

NEWS

National and world news in brief

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Libby pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON: Former Cheney advisor I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby pleaded not guilty to charges of lying to investigators in relation to the national CIA leak investigation Thursday.

The former vice-presidential aide was indicted last week on one count of obstruction of justice, two counts of perjury and two counts of making false statements.

"With respect, your honor, I plead not guilty," Libby said.

As his defense, Libby declared that he had, in fact, only learned of Valerie Plame's name in connection with the CIA after talking to Tim Russert of NBC's "Meet the Press." He made several statements to this effect while under oath as part of the leak investigation.

In support of his case, Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald cited numerous documents that show Libby discussing the topic with other members of the administration at least seven times.

"The need to get to the bottom of what happened - and whether national security was compromised by inadvertence, by recklessness, by maliciousness - is extremely important," said Fitzgerald. "Anyone who would go into a grand jury and lie, obstruct and impede the investigation has committed a serious crime."

Libby goes to trial on Feb. 3 and has been released on his own recognizance.

Alito nominated as next Supreme Court justice

WASHINGTON: President Bush nominated Federal Appeals Court judge Samuel Alito for the Supreme Court position soon to be vacated by Sandra Day O'Connor.

After President Bush's failed nomination of Harriet Miers, many members of Congress expected him to turn back to his conservative base, which some say he has done.

"I don't think there can be any question that Alito's ideology is a conservative one," said Lawrence Lustberg, a personal friend of Alito. "I don't think he's the kind of guy, because of his respect for the institution of the judiciary, who would seek to overturn precedent in a radical sort of way. I think he has the creativity and indeed the intelligence that chip away at existing precedents in a way I think some of us will regret over the years."

However, the conservative base has rallied nearly unanimously behind the new nominee. "He has all of the qualifications needed: intellect, knowledge and experience in constitutional law, integrity, competence, humility and judicial temperament," said Jan LaRue, the chief counsel for Concerned Women for America.

Confirmation hearings for Alito have not yet been scheduled.

Riots erupt in France

PARIS, France: Rioting escalated in a poor region north of Paris after two teenagers were electrocuted while fleeing police that were not after them.

"It's a dramatic situation. It is very serious and we fear that the events could even get worse tonight," said Francis Masanet, secretary general of a police union.

The rioting, which started Wednesday night, has left large sections of city devastated and at least 176 vehicles were put to flame. Most of the rioters appear to be teenagers and young adults.

Over 1,000 police were deployed to several areas in attempts to quell the riots, with mixed results. Some police were even shot at.

"Four live bullets were fired," Reuters quoted Jean-Francois Cordet. "Two shots were fired at La Courneuve against police. One shot was fired at Noisy-le-Sec against fire crews and one shot was fired against fire crew in Saint-Denis."

While much of the rioting had ended by Friday, police and government officials fear that it may flare up again.

Disputed area to open to allow aid passage

KASHMIR: The governments of India and Pakistan have reached temporary agreements to open borders and allow humanitarian aid to reach regions devastated by the recent earthquake.

"For relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction purposes, it was agreed that with prior information and acceptance and depending on feasibility, relief items can be sent in either direction and handed over to local authorities," an Oct. 29 joint statement read.

Both sides, which have long been embroiled in a cold-war style standoff, have agreed to work together to help those desperately in need.

"It was further agreed that priority for crossings would be accorded to members of divided families on either side of the [Line of Control]," the statement said, adding that Pakistan "expressed its appreciation for the assistance provided by India for the earthquake victims."

Google ready for online library

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California: Thousands of volumes of governmental documents and public-domain books are ready to be viewed for free from the new forthcoming service from Google, Inc.

However, the company is now in bitter court fights over its right to also publish thousands of copyrighted books and magazines online and make them available for free, as any library might.

The project of scanning all books and documents into its database is expected to take years to complete, but Google wants to make them available for an information-hungry public as soon as possible. Publishing houses and the Authors Guild are struggling to prevent that goal from becoming a reality.

Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

Lion Ambassadors celebrate Founder's Day marks Behrend's birthday

By Melissa Whitten
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On Monday, the Nittany Lion could be seen outside Reed at the Bruno's entrance shaking hands, kissing babies and dancing in celebration of Founders' Day. Students and faculty passing through could enjoy ice cream, cake and a little bit of history whether they knew it or not.

As tradition, each year around this time the Lion Ambassadors meet to make plans for Founders' Day. This year was not unlike the rest in that it aimed to bring and uphold Penn State pride to the campus, as well as to remind students of where their campus came from. Founders' Day is a celebration of Mary Behrend's donation of her home, the Glennhill Farm Estate, to the University in 1948. She made the donation in remembrance of her late husband, Ernst, who was co-founder with his father and brother of the Hammermill Paper Company. Mary Behrend's contribution was in response to the area's need for "a public, co-educational, non-sectarian, university presence in Erie."

If you think the population is small now, compare it to the college's first enrollment

of only 146 students. In the beginning years of Behrend, students could only complete their freshman year at what was then known as "The Behrend Center." It wasn't until 1959 that the commonwealth campus system was established and Penn State updated and declared Behrend as "Penn State Erie-The Behrend College." From there, year after year, the college grew and by the 1970's the enrollment was past 1200 students and four-year programs were now offered. With the enrollment currently near 3,500 students, Behrend has come a long way on its journey.

The Lion Ambassador Organization made great efforts this year in celebrating the birthday of Behrend. Accounting junior Leah Ehrman is head of the Social Committee for the Lion Ambassadors and said that this year was a great success. "A lot of people came by. I think everyone enjoyed the free cake and ice cream." She said that each committee helped out in some way, which made for a smooth run of the event. The Lion Ambassadors help in several campus activities such as Open House, Spirit Day, the Logan Wintergreen Series and of course, Founders' Day. They are available for any event upon request and can be contacted at 898-7211.

Classifieds

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should do justice."

— Thomas Jefferson, third U.S. President (1743-1826), letter to George Hammond, 1792

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