News briefs

Legislator's trial to start today

LAKE CHARLES, La. (UPI) — The vote-buying trial of Rep. Claude "Buddy" Leach, D-La., begins today, and the outcome could determine the freshman lawmaker's political future.

U.S. District Judge Earl Veron will begin jury selection by interviewing prospective jurors in chambers, a process that could take two or three days.

Leach, who defeated Republican opponent Jimmy Wilson by 266 votes in the general election last December, is accused of buying votes to win his seat in Congress.

Leach, 45, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Alexandria, La., in July on charges of conspiracy, vote buying and illegal campaign contributions.

Government prosecutors have listed 194 persons as potential witnesses in a trial that could last as long as a month.

Wilson, who has filed briefs before a House Committee to invalidate the election, said he would not be watching the trial with any special interest.

Gays march for rights laws

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Tens of thousands of homosexual men and women from the United States and abroad marched on the capital yesterday to urge passage of gay rights legislation.

Organizers of the first National Gay Rights March predicted 100,000 persons would participate before the day was over.

Early unofficial city police estimates were far less but were expected to be revised upwards as marchers streamed for hours yesterday afternoon down a 10-block stretch of historic Pennsyvlvania Avenue.

They gathered at a rally site on the Washington monument grounds, where several speakers urged homosexuals to press for passage of gay rights bills.

Participants, predominantly white males dressed in sports clothes, carried a variety of banners, including one that said: "Two, four, six, eight; how do you know your kid is straight?"

"We are everywhere," another declared.

The marchers' demands included the repeal of state and local sodomy laws, passage of federal legislation to protect gay rights and a presidential order banning discrimination against homosexuals employed by the military, the government or federally subsidized contractors.

Bill calls for county pay hikes

HARRISBURG (AP) — Most county officials would get a $6,000 pay hike next January from a bill scheduled for a vote this week in the House and an already-pending increase.

The bill, already passed by the Senate, calls for increases of about $3,000 for county commissioners, district attorneys and row officers, such as prothonotary and register of wills.

But the legislation would take effect at the same time that the officials collect another $3,000 pay hike from legislation passed in 1976. That 1976 raise could not go into effect during the four-year terms of county officials who were in office at the time.

Thus, the increases would be the first since 1971 for the county officials, some of whom hold what are considered part-time jobs.

The $3,000 raises proposed in the bill represent increases of 9 percent to 27 percent, depending on the size of the county and its salary scale.

Another major feature of the bill would require the county commissioners, instead of the legislature, to set county salaries in the future.

The double raise does not comply with President Carter's voluntary wage guidelines and are "very inflationary," said Joseph H. Carter, spokesman for the President's Council on Wage and Price Stability.

Brown wants Cuban relations

UPI wirephoto

Jerry Brown

NEW YORK (UPI) — Gov. Jerry Brown of California said yesterday he would establish diplomatic relations with Cuba as president — even if the Soviet Union refuses to withdraw combat troops from the island.

Brown attacked the "anachronism" of U.S. policy toward Cuba. "As long as this country has diplomatic relations with Russia and China, it makes no sense not to have diplomatic relations with Cuba," he said.

The unannounced candidate for the 1980 Democratic presidential nomination told interviewers on ABC's "Issues and Answers" that it is absurd to link U.S. recognition of Cuba with the withdrawal of Soviet combat troops.

Israel not to take Arab land

JERUSALEM (UPI) — Israel's Cabinet yesterday voted not to seize privately-owned Arab land for seven Jewish outposts in the Jordan West Bank but stuck to its policy of establishing settlements throughout the occupied territories.

"We will not confiscate any inch of privately-owned land," Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor told reporters. "Only land that is known and approved as state-owned will be used for these purposes. We are not going to start a campaign or launch an attack on the problem of ownership."

Naor said the Cabinet also decided to go ahead with construction for the building of a city on the West Bank it has already approved — Efrat. He said a group of "pioneers" from New York City wants to settle it.

The decisions were certain to anger the United States and Egypt, both of which have condemned Jewish settlements on the West Bank — private land or not — as illegal and an obstacle to peace.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij objected to the decision, saying there is no government land on the West Bank.

"This is land which is being used by the local Palestinian inhabitants in the terriories," he said. "Every (Jewish) settlement you enlarge is like knocking a big nail in the coffin of peace.".

Colorado nuclear plant closed

PLATTEVILLE, Colo. (UPI) — The Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Generating Plant was shut down yesterday because of a cooling malfunction, and radioactivity was released into the atmosphere, officials reported.

The plant is located 40 miles north of Denver.

The plant was automatically shut down, officials said, due to an operating problem in the generating facility's helium circulator system. They said a "minute" amount of radioactivity was released in the reactor building and the atmosphere.

There were no reports of employees being exposed to the radioactivity. The shutdown was the facility's third in less than two years due to equipment malfunction.

Gary Reeves, spokesman for the plant's operator, Public Service Company of Colorado, said the shutdown occurred at 7 a.m. when helium, the primary coolant used at the plant, seeped into a back-up water system.

Reeves said the incident was not made public until 11 hours after the incident because it was not considered an emergency. He said under NRC regulations, the utility was required to immediately report any potential public hazard — but Sunday's shutdown was not considered an emergency that could endanger citizens.

Jordan recommends ex-date

NEW YORK (UPI) — White House chief of staff Hamilton Jordan wrote a letter of recommendation for Jan Tyler, the woman who accompanied him to the Studio 54 Discotheque on the night he is accused of purchasing cocaine there, New York Magazine reported yesterday.

The one-page letter, hand-written on White House stationery under a typed date of April 2, 1977, was reprinted in the latest edition of New York, which reaches newsstands today.

In the note, addressed "To whom it may concern," Jordan allegedly wrote, "This is to recommend my friend and former employee Ms. Jan Tyler who worked for me for two years when I served as chief of staff for then-Governor Carter.

"Jan served as my administrative assistant, performing a variety of duties," the letter said. "She performed her responsibilities with dedication and efficiency."

The letter is signed, "Hamilton Jordan, assistant to the president."

Pa. survey says Connally, Reagan favored

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — John Connally. of Texas and Ronald Reagan of California, both former governors, are the top choices of Pennsylvania Republican county chairmen for next year's GOP presidential nomination, according to an Associated Press survey.

On the Democratic side, Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts has nearly a two to one edge over President Carter.

Each chairman was asked this question: "Who would you most like to see as your party's presidential nominee in 1980?"

Only three chairman from each county, out of the 67 in the state, could not be reached in the poll.

Reagan and Connally each received 14 votes. The rest were divided this way:

Former President Gerald Ford 9; Alexander Haig, once chief of President Nixon's White House staff and former head of NATO, 3; former Texas Congressman George Bush and Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, each 2; Rep. John Anderson of California 1; undecided 6; declined to respond 12 and one who said he could not choose between Connally and Bush.

Twenty-eight Democrats favored Kennedy as their first choice and 16 stuck with Carter. Vice President Walter Mondale got one vote, seven were undecided and 12 declined to participate.

Fred Lebder, chairman of the Fayette County Democrats, expressed the sentiment of those who could not or would not make any choice: "We're in a local election, and nobody's really giving serious thought to the presidential race. Besides I want to know who really will be running."

"It's really much too early to be thinking about a presidential choice," said Martin Weinberg, the Philadelphia Democratic boss and a strong supporter of retiring Mayor Frank L. Rizzo. Nearly a fourth of the state's Democrats are registered in Philadelphia.

UPI wirephoto

John Connally

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Parking garage, cars damaged in accident

• A car driven by Thomas W. Matticks of Sunbury, Pa., struck a parking garage wall at Park Hill Apartments, 478 E. Beaver Ave. on Saturday, knocking bricks onto a parked car.

According to witnesses, Matticks turned south onto Hetzel Street from Beaver Avenue at a fast speed, lost control and hit the wall. The parked vehicle, a Chevy Vega, is owned by Gerald Snead of Moscow, Pa.

Damages were estimated at $250 to the Matticks car, $100 to the Snead car and $50 to property, the State College Police Department said.

• A suitcase owned by James Rummel of Edinboro, Pa., was reported stolen from Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, 346 E. Prospect Ave., State College police said. The suitcase and its contents, valued at $420, were stolen sometime between 11:30 p.m. and 3:30 a.m. Friday, police said.

• State College police reported that a large glass panel pushed from a balcony at Beaver Hill Apartments, 340 E. Beaver Ave., on Saturday hit a car parked below. The car is owned by Donald Caiarelli, Apt. 631, Beaver Hill. No estimate of the damage was given.

• Wilbur Miller, University Maintenance and Operations, reported to University Police Services that someone damaged a room door at 415 Porter at about 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Damage was estimated at $200.

• University police received a report from Mike McCarthy, 12 Grange, that a storage shed at the tennis courts north of Pollock Halls had been upset and broken into about 6 p.m. Saturday.

• Neal DeLuca, Apt. 9F, Graduate Circle, reported to University police that someone hit his car while it was parked in the Graduate Circle area about 5:15 p.m. Saturday. No damage estimate was given.

—by Dana McClelland

Folklore Society scheduled to meet at 7:30 tonight

• The **Folklore Society** will meet at 7:30 tonight in 320-21 HUB.

• The **Campus 4-H Club** will meet at 7 tonight in 215 Armsby.

• The **Undergraduate Student Government department of minority affairs** will meet at 7 tonight in 307 HUB.

• **Students for a Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group** will meet at 7:30 tonight in 173 Willard.

• The Free University is accepting applications for **Gentle Thursday coordinator**. For details, call the Free U office at 863-0038. Application deadline is Oct. 31.

• The Free University will sponsor the following activities tonight: **aikido** — 7:30 to 8:30, Intramural Building wrestling room; **bridge** — 7, 301 HUB; **nutrition basics** — 6 to 6:45, 200 W. College Ave., room 204; **holistic alternatives** — 8, 200 W. College Ave., room 204; **Bible prophecy and revelation** — 6 to 8:30, 321 Boucke; **gay/bisexual women's support group** — 8, 304 Willard; **gay/bisexual men's support group** — 8, 219 Willard; **assertive empathy** — 7:45 to 10:15, Wesley Foundation.

• The Society of Physics Students will sponsor **physics tutoring** from 7 to 9 tonight in 103 Osmond.

• Academic Assembly is sponsoring registration for the **College Bowl team**. Players may register individually or as teams of four. Pick up registration forms at the HUB desk, Kern desk or Academic Assembly office, 203-A HUB.

• Campus Crusade for Christ will sponsor **Ron Hostetler**, former Penn State football player, speaking about winning at 7 tomorrow night in the HUB main lounge.

• A program on **medical school interviews and MCAT preparation** will be held tomorrow in 69 Willard.

• **Yachad** will present a program on Israel's West Bank settlements, a speaker from the Israel Aliyah Center, and careers and programs in Israel at 8 tomorrow night in 324 HUB.

• The **Marine Science Society** will present Ronald Keiper speaking on the **biology of the Chincoteague ponies** at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in 112 Walker.

• Food Service and Housing Administration 410 will present an **Italian Renaissance meal** at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Maple Room of the Human Development Building.

• **Amnesty International** will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday in 101 Kern.

• The **College of Education** student council will hold elections for council president from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Chambers Building lobby.

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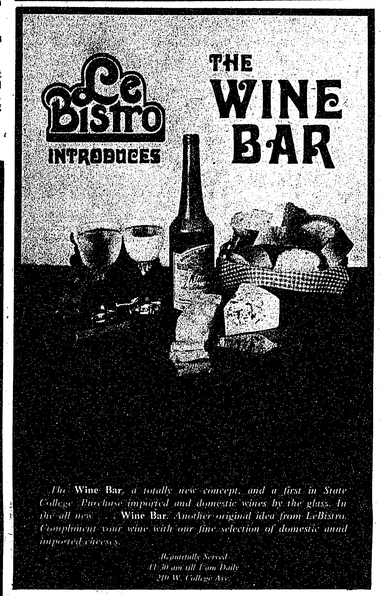

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