

state news briefs

Canadian elected USW president

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Canadian Lynn R. Williams defeated former U.S. millhand Frank McKee in the race for president of the million-member United Steelworkers of America union, USW tellers announced yesterday.

The final vote in the USW's March 29th election was 193,686 for Williams and 135,823 for McKee, according to Chief Teller Phillip Cyprian.

The tellers Monday began counting ballots mailed to the USW's Pittsburgh headquarters from 4,600 USW locals in 23 districts in the United States and Canada.

The totals were subject to union field hearings on 21 challenges to the vote, most of them raised by McKee, according to union officials.

Williams, 59, who is temporary acting president and international secretary, is the first Canadian to hold international USW office.

Bill Cosby to receive state award

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Emmy and Grammy award-winning comedian Bill Cosby will join the likes of Jimmy Stewart and James Michener as a Pennsylvania distinguished artist.

Gov. Dick Thornburgh announced Cosby's selection Wednesday as the fifth winner of the annual Distinguished Pennsylvania Artist Award, which will be presented during a ceremony at the Capitol May 8.

"Mr. Cosby has made an international legend out of his Philadelphia childhood and has touched the hearts of generations of Pennsylvanians," Thornburgh said in a prepared statement. "He has raised humor to an art form, and more importantly, has transformed it into an instrument for social betterment."

Cosby will assist Thornburgh in presenting the Theodore L. Hazlett Jr. Memorial Awards for Excellence in the Arts to six artists at the May 8 ceremony.

Cosby, who grew up in Philadelphia, fashioned people and events from his youth into popular comedy routines. He has seven Gold Records and five Grammy awards for "Best Comedy Album."

notion news briefs

Retail sales hit decade low in March

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retail sales in March took their sharpest nosedive in more than a decade, the government reported yesterday, and analysts said the 2.2 percent decline is the clearest sign yet that the economic recovery is slowing down.

The Commerce Department said retail sales fell to a seasonally adjusted \$103.4 billion last month, the second monthly decline in a row and the biggest drop since a 2.4 percent fall-off in December 1973.

The strong surge in consumer spending has been the main force driving the nation's recovery from the 1981-82 recession. While economists for some time have expected consumer spending to moderate, most were surprised at the extent of the March decline, although some blamed it partly on the weather.

A sharp 7 percent drop in auto sales contributed the most to the poor showing.

Former NJ mayor pleads innocent

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Michael J. Matthews, ousted last month as mayor of Atlantic City, pleaded innocent yesterday to federal charges that he peddled his influence in city government in return for payoffs from an organized crime family.

After the plea to extortion charges was entered, a federal prosecutor told U.S. District Judge Harold A. Ackerman that the evidence against Matthews was "bordering on staggering" and included a confession that Matthews retracted because of fear for his life.

Ackerman ordered Matthews held in lieu of \$300,000 bail. Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Bennett said Matthews, who is challenging the special recall election that stripped him of his job last month, agreed on Dec. 6 and 7 to plead guilty in the case and receive a 20-year term.

Under the agreement, Bennett said, Matthews was to wear a tape recorder while in the presence of associates of the Philadelphia-southern New Jersey organized crime family reputedly led by Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo.

world news briefs

Israel's Shamir wins party support

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir won his party's backing yesterday to seek a second term in July national elections, surviving a strong challenge from former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

Shamir received 407 votes or 56 percent from the nominating caucus of the Herut Party's central committee, a party official said.

Sharon won 306 votes or 42 percent, apparently enough to stage a comeback from a scandal that had forced him to resign last year. Dark horse Aryeh Chertok got eight votes.

Shamir, 63, had hoped for a broad endorsement of his 6-month stewardship and his pragmatic, low-key style of leadership.

He now faces Shimon Peres, 60, who was chosen last week by the opposition Labor Party as its candidate for prime minister in the national elections July 23, 16 months ahead of schedule.

Australian veterans seeking benefits

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Many of Australia's Vietnam veterans are fighting to prove they were poisoned during the war by Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals that damaged their health and caused deformities in their children. They insist they deserve the same benefits as men wounded by gunfire.

After years of silence, the government has responded to the charges with an inquiry into the use of chemical defoliants in Southeast Asia. The investigation, which began in January, is expected to take a year.

The Vietnam Veterans of Australia Association, 12,000-strong, contends allied soldiers were routinely exposed to defoliants sprayed by allied planes in Vietnam. Chemical poisoning underlies the physical and mental problems faced by veterans, they say.

The veterans say soldiers who fought in Vietnam are not suffering from delayed reaction to the stress of combat or depression at being shunned by a society that wants to forget the war.

stock report

Market posts seven-week high

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market leapt ahead in the final hours of trading yesterday as the Dow Jones industrial average posted its biggest gain in seven weeks amid signs that pressure may be subsiding on interest rates. Trading was moderately active.

Good earnings reports were also credited for helping blue-chip issues revive late in the day to lead the gainers who were prominent in almost every industry category.

Volume Shares	113,753,180
Issues Traded	2,011
Up	1,080
Unchanged	399
Down	532
NYSE Index	90.64 + 1.40
Dow Jones Industrials	1,157.14 + 26.17

THE TENTH ANNUAL DELTA CHI MARATHON
with Alpha Chi Omega sorority

- Date - April 13, 14, 15
- Four Divisions - Fraternity, Sorority, Independent Male, and Independent Female
- Registration - HUB
South Dining Halls
Pollock Dining Halls
East Dining Halls
Simmons Dining Hall
McElwain Dining Hall
- Cost - \$20 per four person team includes T-shirts for all members
- Deadline - Registration ends April 11, 1984
- Benefits - Proceeds benefit handicapped students of Penn State
- More information - Call the Delta Chi House at 238-9944 or 237-9157

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City	Departure Date, Time	Destination
Philadelphia	April 20, 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm	King of Prussia Mall (Wanamakers) Trailways Terminal (13th & Arch)
Pittsburgh	April 20, 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm	Monroeville (David Weis) Convention Center

City	Departure Date, Time	Destination
New York	April 20, 5:00 pm	Rockaway Mall, Dover, NJ Port Authority (Taxi Roadway)
Long Island	April 20, 5:00 pm	Roosevelt Field Shopping Center Walt Whitman Shopping Center

- return dates are 7:00 pm, April 22 (Easter Sunday)
- for more information call 865-3711

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