnings of economic trouble ahead and to heed them," Bush said.

A CNN-Time poll suggests that 60 percent of Americans believe Bush's talk about the country heading into tough times may have hurt the economy. By the same percentage, they said they believe the economy is heading into a recession.

Still, the New York-based Conference Board reported Tuesday that consumer confidence made a forceful comeback in March, with its index climbing 117 points.

Bush raised the possibility of a recession in his speech to the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce, saying that even if the economy slips to the point it did during 1990 and 1991 — the heart of his father's term as president — the federal surplus would shrink by just 2 percent.

He also spoke bluntly about energy shortages — "The lights are dimming in California" — and blamed "years of neglect" under Clinton for lack of a national energy strategy.

Bush reaffirmed his opposition to price controls, saying they would bring the return of "the gas lines of the '70s."

World/Nation

The Associated Press

■ New York Rules' co-author loses her Mr. Right to divorce

It seems some rules are made to be broken.

Ellen Fein, co-author of the "Rules" books that teach women how to snag men by playing hard to get, is getting a divorce.

The announcement comes just three months before the release of the third book in the series, which Fein again co-wrote with Sherrie Schneider. AOL Time Warner is expected to release "The Rules III: Time-Tested Secrets for Making Your Marriage Work" in June.

Fein, 43, has been married to pharmacist Paul Feingert, 41, for more than 15 years, People magazine reported. The publisher will insert a paragraph into the new book's introduction, stating that Fein and her husband are divorcing.

Schneider is still married. There are more than 2 million copies in print of the original 1996 book, "The Rules: Time-Tested Secrets for Capturing the Heart of Mr. Right."

■ California

Killer dies by lethal injection, assists in finding vein

SAN QUENTIN — A killer who spent 28 years on death row and finally dropped all appeals after tiring of "this charade" was executed by injection early Tuesday, obligingly helping his executioner find a vein for the needle.

Robert Lee Massie, 59, had spent two stretches in prison as a condemned man, longer than any other inmate now on California's death row.

Massie pumped his fist to help his executioners find a vein, and told the warden at San Quentin he was ready to die. His last words were: "Forgiveness: giving up all hope for a better past."

Massie was the ninth inmate executed since California reinstated the death penalty in 1978. The state's last execution was in March 2000.

Massie killed Mildred Weiss in 1965 during a Los Angeles-area crime spree.

■ England

Ban on swill demanded after foot-and-mouth outbreak

LONDON — Britain's devastating outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease originated in swill fed to pigs on a northern farm, the agriculture minister said Tuesday as the government considered vaccinating livestock against the disease.

Agriculture Minister Nick Brown told the House of Commons that it wasn't clear how the disease was introduced into the swill fed to pigs at a farm at Heddon-on-the-Wall in northern England.

Brown said the infected food may have been meat illegally imported into the country or it could have come from food brought in by an arriving passenger. He announced a nationwide ban on swill.

News reports said the infection had been traced to a shipment of imported meat to a Chinese restaurant.

The British news agency Press Association said some of that meat was fed to pigs in swill.

■ Washington, D.C.

Smoking becomes leading cause of death for women

Women who smoke like men die like men, the surgeon general said Tuesday in an exhaustive report that finds tobacco became a leading killer of women in just two generations.

Federal regulation of a tobacco industry that spends nearly \$1 billion an hour promoting its products could help, said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, but that will require Congress to act.

Women now account for 39 percent of the nation's 400,000-plus smoking-related deaths each year, a proportion that has more than doubled since 1965.

One woman dies from smoking every 3 1/2 minutes.

Yet women may not fully realize the threat: Lung cancer caused by smoking is now the top female cancer killer, claiming 27,000 more women's lives each year than breast cancer.

UM admittance question of race

■ Michigan law schools may face the U.S. Supreme Court if standards remain based on skin color.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — The University of Michigan law school's admissions standards are unconstitutional because they use race as a factor in judging applicants, a federal judge ruled Tuesday.

In a case that could wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman granted the plaintiff's request for an injunction and ordered the law school to stop using race.

"There is no question about the long and tragic history of race discrimination in this country," Friedman wrote in his ruling. However, he said, the law school's justification for using race — to assemble a racially diverse student population — is not a compelling state interest.

Even if it was in the state interest, the law school has not narrowly tailored its use of race to achieve that interest, the judge wrote.

Miranda Massie, an attorney for a group of students who intervened in the case on the university's side, vowed to appeal, saying Friedman's opinion intensifies existing racial inequalities.

"This decision threatens to resegregate higher education and to increase the unfair racist stigma that is faced by minority students in higher education," Massie said. "We don't need any institutions in this society to be reserved for white people alone. If this decision is sustained, that would be its impact."

A university spokeswoman said she was waiting to read Friedman's ruling before commenting on Tuesday's ruling. Friedman heard more than 64 hours of testimony.

His job was to determine whether affirmative action is needed to offset biases that minority students face, whether the law school uses a double standard to admit minorities and to what extent Michigan uses race when making admissions decisions.

In a separate lawsuit, another federal judge ruled late last year that the university's undergraduate admissions policy, which also takes race into account, is constitutional. Both suits are being closely watched by educators and could wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The suits were brought by the Washington D.C.-based Center for Individual Rights, a conservative group. "The University of Michigan spent

millions and millions of dollars assembling the best possible legal defense," said Terence Pell, the group's chief executive. "For Judge Friedman to strike down the law school admissions system after all that money and time to the defense, that represents a huge shot across the bow for the entire higher education community."

The center brought down affirmative action at the University of Texas law school in 1996. The Texas school, like Michigan, argued that race-conscious admissions foster diversity. But the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled that while schools can consider an applicant's economic and social background, race cannot be taken into account.

The Supreme Court chose not to hear the Texas case because the school had already decided to end affirmative action.

The law school case was brought on behalf of Barbara Grutter, who claimed that she was denied admission in 1997 because less-qualified minorities got unconstitutional preferential treatment. As a white applicant, she said the law school discriminated against her while accepting minority students with lower test scores and grade-point averages.

University attorney John Payton has said the law school has one set of standards and a policy that is compliant with California's Bakke case of 1978.

Albanians seek to end ethnic rebellion, revolt

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TETOVO, Macedonia — The European Union's security chief on Tuesday reaffirmed his push for a peaceful solution to end Macedonia's ethnic Albanian insurgency, urging the rebels to let the political process run its course.

"You have to achieve a solution to these problems — not by weapons, but by negotiations, by participation in the political process. This is what Europe is all about," Javier Solana said after meeting with ethnic Albanian leader Arben Xhaferi.

Solana declined to comment on proposals put forth by Xhaferi, whose Democratic Albanian Party is a partner in the coalition government. But Xhaferi told reporters he would like the constitution to be changed to ensure a multi-ethnic state, proportional representation in political bodies and a new census.

Ethnic Albanians make up at least one-fourth of Macedonia's 2 million people, although they have argued that their numbers are actually much higher.

Xhaferi said it was time for Macedonia's ruling officials to make changes in the way the country was run to reflect the growing numbers of ethnic Albanians living there.

"We cannot change the reality. We cannot cleanse the territory," he said. "The only thing we can change is the concept of the state."

The guerrillas say they are fighting for greater rights and recognition for Macedonia's ethnic Albanians, accusing the Macedonian government of discrimination. The government, however, says the rebels are separatists seeking to split away northern Macedonia to create an independent state with mostly ethnic-Albanian Kosovo.

The former Yugoslav republic was quiet for a second day Tuesday, but in neighboring Kosovo, German KFOR troops said they were holding 30 suspected rebels intercepted in the mountains of the Serbian province.

Clashes erupted Tuesday near the town of Presevo in southern Serbia, where ethnic Albanian militants are fighting for a key road to Kosovo.

The government press center in Bujanovac said ethnic Albanian insurgents fired mortars, rocket launchers and machine guns at a Serbian police checkpoint at Cerevajka, near Presevo. Fighting continued into the afternoon.

Meanwhile, some of the 30,000 Macedonians who fled from their homes this month because of fighting around Tetovo have started returning to the country's second-largest city, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

"Some of the displaced people are now seeing going back to Tetovo," Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, told reporters in Geneva.

"There is an easing of tension in Tetovo, with shops opening up. Cars loaded with personal belongings were seen moving back from Skopje toward Tetovo."

Professor rewarded for focus on students

AWARD from page 1

In his classes, he said, he has students read each other's work to learn to recognize what makes each person's writing good. Then, Bernstein said, students will have an easier time producing quality work.

He also enforces reading assignments.

"Students learn a great deal by reading," Bernstein said. "What I need to do is change the world in my class, so that it is important for students to do their reading. That has been a big plus."

The other crucial element in promoting student understanding, Bernstein said, is the teacher's dedication to the cause.

"The most important thing is for each faculty member to reorganize his or her teaching to make student understanding the real goal," he said. "Once they do, they tend to be more motivated to change their teaching to help students."

Bernstein organizes a collaborative group of professors to discuss how they can refocus their teaching on student learning.

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