



IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world.

Black Texaco employees accept settlement offer

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — All 1,342 black Texaco employees covered by a \$115 million landmark race discrimination settlement have apparently accepted the offer.

The past and current Texaco employees had until Tuesday to notify Texaco by mail that they would opt out of the settlement, giving them the right to sue separately. None had done so, plaintiff lawyer Dan Berger said.

"We've spoken to a number who were considering it," Berger said. "But when they hear what they're going to get, people are getting much more than they ever could hope to recover if they pursued individual lawsuits."

The workers would receive an average of \$60,000 each, depending on length of employment. Initiators of the class-action lawsuit would get more.

Yeltsin: rocket launches reborn space program

BLAGOVESHCHENSK, Russia —

Russia launched the first rocket from its new Svobodny cosmodrome today and President Boris Yeltsin said the country remains a space leader despite setbacks to its cash-strapped space program.

Yeltsin ordered construction of the cosmodrome in the Amur region a year ago to ease Moscow's dependence on Baikonur, once the Soviet Union's main launch site and now part of the Central Asian nation of Kazakhstan.

Russia still leases Baikonur for manned flights, and also has the Plesetsk launch site in the northwest.

Today's launch of the 191-pound Zeya satellite "opens a new page in Russia's space research," Yeltsin wrote in a message to the cosmodrome staff.

The new launch site about 60 miles from the Chinese border "will ensure our country's guaranteed access to outer space and will promote a comprehensive development of the Far East region," Yeltsin said.

McVeigh's lawyers decide not to seek trial delay

DENVER — Timothy McVeigh's lawyers decided Tuesday not to seek a delay in his trial, saying they believe the Oklahoma City bombing suspect can get a fair trial despite a newspaper story about his purported confession.

The defense team made the decision after discussing options with McVeigh, and then meeting with U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch and prosecutors.

"We did not ask for a continuance. We gathered with the government and with the judge, and we were all on the same page," lawyer Stephen Jones said

as he left the 45-minute meeting at the federal courthouse.

He said jury selection would start March 31. "That's what our client wants, and that's what we want, and I think that's what everybody wants," he said.

Prosecutor Pat Ryan said he did not believe a delay was necessary. "I share the confidence of Mr. Jones and the court that the people here will be able to give Mr. McVeigh a fair trial."

Ohio River floodwaters drown Midwest towns

Louisville, Ky., bolted the gates shut in its floodwall Tuesday as the highest water along the Ohio River in 30 years pushed downstream, swamping one town after another and swelling the ranks of people driven from their homes.

"I literally broke down and cried at 4 this morning," Jack Hall said after watching the Ohio lap through the door of his home in Utica, Ind.

The Ohio was out of its banks from West Virginia to Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, and the water wasn't expected to crest in most places until Wednesday or later. Thousands of evacuees waited for the river to start dropping; thousands more downstream moved out.

"All I've got is the clothes on my back," Mike Donley said after leaving his home in New Richmond, Ohio, a community of some 2,500 people about 20 miles upstream from Cincinnati.

President Clinton declared 14 counties disaster areas in Ohio and nine in Kentucky.

Senate rejects budget amendment

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — In a stinging setback for Republicans, the balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution went down to narrow defeat in the Senate on Tuesday at the hands of Democrats.

In the end, all 55 Republicans and 11 Democrats voted for the amendment. The other 34 Democrats voted against it, making a 66-34 vote.

It marked the third year in a row the

GOP had failed to muster the support to pass a cornerstone of their agenda.

Republican frustration was evident before the vote, when Sen. Orrin Hatch repeatedly accused Democrats of "demagoguery."

Democrats, he said, "don't want to cast the right vote" to force an end to nearly three decades of nonstop deficits.

But Democrats had long since made up their minds because of social security issues. Senate Democratic leader Tom

Daschle said, "For millions of older Americans it is the difference between living in dignity, and living in fear and poverty. A balanced-budget amendment shouldn't force us to break that historic contract."

President Clinton said he was pleased with the amendment's defeat. "Let me be clear: While I oppose a constitutional amendment, I am committed to achieving the bipartisan goal of balancing the budget by 2002."

PHI GAMMA DELTA

FROM PAGE 1

further technological advances, Binder said.

Following the fire, the fraternity was

temporarily relocated in a University owned house. The chapter has a two-year lease on that house, for which it is paying fair market value, Binder said.

Garrett said he was thankful for the support from the community and was

ready to get started with the new house. "The city has been great and we appreciate all they have done for us," Garrett said. "It is the best interest of the citizens of Chapel Hill to get the house rebuilt as soon as possible."

DEAF

FROM PAGE 1

ing, using facial expressions, writing notes, cueing and speaking orally.

Jeremy Johnson, a freshman from Winterville, said without hearing aids he could hear nothing quieter than a lawn mower.

Johnson communicates orally, but sometimes has difficulty understanding what people are saying to him. Then he has to ask them to repeat themselves.

"I really don't like to do that very much," he said, adding that he has become used to it. "I don't know what

it's like to be hearing, but I know how to deal with it."

Grace Consacro, a junior from Nashville, Tenn., lip reads, speaks and uses Cued Speech to communicate.

"(Being deaf) is not something I think about every second of the day," she said through a telephone relay operator, who reads aloud the words Consacro has typed on her TTY, which allows deaf people to communicate on the phone.

"I tend to not really notice it until something pops up to make me think about it," Consacro said.

One of those times was when Consacro had to watch a film for a class.

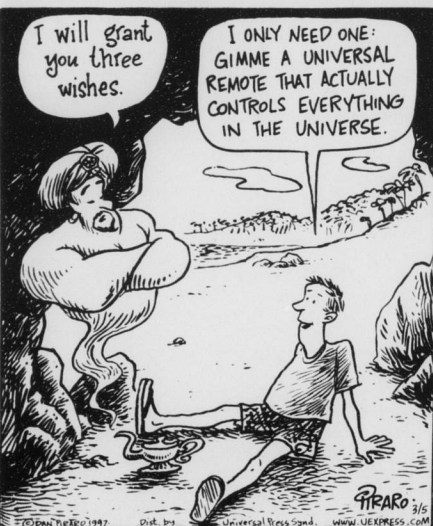
She had to specially order and watch a closed-captioned version. "Everyone was very helpful, but it's the little things like that," she said.

She added that many people don't shy away from talking to her simply because she's deaf. "They seem to take it in stride," she said.

But she said there are others who don't try to communicate with her because they're afraid.

"I'm sure some people don't know how to react," she said. "There will always be some people who can't wait to get as far away from something that makes them uncomfortable."

Bizarro



Russians sew dress to express respect

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Students at a school in St. Petersburg have sewn an emerald green silk dress as a gift for first daughter Chelsea Clinton.

The students — who study at a special school where they receive training in making Russian handicrafts — put the traditional-style dress on display Monday at St. Petersburg's House of Friendship and Peace, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

In a letter, the students said they were inspired by President Clinton's re-election campaign and made the dress for his 17-year-old daughter as an expression of "respect for your family," ITAR-Tass said.

The students intend to present the dress to Chelsea's mother, Hillary Rodham Clinton, during a U.S.-Russia summit that will take place March 20 through March 21 in Helsinki, Finland.

Traditional Russian dresses usually are embroidered sleeveless frocks worn over wide-sleeved white blouses.

COURSE

FROM PAGE 1

turns away about 30 students each semester who want to enroll.

The 20 students she does enroll meet for an hour twice a week to learn new signs and practice ones they have already learned.

"Students have a desire to learn it," McIntyre said. "There's definitely a need there."

Senior Krista Stewart, who taught the class the one semester McIntyre did not, said the relatively low deaf population on campus makes it difficult for hearing

students to know deaf students and be aware of deaf issues.

There are 17 students on campus who are deaf or hearing-impaired. That means less than one tenth of the University's students have hearing impairments, as opposed to 7 to 10 percent of the local and national general populations.

"Deaf people have their own needs," McIntyre said, mentioning everything from deaf education to special vibrating alarm clocks.

She said students should know about deaf issues as well as sign language.

"If they're going to be learning the

language, they need to know who they're learning it about," she said.

Lauren Thrower, a sophomore from Charlotte, is taking McIntyre's class this semester so she can learn different ASL teaching methods. Thrower taught ASL last semester to members of her sorority.

She said she hoped to expand her class next semester to all undergraduates and continue trying to get an undergraduate ASL course offered after McIntyre and Stewart graduate in May.

"We're still very much working on it," Thrower said. "I think it's important because deaf people aren't people to be ignored."

LENOIR

FROM PAGE 1

Intramural Recreation Department said Camp Lenoir would definitely have an impact on their group's use of the Pit.

One IM-Rec fall activity includes 45 tables in the Pit that represent different intramural sports groups.

"We're going to have to come up with

an alternative plan," Pomerantz said.

Heather Overfield, a junior from Raleigh, questioned why the construction would begin before summer school, when fewer students would be inconvenienced.

"It is just going to make it inconvenient for the last part of the year."

To create more room for students and alleviate congestion, the University

might move the picnic tables from under the Union canopy to create a walkway, Union Director Don Luce said.

"We are going into things with an understanding that there are going to be some changes," he said.

Luce said they could not plan for everything, but were trying to stay flexible. "We ... are doing our best to accommodate everyone's needs."

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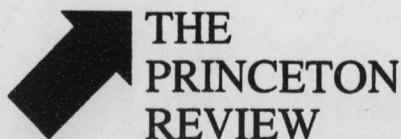
Monday, March 17 from 7:30-9:00, Teague Dorm

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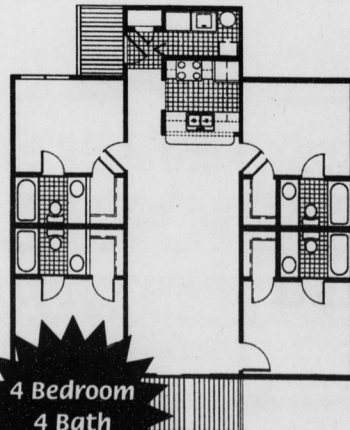
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