



WORLD BRIEFS

Charges filed against 12 coup conspirators

MOSCOW — Prosecutors charged 12 former high Soviet officials Tuesday with conspiring to seize power in the failed coup that quickened the demise of the Soviet Union.

The hard-line officials — including the former prime minister, defense minister and KGB chief — could face 10-15 years in prison or a firing squad for their participation in the August coup.

No date has been set for the trial that promises to be one of the most spec-

tacular court cases in Russian history. The suspects, six of whom formed an emergency committee that claimed to have taken power from an ailing Mikhail Gorbachev, already have challenged the fairness of the proceedings. Through their lawyers, they have said senior politicians and the media have distorted facts against them.

The charges culminate a four-month inquiry in which thousands of people were interviewed and 125 volumes of evidence compiled. Prosecutors scrutinized the KGB, armed forces, Communist Party and other institutions.

— The Associated Press

By Gillam Hall Staff Writer

Since 1985, N.C. taxpayers have spent millions of dollars and educators hundreds of hours trying to keep high school students from dropping out.

The latest state figures indicate that those efforts finally have begun to pay off.

During the 1990-91 academic year, 5.6 percent of the state's high school students quit school, marking the first time the dropout rate has dipped below 6 percent, according to a recent report by the N.C. Department of Public In-

STATE AND NATIONAL

Fewer N.C. high school students dropping out

struction. The state dropout rate has fallen more than 2 percent during the past four school years.

"This good news is the result of sustained hard work and attention over the past several years by schools and entire communities," said Bob Etheridge, state superintendent of public instruction, within the report.

Out of 134 N.C. school districts, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro system had the third lowest dropout rate for high school students; only 1.49 percent of the students in grades 9-12 quit school during the 1990-91 year.

N.C. officials attribute part of the state's success in dropout prevention to the Basic Education Plan, a program instituted in 1985 as an effort to refresh the N.C. educational system. Under the program, the state allocates \$30 million annually to encourage students to stay in school.

This funding goes directly to individual school systems, giving local educators the freedom to create their own dropout prevention programs.

Following state guidelines, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro system devised a program that has reduced the number of dropouts by more than 1 percent during

the past three school years. With the success of this program, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro system now ranks well above state and national averages in dropout prevention.

"We have dropout prevention coordinators that work extensively with students to keep them in school," said Kim Hoke, an assistant to outgoing Chapel Hill-Carrboro Superintendent Gerry House. "The work of these people has played a large role in keeping it low. Traditionally, we have had one of the lowest rates in the state."

Another district which has worked hard to keep students in school is the Halifax County School System. Since 1985, the district has hired several counselors to encourage students to continue their studies.

Robert Goff, dropout prevention counselor at Northwest High School in Halifax County, credits the work of his school's leader.

"Our principal is a human relations person who uses incentives," Goff said. "He is big on the reward system. It is not at all unusual for him to give a home room ... a party if they have perfect attendance."

In addition to the incentive program,

the school also makes students understand that absences are not overlooked, Goff said.

"We work our absentee list every afternoon," he said. "We call them all."

The Halifax County system has moved from the bottom of the state's dropout list to 82nd since the 1989-90 academic year. It also ranked first in dropout reduction figures among N.C. county school systems during the same period.

State officials hope the downward trend in the number of dropouts will continue until North Carolina meets or exceeds the national average, said Johnnie McLaughlin, director of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's division of student services.

Anne Bryan, the state's chief consultant for dropout prevention, said that recent progress in dropout prevention signaled a trend that should continue in coming years.

"We need to bring it (the percentage of dropouts) down as close as we can to zero," Bryan said. "We feel like we've made a difference, though."

Council from page 1

the building's basement. Top of the Hill's owner will not own the new convenience store, Defravia said.

The building also will house office, restaurant and retail space with a two-story facade facing Franklin Street and a three-story facade facing Columbia Street.

Retailers will use the basement, first and second floors of the building. Offices will occupy the second floor. The third floor is expected to have space for a restaurant or offices.

The owners of School Kids Records, now located at 144 E. Franklin St., already have expressed interest in relocating to the building, Riddle said Monday.

Fire from page 1

to the two displaced tenants.

"The people here have really pulled together," she said. "We've had calls from people offering clothing, food, beds — you name it. They've been wonderfully supportive."

Woodbridge residents are required to have renter's insurance, which would compensate for any loss, Vick said.

"At this point it's hard to determine what legal action will take place," she said. "(Bownan and Donegan) should receive damage compensation as long as their insurance was current."

Bownan and Donegan will be given the opportunity to move into other Woodbridge units, Vick said.

Dorothy Bernholz, director of Student Legal Services, said the majority of students living in apartments did not have renter's insurance because they still might be covered by their parents' policies.

"We strongly encourage students to take out their own plans," Bernholz said. "If individual negligence is to blame for a fire, legal action can certainly follow. But insurance is the best way to ensure compensation."

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Campus Calendar

WEDNESDAY

11 a.m. Y Horizons will have information about Campus Y committees until 2 p.m. in the Pit today and Thursday.

2 p.m. Re-Entry Meeting for all students returning from a study-abroad experience will be held until 5 p.m. in 208 Union.

JOB HUNT 103: Interviewing skills workshop for seniors and graduate students will be in 306 Hanes. Sponsored by University Career Planning and Placement Services.

5 p.m. Applications for The Daily Tar Heel will be available in Chase Hall until 7 p.m. today and Thursday. Interested students also can come by the DTH office before Friday.

5:30 p.m. Holy Communion at the Lutheran Campus Ministry with a fellowship meal at 6:15 p.m. Hear the "Alligator River Story" at Newman Student Night in the Newman Center.

Asian Students Association will meet in 206 Union. 6 p.m. Hunger and Homeless Outreach Projects will meet in the Campus Y Lounge.

UNC Scuba Club will meet in the second-floor Union lobby.

Living-Learning Programs will have an open house in Carmichael Ballroom for students interested in French, German, Spanish and health sciences houses and UNITAS.

La Casa Espanola tiene "una casa abierta" para todos — ven al Carmichael Ballroom on miercoles y descubierta que la casa es.

7 p.m. UNC Pre-Law Club will meet in 206 Union. District Attorney Carl Fox will speak.

Delegates Program will hold an informational meeting in 213 Union. Sponsored by the Leadership Matters ... Program.

Student Environmental Action Coalition will meet in 103 Bingham.

Carolina Comic Book Club will meet in the Union.

7:30 p.m. UNC Stag Club will meet in the Women's Gym (026 Woollen).

8 p.m. Noam Chomsky, Hanes-Willis visiting professor and influential linguist, psychologist and philosopher, will give a free lecture about "World Order: Old and New" in Memorial Hall.

Phi Sigma Pi will meet in 224 Union.

8:15 p.m. UNC-Soviet Exchange will meet in 209 Union.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The University Counseling Center is starting a Black Graduate Women's Support Group to begin Jan. 23. Call 962-2175.

Campus Y will hold elections for co-presidents, co-treasurers and secretary Feb. 4.

Applications are available at the Campus Y and are due at 5 p.m. Jan. 23.

Candidates must attend a mandatory meeting at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 16.

Phi Eta Sigma members: Graduate scholarship and undergraduate award applications are available in the Honors Office, 300 Steele.

Il reste des places a la Maison Francaise si vous aimez parler la langue, boire du bon vin, et rencontrer des bons amis, donnez un coup de fil: 933-0945.

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