

Court gets nuclear liability case

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court agreed yesterday to rule whether Congress violated the Constitution when it set a \$560 million limit on damages that may be claimed after a nuclear power plant accident.

Congress in 1957 sought to spur private construction of new-technology power plants by approving a ceiling on liability for any accident that might occur at one of the facilities.

But last March 31, U.S. District Judge James McMillan in Charlotte, N.C., ruled unconstitutional that section of the Price-Anderson Act, saying under its terms untold destruction of lives and property might occur without "reasonable certainty" the victims would be justly compensated.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, appealing to the Supreme Court, argued that the ceiling is essential to fostering further private development of nuclear power.

The high court, issuing a batch of orders yesterday, agreed to hear arguments on the test case later this term.

The law limits the total liability of investors, suppliers and others for damages in a nuclear catastrophe to \$560 million or the amount of insurance required of the licensee, whichever is greater. The commission estimates insurance requirements will pass the \$560 million level by 1980 and exceed \$1 billion by 1985.

The suit was initiated by members of

the Carolina Environmental Study Group, who have homes near Lake Norman in North Carolina, where the twin-reactor McGuire nuclear station is being built, and Lake Wylie in South Carolina, where construction is going ahead on the Catawba nuclear station.

The population within 50 miles of each plant is estimated at 1 million to 1.5 million.

McMillan concluded no nuclear explosion is possible at the plants, but there is a "real" possibility of an accidental core melt, in which heat from uncontrolled radioactive decay might melt the reactor core's thick steel walls and discharge radioactive contaminants into the air.

Such a meltdown never has occurred. But the judge said if one does happen it "can reasonably be expected to produce hundreds of thousands of fatalities, numerous illnesses, genetic effects of unpredictable degree and nature for succeeding generations, thyroid ailments and cancers in numerous people, damage to other life and widespread damage to property."

He said death or serious injury to even a relatively small number of people could push damages above \$560 million.

The court earlier this year agreed to review two other nuclear power cases, one dealing with hazards of reactor wastes, the other with recycling spent fuel.

Study says alcoholism inheritance connected

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (UPI) — New research indicates alcoholism might be linked to a biochemical hereditary factor, according to an authority on the disease that has affected nine million Americans.

"The cause of alcoholism, in truth, is unknown," said Dr. Donald Goodwin, "but it does run in families and this is a starting point."

"Severe or 'classic' forms of alcoholism may have mainly a genetic basis, whereas heavy drinking may have mainly psychosocial origins," he said. "The next step is finding what is being inherited."

Goodwin is chairman of the psychiatry department at the

Murderer Zamora gets sentenced to life in prison

MIAMI (UPI) — Convicted 15-year-old murderer Ronny Zamora — whose TV intoxication defense proved unsuccessful — was sentenced to life in prison yesterday by Circuit Judge Paul Baker, who recommended that the boy be placed in a youthful offender facility and receive psychiatric care.

Zamora, dressed in white jeans, an open-necked red sports shirt and sandals, stood with his arms folded before the judge showing no reaction as the sentence was read.

Under Florida law, Zamora must serve at least 25 years in prison before being eligible for parole — meaning he cannot be released until he is at least 40 years old.

The state did not seek the death penalty for Zamora, who confessed to the fatal shooting of his next door neighbor, 82-year-old Elinor Haggart, with her own gun. Zamora and another youth were surprised by the woman as they were burglarizing her house.

Zamora was convicted Oct. 6 by a 12-member jury. The foreman of that jury later told the press that the "television intoxication defense" was "ridiculous."

Defense attorney Ellis Rubin had argued during the trial that after years of constantly watching violent television programs, Zamora could not tell real life from fantasy.

Rubin pleaded with Baker to use the "alternate sentencing procedure."

But Baker rejected the argument. He said that if the juvenile judge before whom Zamora first appeared following his arrest had wanted him placed in that program he wouldn't have turned the case over to an adult court.

State Dept. tightens visa restrictions for Ugandans

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The State Department, admitting it had not realized 12 Ugandan police pilots were training in the United States, yesterday announced tighter visa restrictions for Ugandans.

State Department spokesman John H. Trattner confirmed a report by columnist Jack Anderson that 12 Ugandan police pilots are being trained by Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth, Texas.

"The State Department was not aware that the training was going on in the United States until we heard about it from press sources last week after the training had begun," Trattner said.

"There is no U.S. government involvement in this training and there was no State Department assistance to the group of trainees."

The department did not comment on Uganda President Idi Amin's charges in a speech yesterday in northern Uganda that President Carter is a prisoner of Zionist interests in the United States and "must continue the game lest he be assassinated."

Amin's regime has been a target of strong human rights criticism by the administration, but Trattner acknowledged until the incident of the helicopter pilots

N.C. flood death toll set at 10

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (UPI) — Workers digging through mud and rubble found seven bodies yesterday in the flood-ravaged Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, boosting the number of victims in Sunday's flash flooding to at least 10.

Gov. James B. Hunt made an aerial tour of the region and said he would declare it a disaster area and seek federal relief. Officials estimated damage in the tens of millions of dollars and Hunt said he expected damages to be about \$40 million to roads and bridges alone.

The bodies of two 3-year-old children, who had previously been listed as presumed dead, were found yesterday. They were William and Paul Hendrix, who died along with their mother when they were thrown from their house trailer after it was dislodged by floodwaters in the Candler community near Asheville.

The youngsters were found near the spot where the body of their mother, Carolyn Hendrix, was located Sunday.

The bodies of three teenagers who drowned while apparently trying to swim a creek in Morgantown were also recovered. They were Chris Hamby, 18, his brother Tony, 16, both of Valdese, and Mark Hawkins, 14, of Morgantown.

Searchers at Morgantown found the body of Ike Peterson, 75, in a shack

Study says alcoholism inheritance connected

University of Kansas Medical Center and author of the book "Is Alcoholism Hereditary?"

Between 1970 and 1976, Dr. Goodwin conducted a two-part study to determine the influence of heredity and environment in alcoholism. For the first part, he established two groups of men, all of whom had been adopted in infancy.

In one group, each man had at least one alcoholic parent. In the other there was no record of alcoholism among the parents. Results of the project were startling, Goodwin said.

"The children of alcoholics, both daughters and sons, were found to be four times more likely to become alcoholics."

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Correction

The Daily Collegian incorrectly identified Pam Downs (10th-home economics education) as a pledge at Delta Gamma sorority yesterday. Downs is a member, not a pledge. Downs also was incorrectly quoted as saying she was concerned about the unfair, big party image of her sorority. Downs actually said she was concerned about the image of fraternities and sororities in general, not her sorority in particular.

Ronnie Johnson



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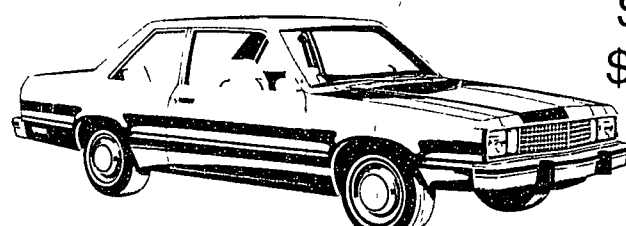
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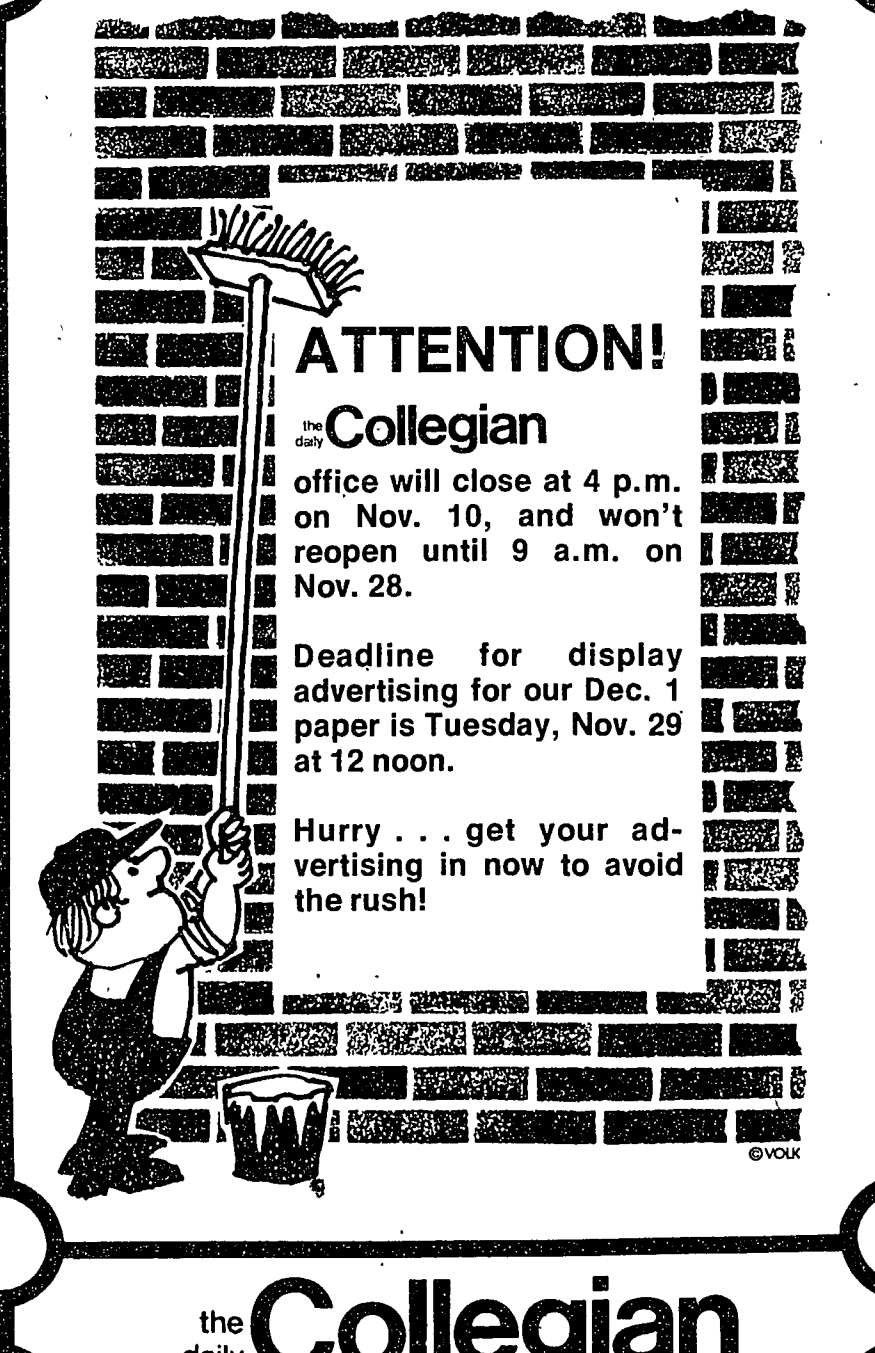
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