



World Briefs

EC tries to avoid trade war with United States

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European ministers agreed Monday to seek a quick resumption of talks with the United States to avoid a trade war, but also went along with France's demand for the European Community to prepare its own list of retaliatory sanctions.

Italian Foreign Trade Minister Claudio Vitalone said the 12 EC states asked the bloc's Executive Commission to draft a list of U.S. goods to be targeted for trade sanctions if Washington imposed punitive tariffs on white wines and other EC products.

The Bush administration vowed to impose sanctions on \$300 million worth of goods exported to the United States after the two sides failed to break an impasse over EC subsidies to European farmers producing competitively priced grain products.

The dispute over subsidies is holding up an overall accord between the 105 nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

American escapes from four Iraqi kidnappers

KUWAIT — An American bomb disposal specialist said Monday he escaped from four Iraqis who tried to capture him at gunpoint in the disputed border zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

William Smith, 36, of Yorktown, Texas, told The Associated Press he was running from the Iraqis, one of whom aimed a pistol at him, when a United Nations vehicle stopped and picked him up Saturday morning.

Smith works with Environmental Health Research and Testing, an American company helping clear hundreds of thousands of mines left after the Persian Gulf War.

"I was scared to death," Smith said. "I didn't think they wanted to kill me, but I knew they wanted to capture me."

Smith said he was driving his jeep north of the old border when a car with four Iraqis, two of them armed and in military uniform, stopped him and asked him what he was doing there.

—The Associated Press

Conservatives woo congressional freshmen

By Bruce Robinson
Staff Writer

Some conservative political organizations are holding their own orientation seminars to court the U.S. Congress's freshman class and keep them from what they perceive as a liberal bias given by other sessions.

Matt Miller, director of congressional relations for the House of Representatives at the Heritage Foundation, said that in the past, new U.S. representatives and senators only had attended an orientation sponsored by Harvard University's Institute of Politics.

The Heritage Foundation, the Family Research Council and the Free Congress Foundation organized the New Congress Orientation Conference to combat the liberal bias of Harvard's program, Miller said.

"Every year, one of the things they are given is a taxpayer-funded trip to Harvard," he said. "Harvard is a clear choice if you want to continue the old

tax-and-spend policies."

Miller said the New Congress Orientation Conference, which is funded by private foundations, will take place from Dec. 10 to Dec. 12 at Annapolis, Maryland. All 110 new members of Congress were invited, he said.

Some of the programs scheduled are "Dethroning The Imperial Congress," "The Politics and Prospects of Health Care Reform," and "How to Deal with Lobbyists and Preserve Your Integrity." Speakers will include Jack Kemp, secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh, Miller said.

Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government receives funding from the House Administration and has held the orientation sessions since 1972. Their program will offer speakers from Dec. 10 to Dec. 15 at the university.

Jeff Biggs, press-secretary for Speaker of the House Thomas Foley, D-Wash., disagreed with claims that

Harvard's program was biased. "Clearly these orientation sessions are not intended to be partisan," he said.

Biggs said many Republicans attend the Harvard program and no one has refused to attend for fear of bias.

Dick Dingman, executive vice president of the Free Congress Foundation, said the organizations deliberately scheduled the New Congress Orientation Conference concurrent with Harvard's program to prevent the indoctrination of liberal policies for new congress members.

"Frankly, we don't see it as their advantage to attend the Harvard conference and get all that liberal brainwashing," he said.

Dingman said the New Congress Orientation Conference encouraged freshmen to speak out and be active in Congress. "Typically, a new member is told to be seen and not heard," he said. "We tell them the opposite."

Dingman said he thought the new members of Congress would choose to

attend the New Congress Orientation Conference instead of the Harvard program because the freshmen ran on a message of reform. "Most congressmen would not want to start their careers by taking a tax-funded junket to Harvard," he said.

However, some members of the N.C. freshman class already have committed to the Harvard conference.

Sheryl Perry, press-secretary for Eva Clayton, who was elected as a U.S. representative for North Carolina's 1st District, said Clayton was planning to attend the Harvard conference. Melvin Watt, who was elected to represent 12th District, also is planning to attend that conference.

Perry said the conference was part of an orientation series Clayton would be attending from now until January.

"She is going to a regional conference, a leadership institute at Atlanta, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday," she said. "She will learn the general way a congressional office operates."

Loreleis once again prove their flexibility on stage

As my friend and I sat in the darkened auditorium of Memorial Hall Friday night, waiting for the Loreleis to take the stage for their annual fall concert, a thought struck me.

"You think they'd let me try out?" I asked my friend.

"I think they'd let you try out," she said. "But they'd have to be tone deaf to accept you."

She's right. They'd be fools if they did. Their sound couldn't get much better.

The Loreleis' "La-La-Palooza" concert, at 8 p.m. Friday, showcased some of the University's finest female a capella talent singing contemporary (and

not so contemporary) hits to an audience of about 100.

The Loreleis proved Friday that they are 15 women with tremendous musical flexibility.

Their music varied, including selections such as Motown tunes and a Bonnie Raitt number.

But even more impressive was their endeavor to tackle songs originally sung by male artists. For example, with a female lead vocal, Phil Collins' "Hold On My Heart" took on a light, soothing quality that carried the listener into the melody.

On the other hand, their rendition of

the Doors' "Touch Me" didn't work as well. It was difficult to hear the vocalist above the background melody, and even more difficult to appreciate Jim Morrison's tune an octave higher than it was meant to be sung.

The Loreleis blasted the past with Aretha Franklin's soulful "Chain of Fools" — an audience favorite — and the Jackson 5's "I Want You Back." These songs were lively and upbeat, and it was great to see performers enjoying a song as much as the audience did.

The Loreleis are to be applauded for their rendition of the Grateful Dead's "Uncle John's Band." Although I question whether anyone should try to sing the Dead *but* the Dead, the Loreleis' version stuck in my mind as one of the show's highlights.

Other bright points included Meatloaf's "Two Out of Three Ain't Bad," which seemed as if it were meant to be sung a capella, and "Amazing Grace," a song well supported by a strong lead vocalist, sophomore Anne Ferrell. Her soprano gave the song an ethereal quality.

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Campus Calendar

TUESDAY
NOON: Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center will be showing "Roots" until 2 p.m. through Friday.
The Black Faculty/Staff Caucus will hold its general body meeting in 212 Peabody.
3:15 p.m. UNC Hill will meet at the Hill/House to visit Pritchard Park.
University Career Services will offer information on how juniors and sophomores in the College of Arts & Sciences can get academic credit for internships in 306 Hanes.
3:30 p.m. UCS will offer basic information on how to use the UCS office for seniors and graduate students in 209 Hanes.
4:15 p.m. UCS will offer the basics for constructing a professional resume in 209 Hanes.
4:30 p.m. Sigma Theta Alpha will meet in the hospital lobby for a tour of the medical school.
5 p.m. UCS will sponsor a free seminar for all students given by David J. Warner, author of "Environmental Careers: A Practical Guide to Opportunities in the '90s" in 210 Hanes.
UNC Juggling Club will meet in Carmichael Ballroom.
5:30 p.m. Hunger and Homelessness Outreach Project will meet in Campus Y Lounge.
6 p.m. Human Rights Week will present a performance by Chuck Davis, artistic consultant to Dance Africa, in the Great Hall.
6:30 p.m. Order of the Bell Tower will meet in 211 Union.
UNITAS will discuss "Family: Motherhood as Occupation" in the UNITAS Lounge, fifth floor Carmichael.
7 p.m. Student Support Coalition for UNC Housekeepers will have a strategy session in the Sonja Hanes Stone BCC.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
Peer-Advising Program applications are available at the Union Desk, BCC, Campus Y and 116 Steele.

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