



Top Stories From the State, Nation and World

IN THE NEWS

Slaying Inquiry Sparks Race Debate in Britain

LONDON - An official inquiry published Wednesday into the racist slaying of a black teen-ager - and the bungled police investigation that followed - has provoked a disturbing national debate on racism in Britain. The blatant failure of London's police to properly investigate the 1993 stabbing death of 17-year-old Stephen Lawrence and the arrogance of the five white youths accused of his killing have spawned accusations of racism. None of the suspects have been convicted. The report denounced London's police force as fundamentally racist - prompting the government to announce it would broaden anti-discrimination laws and make immediate changes in policing methods. "It certainly has been an eye-opener

for ordinary middle England people," said Virginia Gibbons of the state-funded Commission for Racial Equality. Callers to TV talk shows said Thursday that they felt ashamed, and many British ethnic minorities felt the report was a lesson for the nation's 93 percent white majority. But Prime Minister Tony Blair said the lesson would be lost if the repercussions of the Lawrence inquiry went only as far as the police and government. "It will require a determination that the real monument to Stephen Lawrence is not to be found in the laws passed by Parliament, but in the fundamental change in attitude in our society."

Albright: Korean Aid Needed Despite Threat

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright today called North Korea a "huge threat" to the United States but rejected a congressional appeal for a suspension of food aid to that country.

Albright, testifying at a House International Relations Committee meeting, said President Clinton planned to discuss the North Korean issue Friday with former Defense Secretary William Perry, who has been reviewing U.S. policy toward North Korea. The meeting will take place in San Francisco.

Among the concerns listed by Albright were U.S. suspicions that North Korea may have embarked on a new nuclear program at an underground site,

and its missile development program.

Livingston Bids Adieu To Congress in Speech

WASHINGTON - Rep. Bob Livingston gave his last speech to Congress today, urging politicians from both parties to show greater tolerance and willingness to work together.

"Tolerance is a necessity, politician is not a dirty word and compromise is the glue that renders democracy possible," the Louisiana Republican said. He officially resigns from Congress on Sunday.

Livingston, who served 21 years in the House, was within days of being chosen as speaker when he announced Dec. 19, during House debate on the impeachment of President Clinton, that he was leaving Congress. Two days before he disclosed he had had extra-marital affairs.

Bush to Announce Intentions in 2 Weeks

AUSTIN, Texas - After fending off questions for months about his presidential ambitions, Gov. George W. Bush said Thursday he would announce his White House intentions in two weeks.

Bush again refused to say what that decision will be.

"In two weeks, I'll make an announcement. So, I'll see you in two weeks," Bush said at a news conference. Asked what he had decided, he replied: "If I told you what I'd announce, you wouldn't even show up."

Two advisers to Bush, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press in Washington that they had been told to prepare for the Republican governor to announce the formation of a campaign exploratory committee, which would allow him to raise and spend money while testing the waters. "We are prepared for a go, but he still has two weeks to change his mind," one of the advisers said.

Rebels, Yugoslav Army Clash Despite Truce

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia - Explosions and the crackle of gunfire broke out Thursday between Yugoslav army forces and Kosovo rebels in defiance of Western warnings that they hold to a cease-fire during the 2-week suspension in peace talks.

German Gen. Klaus Naumann, head of NATO's panel of military planners, worried about the fighting as well as what he called a "significant" buildup of Yugoslav forces in and near Kosovo.

The situation in Kosovo, the ethnic Albanian-majority province in southern Serbia where more than 2,000 people have died in fighting the past year, is "more than tense. It's almost a powder keg," Naumann said Thursday.

Blasts and small-arms fire Thursday erupted from Bukos, 20 miles northwest of the provincial capital of Pristina, where Serb tanks and mortars were targeting separatist Kosovo Liberation Army positions near the village.

- Associated Press

Studio 3 to Present Classic Greek Play

Sophocles' 'Antigone' deals with emotional struggles dealing with love, loyalty, justice and family ties.

By SUSANNAH DAINOW
Staff Writer

Greek tragedy takes center stage this weekend at Playmakers Theatre as the Department of Dramatic Art's Studio 3 produces Sophocles' classic, Antigone.

"(Antigone) examines the fate of one exceptional girl and explores the concepts of loyalty, love and justice," according to a press release.

Julie Fischell, the faculty director of Antigone, called it an intimate play, which examined how one family's decisions affected the rest of the world.

In the play, Antigone's brothers fight over the throne of Thebes, and both are slain. The new king decrees that one brother cannot be buried, condemning his soul to linger in an eternal limbo. The play hinges on Antigone's choice between allowing her brother to suffer

this punishment or to burying him herself and accepting the consequences.

Fishell said several productions of ancient Greek plays were running in New York City. Considered classics by Western society, Greek tragedies are again becoming popular in contemporary theater, she said.

"If you've never seen (a Greek tragedy) before, this is a great time to introduce yourself to the genre," she said.

For those who are worried about understanding the language, never fear. Fishell said Richard Emil Braun's translation maintained the power of Sophocles' language without losing the audience. She described it as "accessible" and "poetic" at the same time.

The production's staging will also reflect and reinforce the play's moral ideas, Fishell said. As Kreon's (the king) decisions provoke more and more conflict, parts of the set begin to change shape or fall apart completely.

As part of Studio 3, Antigone also offers a rare chance for students to work with a faculty director.

"It's been an incredible experience," said Adam Gerdt, a junior history and drama major who is a member of the chorus. "We get to work with a faculty member, and we actually have a budget."

The Arts Editors can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Antigone
Friday 8 p.m.
Saturday 4 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday 8 p.m.
Monday 4 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Tuesday 5 p.m.
Old Playmakers Theatre

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