

# World and Nation

## Prison officials call for changes

By ROBERT BERRY  
Staff Writer

Early releases due to prison overcrowding are crippling the criminal justice system and major reforms are needed to solve the problem, prison officials say.

"The crisis is never over," David Guth, public information officer for the N.C. Department of Corrections, said Wednesday.

On Oct. 13, the state prison population went over the "supercap" of 18,000 mandated by the state legislature and remained over the maximum for five days. When that happens, Sam Boyd of the Parole Commission said Wednesday, parole officials lose their discretion over parole decisions and any eligible prisoners must be released.

"When we top 18,000, we lose the ability to say no," Boyd said.

Since the five days spanned a week-end, there wasn't time for many releases and the effect was "minimal," Guth said. However, the emergency is not over, and the state has until Dec. 22 to reduce the prison population to 97 percent of the 18,000 cap, or 17,460.

On Wednesday, the population was 17,662.

Boyd said while parole decisions were once made solely on the basis of risk to society and the prisoner's ability to survive on the outside, now numbers must be considered.

"We would say that there are people being paroled today that should not be paroled. That is a fact."

During the last fiscal year, Guth said the department had 21,000 admissions, and this year it anticipates more than 24,000. Capacity remains constant at 18,000.

"What this means is that when somebody comes in the front door, somebody has to go out the back door," Boyd said.

He said 500 new prisoners arrived each week. "I don't see how we can continue to take in the numbers we're taking in now."

Even with new prisons completed, North Carolina will be unable to meet the accepted minimum standard of 50 square feet per prisoner with a population of 18,000.

"It's not the parole commission's

fault," Guth said. "It's the failure of public policy."

Boyd agreed that public emphasis on incarceration as punishment — the temptation to say "lock him up" — must change and the public must understand the seriousness of the problem. Shorter prison terms and early releases, he said, have led criminals to consider imprisonment "a simple cost of doing business."

"We have severely damaged the integrity of the entire criminal justice system," he said.

Building more prisons, while probably necessary, is not the answer, Boyd said, citing the example of California, which recently spent \$2 billion — more than its education budget — to build new prisons, only to find them immediately full.

"It's time to try something different."

Boyd said sentencing reform and alternatives to incarceration offering a lesser degree of supervision were needed. Some such programs are electronic house arrest, which uses elec-

tronic devices to monitor a convict's whereabouts, and intensive probation, under which those on probation must report as often as daily to probation officers. While these methods are available on a limited basis in some N.C. counties, Boyd said he would like to see a comprehensive shift away from imprisonment toward these forms of punishment.

"There are some people in prison who I think, in the future, will have to be punished in some other way than incarceration," Boyd said.

Guth said prison is appropriate for some, such as drug kingpins and dealers. "Those people need to be behind bars and taken off the streets." However, he said many other drug users, as well as DWI offenders, may be better off in community service and treatment programs. The public doesn't realize it must pay the cost of tough laws like crackdowns on casual drug users, he said.

"We know we can't put everybody behind bars. We have to pick and choose."

## Recovery from earthquake continues on West Coast

From Associated Press reports

**SAN FRANCISCO** — President Bush's signature Thursday added \$3.45 billion to help Northern California heal the wounds of a killer earthquake, as residents and businesses tear down what can't be fixed and look to the emotional salve of a World Series and Halloween.

Crews were starting to tear down some of the "red-tagged" buildings — those determined unsafe — and demolition continued at a 1-mile stretch of Interstate 880 in Oakland.

For the first time since the Oct. 17 quake, tolls were charged on the Golden Gate Bridge on Thursday, partly because an average of \$107,300 a day had been lost and partly because the free ride seemed to encourage driving at a time when officials are trying to persuade people to use public transportation.

**U.S. economy up 2.5 percent**

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. economy shrugged off Hurricane Hugo and the poorest trade performance in six years to grow at a moderate 2.5 percent annual rate from July through September, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

The department said that the increase in the gross national product, the country's total output of goods and services, was accompanied by a dramatic slowing of the inflation rate. A price index tied to the GNP rose at an annual rate of 2.9 percent, the slowest in three years, as both energy and food costs moderated.

The combination of moderate growth and lower inflation was hailed by the Bush administration.

### News in Brief

#### Hostage's 5th captive birthday

**BEIRUT, Lebanon** — Friday is another grim birthday for Terry Anderson, his fifth in captivity since gunmen seized him after a game of tennis that had been a brief respite from reporting Lebanon's civil war. He will be 42.

He has not held his daughter, born three months after the morning he was kidnapped — March 16, 1985. He probably does not know both his father and brother died of cancer.

The fate of Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press, now appears to be caught up in a power struggle between Shiite Moslem factions.

He was kidnapped in Moslem west Beirut by Islamic Jihad, a group loyal to Iran whose name means Holy War.

#### Pasta maker under fire

**JERUSALEM** — Israeli manufacturers have filed a police complaint against an Arab pasta maker whose packages of spaghetti are red, white, green and black — the colors of the outlawed Palestinian flag.

A spokesman for the Israeli Manufacturers' Association said Thursday the group has asked police to investigate the Al Ghazel Macaroni Co. in the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem.

"We asked police to investigate why they are allowed to distribute the flag in this way. It should be considered against the law," said Danny Leish, the spokesman for the group, Israel's largest industrial association.

## Relief money available for N.C. disaster

By WAGNER DOTTO  
Staff Writer

North Carolina would be able to come up with more money in the event of another natural disaster, even though Hurricane Hugo has substantially hurt the state budget, said a spokeswoman for the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety in Raleigh.

"If there is another emergency in the state we're going to find the money to help the victims," said Renee Hoffman. She did not specify the sources where

the money could be taken from.

North Carolina is expected to spend an estimated \$10 million in relief for Hurricane Hugo's victims. That value would represent only 25 percent of the total money to cover the losses. The federal government is expected to provide the remaining 75 percent.

If Hugo had cost more than \$15 million for the state, the situation in North Carolina would be characterized as a "catastrophic disaster" and the

entire amount would be covered by federal agencies, Joseph Myers, director of the state Division of Emergency Management, said this week.

The N.C. General Assembly had set aside only \$900,000 for emergencies for the entire year, which is far less than the \$10 million that actually might be spent.

Gov. Jim Martin, trying to raise extra money for relief, is expected to ask the Council of State next week to dip into a \$30 million reserve fund that had been

set up to cover rising health-care costs for state employees.

It is difficult to predict the exact losses Hurricane Hugo brought to North Carolina, said Tom Ditt, public information officer at the N.C. Division of Emergency Management.

"Until the whole operation is over there is no way to say how much it will cost," Ditt said the state would be ready to respond to any kind of new and unexpected emergency situation.

## Gorbachev outlines planned cuts in Soviet nuclear forces

From Associated Press reports

**HELSINKI, Finland** — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Thursday that Moscow would cut its nuclear forces in the Baltic Sea and would

destroy four aging submarines and the nuclear missiles they carry.

Gorbachev also said the Soviet Union has removed all tactical nuclear missiles that could strike the northern European region, and it would take certain types of sea-launched nuclear weapons out of the Baltic Sea.

In a 45-minute speech to Finnish business leaders, politicians and other guests on the second day of a three-day

visit to Finland, Gorbachev repeated his hope to eliminate nuclear weapons from the 148,600-square-mile Baltic Sea.

"We are prepared to come to agreement with all the nuclear powers and the Baltic states on effective guarantees for the nuclear-free status of the

Baltic Sea," he said in a nationally broadcast speech in Helsinki's Finlandia Hall.

Gorbachev said the Soviet Union

was taking the steps unilaterally, dropping previous conditions that Western countries first agree to a nuclear-free zone.

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**Fraud**

Fox case allowed public universities to limit commercial speech on campus. Formerly, universities were required to adhere to the "least restrictive means" of limiting commercial speech. Schools can now draft more restrictive regulations.

Kuncl said he did not want regulations that would endanger the civil liberties of individuals and companies. But "I don't want students to be victims of companies," he said.

At UNC, new regulations might permit individuals, roommates or suitmates to hold sales meetings, but would prohibit large group sales, Kuncel said. Such a change would eliminate the group dynamic that operates in such sales meetings, he said.

Regardless of University policy, Bernholz offered advice for any buying situation. "Take your time; if they're rushing you or not wanting you to call your parents, beware."

**1990 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee invites interested individuals and groups who plan to sponsor activities in observance of the late Dr. King's birthday to contact the Committee chair at 962-6962 for further information.

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**Threshold**  
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Rifkin, president of the Greenhouse Crisis Foundation; Howard Ris, executive director of the Union of Concerned Scientists; and Mike Pottin, legislative assistant to Rep. Claudine Schneider (R-R.I.), co-sponsor of the Global Warming Prevention Act.

The Indigo Girls will perform a benefit concert in Memorial Hall Saturday at 9 p.m. Tickets for conference participants are reserved for those who preregistered, and tickets for non-participants have sold out.

Norman Myers, deforestation expert and World Bank consultant, and Harvey Wasserman, historian, writer and figure in the anti-nuclear movement, will speak Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on strategies for the student environmental movement.

The discussion groups will meet Saturday and Sunday to debate national

campaign strategies, Langman said. "We'll just brainstorm and come up with ideas for a creative national campaign."

Kurz said a "facilitator" would represent each group at the assembly on Sunday. The facilitators will vote for one short-term campaign for this semester and one long-term campaign to end April 22, 1990.

The details for a national SEAC board of directors will also be decided this weekend, Kurz said. Each of the 18 regions will elect representatives to the board after the conference, she said.

The conference, which has been in the works since March, will probably cost about \$30,000, but funding from government agencies, private donors and foundations, Student Congress, and academic departments at UNC, Duke University and N.C. State University will cover the costs, Langman said.

The conference may become a biennial event, Langman said. "I'm sure it's going to happen in the future. I seriously doubt it will be at UNC next year. This is a tremendous undertaking. It will probably be in two years on a different campus."

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