



WORLD BRIEFS

2 officers fired for leaving boy with killer

MILWAUKEE — The police chief fired two officers Friday for leaving an "obviously incapacitated," naked boy in the hands of Jeffrey Dahmer two months before dismembered bodies were found in Dahmer's apartment.

A third officer was placed under close work supervision for a year.

Chief Philip Arreola cited "acts of omission" by the officers in the May 27 encounter. They included a failure to take witnesses' names at the scene and failure to take the 14-year-old boy into protective custody.

The mutilated bodies of 11 males, including the youth, Konerak Sinthasomphone, were later found in Dahmer's apartment. Witnesses summoned police on May 27 after seeing the youth on the street, naked and bleeding, records show.

Dahmer has admitted killing and dismembering 17 males since 1978.

"I have concluded the officers failed to properly perform their duties," Arreola said.

Patrolmen John Balcerzak, 34, Joseph Gabrish, 28, and Richard Porubcan, 25, were suspended July 26 and charged with departmental violations. Arreola fired Balcerzak and Gabrish and effectively placed Porubcan for one year with close supervision. The chief said Porubcan was allowed to keep his job because of his relative inexperience, and because he was less culpable in handling the incident.

The three officers questioned Dahmer but decided to leave Sinthasomphone at Dahmer's apartment after accepting his explanation the boy was his 19-year-old lover, records show.

U.N. chief to discuss hostages with Iranians

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will go to Iran this week in his quest to win the release of 11 Western hostages in Lebanon and hundreds of Arabs held by Israel and its Lebanese allies.

He is scheduled to arrive Tuesday night in Tehran for two days of talks with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and other officials.

The hostage situation is expected to dominate the discussions, but the civil war in Afghanistan and the aftermath of

the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War also are on the agenda.

Perez de Cuellar has declined to disclose the specifics of his hostage discussions with various parties, saying only that he remains optimistic that freedom can be gained for all prisoners.

Macedonia joins fight for independence

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Macedonians crowded into polling stations Sunday to vote on independence for their poor region, and fighting flared again in Croatia after a one-day lull.

The renewed fighting came a day after the European Community opened a peace conference in the Netherlands attended by the leaders of Yugoslavia's federal government, the heads of the federation's six republics and the foreign ministers of the 12 EC nations.

Results were not expected before Tuesday on Macedonia's referendum. It asks voters whether the republic should declare independence, with an option to rejoin a looser Yugoslav alliance of sovereign states. Polls before the vote said Macedonians strongly favored the proposal.

Macedonia, the poorest area of Yugoslavia, would be the third republic to seek to leave the fragmenting federation. Slovenia and Croatia, the two wealthiest republics, declared independence on June 25, triggering more than two months of combat.

More than 20 die in ambush of Inkatha

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Gunmen ambushed members of the Inkatha Freedom Party marching through a black township on Sunday, killing more than 20 people in the worst single attack in recent months.

Six more blacks were killed in other incidents, and two journalists were shot and wounded in the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg.

A police spokesman, Col. Frans Malherbe, said he did not know who committed the massacre in Tokoza. The township, 12 miles southeast of Johannesburg, has been the site of repeated fighting between the two leading black groups, the African National Congress and the Zulu-based Inkatha movement.

— The Associated Press

STATE AND NATIONAL

Hamlet residents searching for answers

None of the emergency doors in the building met state inspection standards, said Mark Schulz, executive director of the N.C. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Two of the fire exits were locked, and several other exits were either bolted shut or blocked.

Survivors claimed management locked several of the emergency exits to keep employees from stealing chickens, he said.

"It is absolutely unbelievable that a company can get away with the lack of safety precautions they had," said Tim Bradley, deputy commissioner of the Department of Insurance's fire and rescue services division. "Imperial Foods basically violated every code in the book."

The Imperial plant had not been inspected by state or local fire officials during its 11 years of operation.

Blame for this should fall on the state General Assembly and on the governor's office for not providing the money to hire more inspectors, Schulz said.

Currently the state employs 16 safety inspectors.

"State and local governments need to

look at this as an example of what not to do," said Joseph Kinney, executive director of the National Safe Workplace Institute in Chicago. "We have so much to do in terms of worker safety. This is just such a tragedy, and (it) was so preventable. The company should be punished, but we also need to look at what the government could have done to prevent this from ever happening."

Federal officials and representatives from the Georgia OSHA began inspecting Imperial's plant in Cumming, Ga. last week, hoping to prevent the same type of disaster from reoccurring.

Autopsies showed that all those who died in the Hamlet fire suffered from carbon-monoxide poisoning caused by smoke inhalation.

"What we know right now is that a majority of the deaths occurred because victims could not get out. Many of the doors were locked or bolted. The workers just couldn't get out in several cases," he said.

The Department of Insurance report will go to the Department of Labor and to Richmond County District Attorney Carroll Lowder. Lowder is uncertain whether legal action will be taken against

Imperial Foods, noting, "It is still way too early to make a definitive statement about that. All the facts aren't in yet."

Officials at Imperial's Atlanta headquarters refused to talk about the fire, but promised to release a full statement once federal and state investigations were complete.

Federal investigators will tour the fire site early this week and will give their report to the House Education and Labor Committee Thursday, Sept. 12.

U.S. Sen. William Ford, D-Mich., chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, is deeply involved in the worker safety movement. Ford, along with U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., introduced the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Reform Act in August. The bill would give employees some power in monitoring workplace safety.

While the committee will address the Hamlet fire and hopefully provide answers to victims' families, the disaster will also provide some momentum to the Reform Act when the members of Congress return from their August recess this week, said Mark Russell, press secretary for Sen. Ford.

By Anna Griffin
Staff Writer

Like the rest of Hamlet, James Arnold wants some answers.

"No one is giving us any answers. I want to know how something like this can happen," said Arnold, of Hamlet, N.C., whose sister died in the Imperial Foods Products fire last Tuesday.

"I can't believe this can happen to us, to a community like ours," Arnold said.

In the aftermath of the fire, while relatives of the 25 dead and 55 wounded try to piece together their lives, state and federal investigators will try to piece together the facts in hopes of preventing similar disasters.

A report filed Friday by the N.C. Department of Insurance blames improperly locked doors for most of the deaths, but a definite cause may not be discovered for several weeks.

The fire began around 8:15 a.m. Tuesday when a hydraulic line ruptured near a frying vat in the processing room. This set off a blaze which then spread quickly through the 33,000 square-foot building, according to the Department of Insurance.

'Firing Line' debates campus freedom

By West Lockhart
Staff Writer

Are institutions of higher learning restricting the scope of vigorous and robust debate? Have homosexuality, affirmative action for minorities and women's rights become part of a "cult of forbidden questions?" Where does a university draw the line for inflammatory language and racial epithets?

These were just several of the issues debated Friday night on the PBS talk show, Firing Line, in a match pitting two teams of intellectuals who argued whether freedom of thought is in danger on American college campuses.

William Buckley Jr., conservative commentator and host of Firing Line, was joined by three other scholars: Glenn Loury, Dinesh D'Souza, and John Silber, to argue that freedom of thought is, in fact, threatened.

"I believe exchanges of a certain character are always healthy. If they are abusive, they cease to be healthy. This is the position I and my colleagues hold to," Buckley said.

Loury, a professor of political economy at Boston University, argued

that the severe consequences for both professors and students engaging in potentially offensive discourse has narrowed the scope of debate on campuses.

According to Loury, a "cult of sensitivity" has evolved in such a way that particular substantive issues of vital importance to be discussed cannot be discussed, because certain insular minorities are exercising power... to curtail the discussion, so their feelings will not be hurt.

Because of this cult, issues like racial academic performance, homosexuality, affirmative action and women's rights cannot be discussed, Loury said.

Stanley Fish, Duke University professor of English and law, refused to accept this position.

"There is always a sense of what can and can't be (safely) said," Fish said. "The game has changed, and what they used to be able to say with impunity, they can't say, and what they never expected to hear anybody say is being greeted with cheers and applause."

Joining Fish were Leon Botstein, Catharine Stimpson and Ronald Walters.

"The issue is not freedom of thought,"

said Botstein in his opening argument, "The issue is fear."

Botstein, president of Bard College in New York, argued that freedom of thought is not in danger and those who believe it is are suffering from "false nostalgia."

"People don't like change, least of all faculty," Botstein said. "Faculty have never been known for their courage to speak out. There has never been a high degree of freedom of thought as critics now accuse us of not having. There is more freedom of thought now, (but) we don't believe discourse and discussion will change someone's mind."

When pressed by D'Souza to explain what he thought constituted acceptable speech and ideas, Botstein said, "All should be tolerated. I say, say all those terrible things, because if we can't correct those terrible things at 18 or 19, the whole ball game is lost."

D'Souza capitalized on the recent public interest in political correctness. "There is a comic element to this debate. Maybe it is the case that pets should be called animal companions. Maybe it is the case that short people should be called the vertically chal-

lenged," D'Souza said.

Throughout the debate D'Souza harped on the issue of campus censorship codes and whether these codes are ethical. "More than 50 percent of American colleges now have censorship codes on the book that prosecute and punish speech and ideas that are thought to be offensive," D'Souza said.

D'Souza claims that anti-harassment codes are not being enforced in a manner consistent with their proposed use. The codes are not effectively punishing the incidents of hate speech and racial epithets and are causing a proliferation of groups who claim victim status and create an intolerable atmosphere for discourse, he said.

Buckley reiterated D'Souza's belief when he said there "has been a gradual institutionalization of this code of conduct, the effect of which is to prevent people from ventilating their views."

Stimpson, dean of the graduate school at Rutgers University and a staunch supporter of multiculturalism, refused to back away from her belief in the importance of freedom of speech. "Inquiry can't go on without healthy and robust debate."

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Helmet
Dr. Raymond Stumer, who petitioned the council to adopt the ordinance, said the only additional resources required by enforcement would be the cost of printing the warning tickets.
"It's not like the police are going to be running down anyone without a helmet on," said Stumer, who is director of the Duke Child Development Unit.
After talking to officials in Columbia, Md., where a law requiring bicycle riders to wear helmets has been in effect since January, Stumer said he did not think Chapel Hill would have to hire any more police officers to enforce the ordinance.

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"Since January, officers in Colombia have only issued 20 warning citations," he said. "Because there was a law, people wear their helmets."
In a letter to the council, Chapel Hill resident Charles Billings said he thought the ordinance would restrict his ability to make decisions concerning his personal safety.
Stumer said he thought public interests would be protected by the ordinance and considered it no more of a violation than laws requiring motorcycle riders to wear helmets.
"We could say to adults who don't want to wear these helmets, 'Let them go ahead and kill themselves,' but kids need guidance," he said. "Everyone should wear helmets, because adults are

role models."

Council member Art Werner compared the proposed ordinance to gun restriction laws and laws that require automobile passengers to wear seat belts.

"All laws violate somebody's right to do something stupid," he said.

Werner said he thought the ordinance should apply to all age groups.

"College students are more subject to get into accidents because they ride a lot faster and more recklessly," he said.

Adopting the ordinance to include all age groups also would help change public perception of helmet-wearing, Stumer said.

"We need to get society to accept the notion of wearing helmets," he said.

Grievance

in an intimidating way. Many felt that they had to sign it, and it was not given to everyone in the organization."

Doug Whitfield, P&A employee and grievance signer, said: "I don't think that the affidavit was fair play by the management. That isn't the way to run an organization."

"We've had to put up with all sorts of things since we've been here. This is just something else. Everything is done undercover and in secret. Now things are coming out."

"There is definitely a division in the employees here," Whitfield said. "The

problems started in 1984. In '88 and '90, they were brought to attention — the underhanded, unfair promotions — just about anything you can think of. The management and their favorites all get the raises."

Baldwin said all of the employees in the department should have been given an affidavit.

None of the employees who filed the grievance received an affidavit.

"Noone said that they wanted Charles Foskey fired," Baldwin said. "If the ship is sailing one way, and you go the opposite direction, something is wrong,

though." Schafer said, "Our total intent was that both sides be heard in the hearing, not just the grievants' side."

The second grievance also states that the grievants do not want "personal gain" from the grievance but want to improve the organization.

They stated that they based their grievance on a report compiled by the dean of the medical school, which found that about 75 percent of P&A employees have negative views of the management.

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