



WORLD BRIEFS

Algerian council calls for state of emergency

ALGIERS, Algeria — Capping a bloody monthlong confrontation with Muslim fundamentalists, the army-backed ruling council on Sunday declared a 12-month state of emergency to quell spreading violence.

The move came hours after police seized the headquarters of the fundamentalist party, the Islamic Salvation Front. It also came amid worsening clashes among fundamentalists and the security forces that have left about 40 dead and several hundred injured.

The emergency decree, issued by the five-member High State Committee and announced on national television Sunday evening, did not give details of the emergency provisions. But in two previous emergencies in the past four years, security forces were granted broad powers of arrest and detention.

The ruling council took power after the army forced President Chadli Bendjedid to resign Jan. 11. Bendjedid had indicated his willingness to share power with the fundamentalists, who were poised to take control of Parliament in what would have been the first free national elections since Algerian independence from France in 1962.

Predawn airline crash kills 30 in Senegal

PARIS — A chartered airliner carrying French tourists to a Club Med resort crashed into a Senegal marsh Sunday, killing 30 of the 56 people on board, authorities said.

The crash occurred in good weather before dawn. Investigators were sent from the West African nation's capital, Dakar, to open an inquiry. There were reports that the pilot was American. Survivors said the plane crashed al-

most immediately after the pilot announced that it would land.

Club Mediterranee, which had chartered the plane for a 45-minute domestic flight from Dakar to its Atlantic Coast resort at Cap Skirring, said at least one-third of the survivors were hurt seriously. Radio Senegal said three were in comas.

Paris-based Club Med said the plane carried 50 passengers, all French except for a Belgian couple, and six crew members. The company said four crew members were among the 30 killed.

Miss Black America testifies in Tyson trial

INDIANAPOLIS — Prosecutors in Mike Tyson's rape trial brought in the 1991 Miss Black America and other witnesses Sunday to rebut a defense claim that the boxer's accuser lusted after his body and his money.

Sharmell Sullivan, who won the Miss Black America pageant in which Tyson's accuser competed, testified that she was near the 18-year-old woman but never heard her admire Tyson's physique, as another contestant has claimed.

Tanya St. Clair, testifying Saturday on Tyson's behalf, quoted the woman as "talking about his butt, saying, 'Oooh, it's really something to hold onto,'" and speculating about the size of the fighter's genitalia.

Sullivan said, "I would definitely recollect a statement of that nature because it's very blunt, and I'm not used to hearing things of that nature at a beauty pageant."

Prosecutor Greg Garrison ended the state's rebuttal by playing a tape of grand jury testimony by Tyson that contradicted the fighter's claim in court that he made a sexually explicit proposition to the woman.

—The Associated Press

STATE AND NATIONAL

Redistricting plans receive stamp of approval

By Eric Lusk
State and National Editor

They're not calling it artwork, but state legislators are breathing easier now that their redistricting plans have received final approval from the U.S. Justice Department.

The federal agency approved the state's latest efforts to redraw congressional and legislative district boundaries on Thursday. The Justice Department had nixed the General Assembly's first redistricting proposals last December, because the plans failed to provide enough districts favoring minority candidates.

"At first glance, the congressional redistricting plan ... seems unreasonable and unnecessarily contorted," said Daniel Blue, speaker of the Democratic-controlled N.C. House of Representatives.

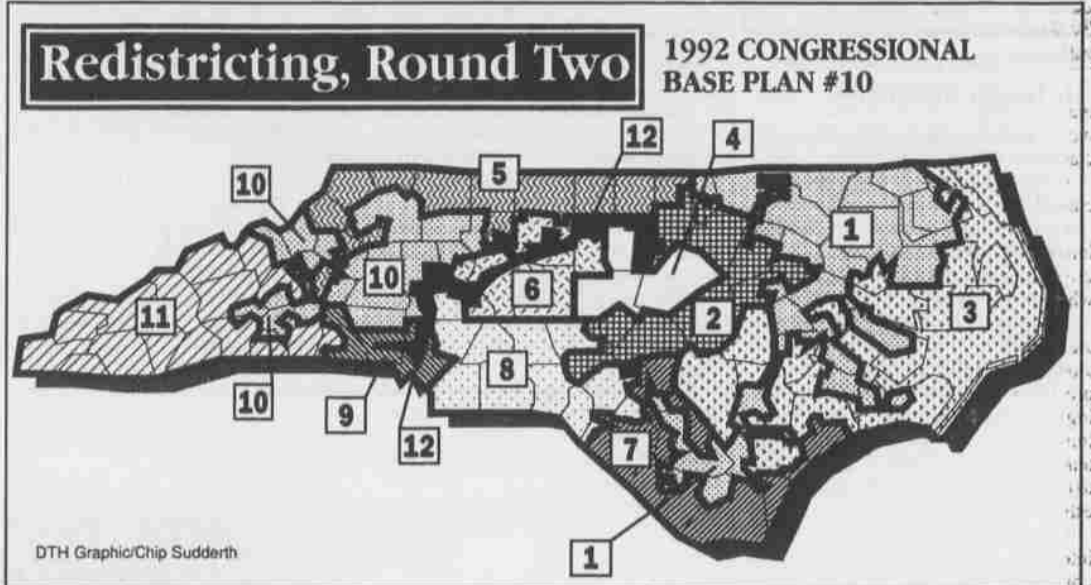
"In short, it's an ugly map. But it's the only map we could draw and still satisfy the U.S. Justice Department's interpretation of the Voting Rights Act."

The Voting Rights Act forces legislators to draw the highest number of districts that would favor minority candidates. Because the state's black population isn't concentrated in any particular area, legislators were forced to draw two black-majority congressional districts that meander across the state.

The black-majority 12th District, which snakes along the Interstate 85 corridor between Durham and Gastonia, has drawn the brunt of attacks because of its contorted shape. Opponents of this district say the region's urban populations share few things in common.

"How can somebody in Mecklenburg County share the interests of someone in Durham County?" asked Andy Wright, political director for the N.C. Republican Party. "There is no community interest there — they're connected by a highway."

But N.C. Sen. Dennis Winner, D-



Asheville, said the Justice Department would only approve this district if it contained more than 50 percent blacks. The new 12th District contains roughly 55 percent blacks.

"It's narrow, but it's no longer than my district," said Winner, chairman of the Senate Redistricting Committee. "Actually, that district is more compact than the 1st District."

The 1st District is the other black majority district.

U.S. Rep. David Price's 4th District still consists of Chatham County and most of Wake and Orange counties. But Price, a three-term Democrat, lost territory because of rapid growth in the Triangle area during the last decade.

"We were fairly pleased with our district," said Rachel Perry, Price's press secretary. "It's still fairly compact and still one community."

The redistricting process, which by law must occur after every census, be-

gan last summer when the General Assembly drew its first set of congressional and legislative districts. After the Justice Department rejected these plans, disgruntled legislators chose to draw new proposals rather than to fight the decision in court.

Giving minorities a strong voice in government proved to be the toughest roadblock for members of the General Assembly. Legislators wanted to maximize the number of blacks that could win office, while not diluting their strength in other districts, said Paul Gronke, an assistant political science professor at Duke University.

After almost two months of debate, legislators opted to place about 43 percent of the state's black population in the minority-majority districts.

"We maintain that it was better to have two minority-majority districts," said Mary Peeler, executive director for the N.C. National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People. "The Voting Rights Act is there to protect minorities. If it's enforced, then it's adequate."

Blue said the Justice Department would not have agreed to only one black majority district. Although he disagreed with the Justice Department's assessment of the General Assembly's first plans, Blue said fighting the department's decision would waste time.

"The bureaucrats in Washington continue to think they know best about what we need in this state," he said. "An administration that rails against quotas in the workplace now wants to impose them in electoral politics."

The Justice Department's approval paves the way for candidates to begin filing today. But Republicans still may fight the plans in court, Gronke said.

"There are other plans out there that don't look as strange as this plan," he said.

N.C. educators question grades found in Report Card evaluation

Local school officials call review threatening, unnecessary

By Tiffany Ashhurst
Staff Writer

For years, children feared the days when teachers distributed report cards.

Now North Carolina has turned the tables on educators by issuing report cards for schools, and some Chapel Hill-Carrboro school officials do not like the idea.

Although Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools ranked above the state's average in most areas, some local school officials do not like the annual report cards.

Judy Ortiz, Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board member, said she thought the program was a good attempt to evaluate the schools but said other pro-

grams should be implemented. "I don't think the state has a better solution for the bad schools," Ortiz said. "Since they are less familiar with the community, (the state) probably wouldn't do as well."

Ortiz added that she believed the state should provide more school funding to improve schools' quality.

Educators are concerned about the possible added pressure caused by the report cards, Ortiz said.

"The state's reaction is to threaten the counties, and that is crazy," Ortiz said. "I am sure the schools resent this."

Steve Coil, a Chapel Hill High School counselor, said he thought the report card program brought unneeded attention to teachers.

"The average teacher is frustrated with staying up late trying to work," Coil said. "Then being scolded in the newspaper is disheartening. The report cards are not very useful, and frankly I don't think anyone pays attention to it."

But Suzanne Triplett of the N.C. Department of Education said she believed report cards helped the school system.

"It's a very fair and useful assessment because it focuses the state's attention on student achievement and tracks the progress of the schools over three years, which is really important," said Triplett, assistant state superintendent for research and development services.

Triplett said the report card assessment was based on a series of standardized tests students were required to take. Kim Hoke, assistant to Chapel Hill-Carrboro superintendent Gerry House, said the evaluations were not upper-level tests.

"These are basic skills tests, not higher

SAT scores, dropout rates improving, superintendent says

By Lars Munson
Staff Writer

With the first half of the 1991-92 academic year complete, the grades are in for school systems as well as for students.

The state Board of Education recently issued its second N.C. Report Card, a comprehensive analysis of the state's 133 school districts.

The 532-page document offers detailed assessments of student performances on state and national tests, student dropout rates and average daily attendance.

"The state's first report card last year caused school and community leaders to take a closer look at the areas of focus in their systems," said Suzanne Triplett, assistant state superintendent for research and development. "We've seen a much greater emphasis on student achievement."

The report also examines specific aspects of individual school systems that have a major impact on achievement, such as local expenditures,

teacher-student ratios and parent education levels.

By providing a tangible rating for each system, the report card will help parents and local school officials compare the quality of their schools against systems with similar demographics and state-mandated goals.

"North Carolina is one of a very few states in this country with a comprehensive report in place," Triplett said.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Durham County and Wake County schools were among the 31 systems the state considered "above average" in regard to overall achievement. Orange County schools were ranked "average and below par," and Durham City Schools were ranked "below average and below par."

Many school officials said they had seen a statewide rise in academic performances this year.

"SATs are the highest they've been in 15 years, the amount of remediation for freshmen entering the UNC system is down, and our dropout rate, as reported in December, is the lowest it's been in the history of the state," said

Bob Etheridge, state superintendent of public instruction.

Although many districts have scored noticeable improvements, 18 school systems still performed below expectations.

Besides the standard dropout reduction plans and anti-drug campaigns, many schools in the Durham and Chapel Hill area have pursued programs that place more decision-making power in the hands of teachers and local officials.

"First and foremost, we've had a lot more teacher involvement in building-level decisions," said Jerry Weast, superintendent of Durham County Schools.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro system has attached a formal name, site-based management, to its version of this type of program.

"Site-based management is an attempt to (shift) control from bureaucratic hierarchies into the school site itself," said Mike Hickman, a Chapel Hill High School history teacher and

See STATE, page 7

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