

At a Glance

News briefs compiled from the Associated Press

Clinton: The rules have changed

President Clinton speaks to the press as Vice President Gore looks on, Monday, Oct. 6, in the Oval Office after using his new line-item veto powers to eliminate 38 projects worth \$287 million. "The use of the line-item saves taxpayers nearly \$290 million and makes clear the old rules have in fact changed," Clinton declared during the ceremony.



(AP Photo/Greg Gibson)



(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

Yassin returns to family, friends

Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin sits with his family after arriving home following a tumultuous reception by thousands of supporters Monday, Oct. 6. Yassin arrived in Gaza on Monday from Jordan after being sent there following his release from Israeli prison last week.

Family's grief intensified by irony

A classmate of slain 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley, of Cambridge, Mass., is hugged by an unidentified woman as they both view a memorial of flowers, candles, and other presents placed outside the family home in memory of Curley in Cambridge, Monday, Oct. 6. The family's anguish over the death and molestation of the boy was magnified Monday by reports that Curley's uncle works at the store where the alleged killers bought cement used to get rid of the body. The visitors from Curley's school refused to be identified.



(AP Photo/Steven Senn)

City stands up for children



A girl holds a placard in front of city hall during an anti-child labor demonstration in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, Oct. 6. About 200 children demonstrated, demanding tough action against child labor and sex abuse. Activists estimate up to 30,000 boy prostitutes service foreign pedophiles in the resorts on this Indian Ocean island nation.

(AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe)

Latino festival to feature 50 films

Latino actor Edward James Olmos exhorts moviegoers to attend the first Los Angeles International Latino Film Festival during a news conference, Monday, Oct. 6, in Universal City, Calif. Olmos, producer and artistic director of the festival, said the five-day event, Oct. 8-12 at Universal City, will showcase more than 50 Latino films from the United States and Latin America.



(Photo by Chris Pizzello, HO)



Jim Fatzinger, executive director of CONTACT, is looking to the community for direction. The Help Line is currently operating with 66 percent of the needed volunteers.



A young volunteer takes a crisis call on CONTACT's hotline.

CONTACT

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"The calls are much more difficult," said Fatzinger. "It used to be that loneliness was the No. 1 problem. Now it's domestic violence, depression and severe mental disorders."

"[Volunteers] can't afford to make any missteps," he added. CONTACT volunteers must finish two four-hour shifts a month to qualify for service. After 100 hours, one is considered a first-level volunteer.

Besides the huge commitment required to volunteer at CONTACT, the crisis line now has much more competition for volunteers than just 10 years ago. From 1989 to 1994, North Carolina saw a 45 percent growth increase in nonprofit organizations.

With a wider selection of volunteer opportunities from which to choose, it may not come as a

surprise that most people opt for the easiest. Many agencies only ask that people spend a day to combat world hunger or aid cancer research.

Fatzinger, though careful to point out the benefits of such agencies, said that one-day events promote "fair weather volunteerism." The mentality also undermines cost-effective services like those provided by CONTACT.

Fatzinger's organization is part of the nation's largest association of nonprofit 24-hour crisis lines. There are other agencies that provide similar services, said Fatzinger, but most have paid employees instead of volunteers.

Government agencies may have to fill the gap left if organizations such as CONTACT close down, which means a greater cost to taxpayers.

"We're going to pay for this as a community sooner or later," said Fatzinger. "Maybe those who voted down the bonds (ref-

erendum held in June) should volunteer here."

The problem goes deeper than the swell of feel-good volunteer opportunities. Despite the perception that Americans have more leisure time on their hands, fewer and fewer people are able to volunteer for even one-day events.

More and more women have to work outside the home in two-parent families, in order to make ends meet. And single moms prefer to get involved in activities and organizations that directly affect their children, such as PTA or booster clubs.

In the African-American community, most people who volunteer do so at their churches, and don't seek outside agencies. Fatzinger is particularly concerned with how few African Americans volunteer for CONTACT.

Though 40 percent of the callers are African-American, representing area demographics,

only 10 percent of the volunteer force is black.

Just eight years ago, almost half of CONTACT's staff were homemakers; now, none of the volunteers are stay-at-home moms.

The movement of women into the work force is not unique to the Triad. While African-American women have always represented a large percentage of females working for pay, white women have entered the labor force at a rapid pace in the last-10 years. Their employment numbers are now almost equal to black females.

Fatzinger is aware of the extra burden on people's leisure time, but he can't forget the bottom line: CONTACT needs volunteers. He recently sent out over 20,000 bulletins to area churches; only five people applied for fall training.

"I'm trying to ask the community, 'What do you want us to do?'" he said.

DOWNTOWN

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in the South for hustle and bustle. City officials just want to give those employees a reason to not go straight home.

An attraction such as an "urban entertainment center" could be the answer. In cities such as Houston and Philadelphia, downtown areas have benefited from large complexes that offer a choice of restaurants, nightclubs and other recreation, all under one roof. That entertainment center could possibly compliment a motor sports hall of fame.

Such a venture could attract a lot of visitors to Winston-Salem; NASCAR races have the strongest attendance records of all major sports, and viewership keeps growing. Since consultants presented this idea last summer, Steelman has gotten feedback from all over the state from people supporting the venture.

"When I first heard of it, I thought it was a good idea," said East Winston Development Task Force chair Norma Smith. "Although I'm not a fan of

But there have already been grumblings from residents who don't like the idea of a NASCAR or Winston Cup Hall of Fame in their downtown.

"If we want to put ourselves on the map, [a motor sport hall of fame] represents the opportunity to do so," said Steelman. "But I don't know if the community wants to be on the map or not."

The proposal has left many African Americans wondering, "What's in it for us?" NASCAR fans tend to be white, while events such as the CIAA are patronized by all races.

Some African Americans concerned with economic development predicted the theme park would be a boon to black businesses — if people are willing to take the opportunity.

"What we saw in Greenville was unlike any other downtown I have seen that was lost, and then

NASCAR, I know there are a lot out there."

As the revitalization of downtown would benefit everyone in Winston, said Smith, it would also depend on all citizens for its success.

Hardin Richards, owner of Richards Art Gallery on West Fourth Street, agreed.

"I think if we're not part of the plan, we have to make ourselves part of the plan," said Richards, who sits on the Downtown Development Corporation board. "Opportunity is no more than taking advantage of what's at hand."

Richards joined city staff and other board members on a visit to Greenville, S.C. There the group found a bustling, after-hours downtown. Strollers, cafe diners and street musicians filled the streets.

"What we saw in Greenville was unlike any other downtown I have seen that was lost, and then

came back," said Richards. He attributed Greenville's success to the broad spectrum of involvement in the revitalization effort.

Steelman said the creation of a "restaurant row" in Winston's downtown is a more immediate possibility for revitalization. There are currently about 30 restaurants open for business in the downtown area; most, however, close after lunch. Greenville supports over 100 restaurants in a similar area, most of which are open for dinner.

Smith said that restaurant ownership probably offers the best opportunity for African-American entrepreneurs.

"I know we can cook — we've been doing it for years," she said.

Richards said Smith, other area residents and Liberty Street cannot grow unless the downtown is revived.

"It's hard to separate one from the other," said Smith. "The success of one would certainly hinge on the other."

APPEAL

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this department who want to do everything they can to discriminate."

Attorneys for the department are trying to persuade Thompson that the state is not violating a 1994 agreement in the lawsuit, although black employees say otherwise. Wiggins has said there are about 3,500 plaintiff class members.

The lawsuit was filed in 1985 by employee Johnny Reynolds. It was settled under former Gov. Jim Folsom's administration, with the court ordering new hiring and promotion guidelines.

Department officials under Folsom agreed to recruit black employees and award back pay to those who could prove discrimination. But Thompson reopened the case in response to com-

plaints by black employees that the department was not even.

Now with testimony resumed before Thompson and the state appealing, the end is nowhere in sight.

A federal judge last week, after hearing testimony by a division engineer, ordered the department to stop assigning workers to crews based on their race. Department officials in Montgomery said they had no idea there were segregated work crews, and the engineer later said his testimony was misinterpreted.

Two years ago the state reached a settlement in a racial bias case against the Department of Public Safety. The state personnel director, Halycon Ballard, said that case and the one against the Transportation Department may just be warmups for court action on a pending racial bias case that involves other state

agencies.

Bass, a former director of the Transportation Department, said he has no idea why the case is continuing.

"There is nothing about this situation that I understand," Bass said.

He said Thompson "has found the department guilty of discrimination."

"He (Thompson) did it on the testimony of the plaintiffs. He has already made the decision we are guilty so he is going back now and taking testimony from the defense. That's like hang them and then give them a fair trial," Bass said.

Bass said the department has been losing veteran, top-level employees and is not able to replace them because of the dispute over how to hire and promote.

In 1990, the Department's

4,175 employees included 878 blacks, or 21 percent, said Reynolds, the department's personnel director.

He said the department last month had 1,041 blacks among its 3,965 employees, or 26 percent.

Bass said there has been almost no hiring in recent years because of the lawsuit and much of the department's work is now being done by contract with private companies.

"We've lost a great number of the well-qualified people who knew how to develop plans," Bass said. "At this point in time, in-house production is pretty low because of the morale of the people."

He said morale is low because