

Future of cigarette industry uncertain

By BRIAN LONG
Staff Writer

Last week Surgeon General C. Everett Koop predicted that the American cigarette industry would not exist within 20 years. But industry and agricultural officials are finding this hard to believe.

"He (Koop) is just voicing his personal opinion," said David Thompkins, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Agriculture. "I don't think that's realistic at all."

Thompkins described the anti-smoking effort as "a nuisance and a harassment."

Betty Annese, a representative of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, said, "We obviously don't believe Dr. Koop's statement. Tobacco has been around for 400 years, and this is not the first time it has been attacked."

"A very large part of the population hasn't accepted without question that smoking is dangerous," she added. "They want to have the right to smoke." Thompkins said anti-smoking efforts could bring some reduction in tobacco

production. "There is a lot of pressure on farmers," he said, "to reduce production of tobacco."

According to Shirley Barth, spokeswoman for the U.S. Public Health Service, the number of people in the United States who smoke is dropping. "The number is below 30 percent," Barth said, "(and) when the majority of smokers say, 'I want to quit,' then you place an emphasis on not smoking."

Thompkins said although tobacco production had fallen 50 percent since 1975, "... you can't attribute all that to a decrease in consumption."

He added that some factors affecting the decrease in production included a falling world trade share and the reduction of the amount of tobacco in cigarettes today.

Thompkins also said the collapse of the cigarette industry would be disastrous for N.C. farmers. "If we lost tobacco totally as a crop," he said, "there's no way I could project what would happen. I hate to think how many numbers of farms we would lose."

"Tobacco accounts for 25 percent of N.C. farm income..." he said, "and

if you pull that out of an already depressed industry, people won't be able to survive."

Sales at R.J. Reynolds increased 3.7 percent in 1985 to \$8.1 billion, while earnings from operations were up 13 percent to \$1.5 billion for domestic and international markets, according to Annese. "We strengthened our market-place performance in 1985," she said.

Annese added she expected profits would continue to increase this year.

Denise Joyner of the American Heart Association said the cigarette industry "... is going to have to take a closer look at advertising techniques," and acknowledge the risks of smoking if it is going to continue being a profitable market.

According to Clarice Brown at the Office of Smoking and Health in Washington, consumers are already realizing the risks.

"In 1985, 28 percent of all females in the United States were smoking," Brown said, "... and 33 percent of males were smoking. These figures are less than in 1980."

The only group that showed an

increase in the number of smokers were women 20 to 24 years of age, whose numbers have increased 4.8 percent since 1980.

Koop has also criticized the smokeless tobacco industry, saying snuff and other smokeless products cause cancer.

But Larry Alan, spokesman for the U.S. Tobacco Company, disagrees. "There are a number of eminent scientists who testified before Congress that it hasn't been proven that smokeless tobacco causes cancer," he said.

He added that U.S. Tobacco's sales and earnings per share of stock had increased in 1985.

"I would not predict the end of this industry at all," he said. "Smokeless tobacco was in the United States, while we were still under British rule. Skoal and Copenhagen (both produced by U.S. Tobacco) are the two best-selling brands of smokeless tobacco in the world."

Alan said that despite Koop's efforts, the public would still make their own decisions about using tobacco products. "We believe American consumers are intelligent — they're free to choose."

Lebanon car bomb explosion in square kills 10, wounds 35

From Associated Press reports

JOUNIEH, Lebanon — A car bomb exploded Tuesday about 50 yards from the offices of President Amin Gemayel's Phalange Party in this Christian port's main square. Police said at least 10 people were killed and 35 were injured.

Officials reported 10 charred bodies were dragged from the rubble of two high-rise buildings, and 35 wounded people were taken to a hospital.

Police said they believed many people were buried in the debris of shops and supermarkets in the main square of the city, 13 miles north of Beirut in the Christian heartland.

The square was packed with shoppers and employees leaving their offices for their lunch break, when the bomb exploded, police reported.

Man arrested for hazing

GREENSBORO — Warrants have been drawn against a Greensboro man after a fraternity hazing at North Carolina A&T State University in which seven pledges were hit on the head with a two-by-four, and another's beard was set on fire.

Steven Jones, 20, faces 10 charges in warrants issued Monday afternoon but had not been arrested by Tuesday afternoon, Greensboro police said.

The eight students were pledging Omega Psi Phi and were injured

State & National

during "Hell Week," traditionally the last and most difficult week of the fraternity pledge period. All but one of the pledges were assaulted March 27.

Eastwood votes

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, Calif. — Hollywood tough-guy Clint Eastwood voted in a church and went to tea Tuesday, optimistic that residents of this tourist village would make his day by electing him mayor.

Eastwood, veteran of more than 40 movies and one of the world's top box office draws, voted early at the All Saints Episcopal Church, surrounded by dozens of photographers and reporters from around the world.

Bush cautions sailors

MANAMA, Bahrain — Vice President George Bush told U.S. sailors Tuesday that their presence in the Persian Gulf blunted Soviet influence and warned potential troublemakers "they'd better think twice."

Bush visited the USS LaSalle, the command ship of a naval task force that has patrolled the gulf since June 1983, to stress U.S. warnings against any expansion of the Iran-Iraq war.

4th District candidates debate equal pay, tobacco plan

By KATHY NANNEY
Staff Writer

Day care, comparable worth and the federal tobacco program were some of the topics discussed by Democratic 4th District congressional candidates David Price and Kirsten Nyrop during a "critical issues for women and children" forum Tuesday night at the Church of the Reconciliation on Elliot Road.

Each candidate was given three minutes for an opening address and one minute to answer questions from the audience.

Both candidates said government

needed to strongly support day-care centers.

"(Inadequate day care) is a major impediment to women entering the work force," Price said. "Numerous day-care providers are appropriate. I don't think it's the role of one level of government."

The federal government should provide funding for adequate day care, Nyrop said.

"If it turns out that the states are not regulating day care adequately, there might be a role for the federal government in placing minimum restrictions for

adequate care," she said.

Nyrop said she supported comparable worth, requiring equal pay for different jobs of similar skills. Many job positions that men do not want are filled by women who often receive lower pay than for traditionally male jobs requiring similar levels of skill, she said.

Comparable worth should begin in government and "show private industry how easy it is to follow," Nyrop said.

Price said he supported pay equity but did not want the government to force wage scales onto private industry. A "fully, multi-faceted attack," including strict enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, should be used against wage discrimination, he said.

One audience member asked the candidates if they supported increasing the tobacco tax to help cover tobacco-related health costs.

Nyrop said she opposed an increase in the tobacco tax but supported the efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services to inform the public of health hazards related to tobacco use.

"I'm on record for financing and trying to enable tobacco farmers to

convert their acreage to other crops," she said.

Price said he supported the tobacco program because it enabled small farmers to raise tobacco with some stability. He also opposes raising the tobacco tax, he said.

"You have to separate the economic questions of the situation of the small farmer from the issue of smoking and health," he said. "... I would never disparage health research for tobacco."

The candidates differed on the issue of an oil import tax. Price said he doubted a case had been made for the tax and said he feared the implications of foreign trade if the United States were to impose a tax on imported oil.

The forum, sponsored by 10 local organizations including the Orange County Day Care Coalition, Women's Health Counseling Service and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, was supposed to be attended by all candidates for Bill Cobey's 4th district seat. Democratic candidates Wilma Woodward, William Woodward "Woody" Webb and Republican candidate Jo Ann Austell did not attend.

Libyan diplomat suspected in West Berlin bomb attack

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A Libyan diplomat stationed in East Germany is suspected of directing the weekend bomb attack on a West Berlin nightclub frequented by U.S. servicemen, a West Berlin official said Tuesday.

The official confirmed a report in the Hamburg-published Bild newspaper which said Elamin Abdullah Elamin, 47, was "urgently suspected of orchestrating the bomb attack on the Berlin discotheque, La Belle."

"This report is correct," said a West Berlin Interior Ministry official, who spoke on condition he not be named.

The official refused to elaborate, and referred further queries to the special West Berlin police task force investigating the bombing, which killed a U.S. serviceman and a Turkish woman and injured 230 people. Police spokesmen could not be immediately reached for comment.

Bild said Elamin first worked in the Libyan embassy in Bonn and was

transferred to the embassy in Communist East Berlin last year.

The newspaper telexed its report, which will appear in its Wednesday editions, to newspapers this afternoon.

Meanwhile, authorities in the West German capital of Bonn said they have increased surveillance of the Libyan embassy and tightened border controls following the Saturday bombing.

But a special 100-member commission of U.S. and West Berlin military police investigating the blast, said it had "no concrete clues" as to whom was responsible for the bombing.

For the Record

In Monday's article "Ellison gives meandering talk on universal topics," the Daily Tar Heel incorrectly reported the name of a story Ellison quoted during his presentation. The correct name is "Paladin of Lost Hour." The DTH regrets this reporting error.

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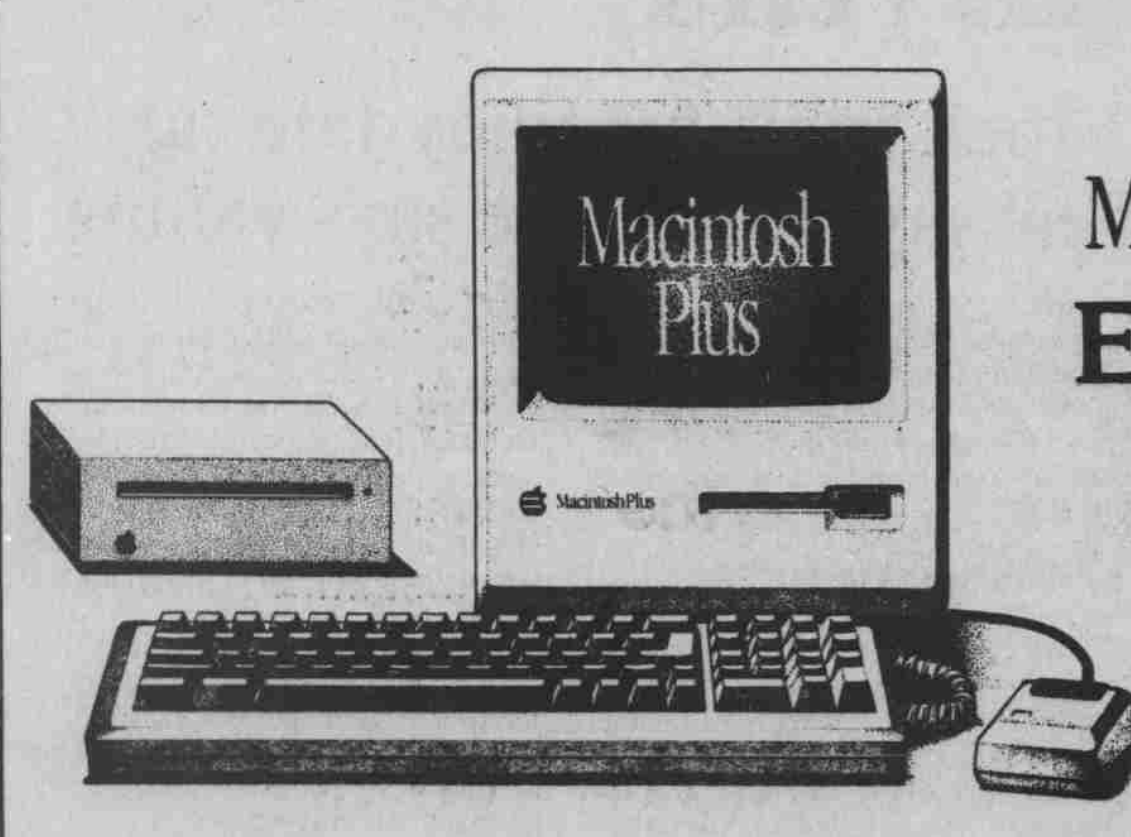
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