

At a glance

A brief look at our world

State

Early parolee kills Boy Scout

STROUDSBURG (AP) — A man released from a prison boot camp eight days before authorities say he participated in the execution-style slaying of a Boy Scout epitomizes problems with the parole system, according to a state senator.

Jason P. Bader, 20, and Steven Margretta, 21, pleaded innocent Monday to the execution-style shooting death of 16-year-old James Gromes in the woods of Monroe County.

Bader, who had been convicted twice for burglary and had a history of juvenile offenses, was paroled Jan. 11 from the state Department of Corrections boot camp at Quehanna.

Police say he and Margretta kidnapped Gromes as he left his job at the Brodheadsville Burger King on Jan. 18, held a gun to the crying teen-ager's head and ordered him to drive his mother's minivan.

Bader, 26 cents short of bus fare from Brodheadsville to Stroudsburg, told state police that the eye glasses-wearing Ross Township teen seemed like an "easy target." Police said Bader and Margretta shot Gromes 10 times after making him lie down in a Stroud Township field early on Jan. 19. Gromes' body was found by hunters on Jan. 23.

Pork panic hits West York again

WEST YORK (AP) — For the second time in two days, officials and residents joined forces to corral a 100-pound Vietnamese potbellied pig with a propensity to escape captivity.

After the second breakout on Monday, the pig Willie Watters was keeping as a pet was turned over to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Police Chief S. Marshall Roser Jr. said that he'd warned Watters after the pig escaped Sunday that the borough has a ban against pigs as pets.

After the pig escaped Monday, several people corralled the pig in a yard and helped Roser and SPCA humane officer Cindy Reese lift the struggling animal into the back of a truck.

Nation

Chelsea impresses Pakistani leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chelsea Clinton apparently made quite an impression during her spring break visit to South Asia.

Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto brought up the 15-year-old's knowledge of Islam when the prime minister met with President Clinton yesterday at the White House.

"We found the first daughter very knowledgeable, we found Chelsea very knowledgeable on Islamic issues," Bhutto said during a news conference. "I'm delighted to learn from the president that Chelsea is studying Islamic history and has also read our holy book, the Koran."

During an Oval Office photo session earlier in the day, Clinton told Bhutto that Chelsea was "a deeply religious child" and that she attends school with many Muslims.

World

Heart heals while on assist device

BERLIN (AP) — A man's heart healed itself while a machine helped pump his blood for five months, doctors said yesterday, suggesting that such devices may help some heart patients avoid transplants.

For five months, a left ventricular assist device took over most of the work of the patient's left ventricle, the main pumping chamber of the heart, Dr. Roland Hetzer of the German Heart Center said in a statement.

The devices are used as a temporary measure to help patients survive while waiting for donor hearts. The natural heart is left in the body.

Hetzer said the case was the first in the world in which the patient's heart healed itself while the device was in place.

France opposes Burundi mission

By CHRISTOPHER BURNS
Associated Press Writer

PARIS — France expressed doubts yesterday about sending a multinational force into Burundi, but sought to play down any rift with Washington after one French official called the U.S. ambassador to Burundi a "warmonger."

France contends that no foreign countries are willing to send troops to deter ethnic violence in the central African country.

On Monday, Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre went a step further, criticizing the U.S. ambassador to Burundi, Robert

Krueger, for purportedly urging intervention.

Krueger "wants military intervention but doesn't want to send any men," Debre said. "It's warmongering."

The U.S. Embassy in Burundi denied yesterday that Krueger was pushing for intervention in the former Belgian colony, where an aid convoy was attacked last week. There have been a surge of serious ethnic battles in the past month, leading some to compare Burundi to neighboring Rwanda.

"There are several options being discussed by the U.N. Security Council to help

bring peace and security back to Burundi and the U.S. government has not decided on any one course of action," said Gordon Duguid, an embassy spokesman.

"We are working with the French, the Belgians and the United Nations to reach a decision on which is the best way forward."

Washington has yet to decide on a multilateral force proposed by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, Duguid said by telephone from Burundi.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said France believes there are still some "possible preventive diplomatic measures" that could avert major violence. He

made clear Paris has doubts about military intervention.

"The French government is looking into some very numerous questions about such an intervention: what would be the mandate of such a force, its mode of operation, how many people involved, the political and military objectives," Duque said.

Duguid declined to comment on the remarks by Debre, who said Monday that neither the United States nor Europe want to send troops to Burundi.

"You'd have to declare war against the Burundi army," said Debre, whose ministry is concerned mainly with aid to Africa.



A group of DePaul University students stand outside the building of their student newspaper in Chicago. The students, angered over coverage of blacks in the DePaulia, continued their sit-in yesterday.

Police report incites protest

DePaul University students protest derogatory phrase in school newspaper.

By LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — M-B's. That's the police talk for "male blacks," and when the phrase cropped up in a story about a fight at a campus party, it led to a sit-in that has shut down the student newspaper at DePaul University.

Last week, dozens of DePaul students, most of them black, stormed the office of the weekly DePaulia, ordering staff members to leave. About 20 students have been holed up ever since, with no resolution in sight. Negotiations are continuing with the administration.

Last week, DePaul's president, the Rev. John Minogue, asked newspaper staffers and protesters to reach an agreement, then suspended publication of Friday's edition.

The protesters, who include some whites and Hispanics, are demanding the ouster of DePaulia's editor in chief, 21-year-old

Zack Martin, who is white. They are also demanding that the paper publish weekly articles on minority concerns and that the school do more to curtail racism and punish offenders.

The takeover came after weeks of bickering over the Feb. 17 front-page article about a brawl at a campus party. The story quoted a police report describing "several M-B's throwing chairs and trash into the crowd."

Black students complained that the excerpt from the police report — the only mention of race in the story — was irrelevant and perpetuated negative stereotypes about blacks.

Black students also have charged that campus security officers who broke up the Feb. 10 fight made racial slurs that weren't reported in the article.

Following the complaints, the newspaper published an editorial saying the two reporters who covered the fight did not intend to write an unbalanced or insensitive article.

Racial tensions had been simmering at the Catholic school on Chicago's North Side before the protest brought the issue to the fore.

Congressional upheaval has Democrats looking to future

By JILL LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

News analysis

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressional Democrats are trying to make the best of their new, virtually powerless status. Everyone should experience a forced march through enemy territory, they suggest, but not for long.

Forcibly relieved of running the House after 40 years, Democrats say they have new freedoms — from responsibility, from compromise, from producing results, from having to hold their tongues.

But as the song goes, freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose. Particularly in the House, where Democrats have been frustrated bystanders at a Republican revolution.

The 104th Congress had barely opened before Democratic Rep. David Bonior was angrily complaining about rules limiting debate and shouting "I object!" at Republicans presiding over the House for the first time.

Outwardly, it was hard to tell that 203 of the 204 Democrats had never before served in the congressional minority. Many knew what to say on the floor; they just played back what they'd heard Republicans saying for years.

But the inner adjustment was more difficult. Not only had they lost control, their new speaker was the man who'd been attacking their ethics, their leaders and the very institution of the House for a decade. There were recriminations, there was confusion, there was disbelief.

"It's like death and dying," said Rep. Bob Wise, D-W.Va. "Denial, depression, rejection and then finally acceptance. That's when you begin to function again."

No new Democrats were elected to the Senate last year. The Democratic freshman class in the

House was so small — 11 compared with 73 for the GOP — that a non-partisan orientation was canceled; only a conservative seminar featuring talk-show host Rush Limbaugh was available. Nor was much guidance forthcoming from their more senior colleagues.

"We wanted to know where to go and what we should be doing and they didn't even know what they were going to be doing," said freshman Rep. John Baldacci, D-Maine. "We were always looking for a base of experience and they couldn't offer any."

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, who turned over the gavel to House Speaker Newt Gingrich three months ago "with resignation," said his party's reduced circumstances sank in gradually.

"Almost unconsciously you believe that you have a majority," said Gephardt, D-Mo. "It took a while to understand that we weren't going to win. We could make a point, we could make arguments, we could say what we would like to do, but we were not going to win."

Morale has worsened with a stream of defections. Rep. Nathan Deal of Georgia became a Republican this week. Two Democratic senators have switched to the GOP since the election, when Republicans recaptured the chamber after a six-year absence. And four Senate Democrats from competitive states have announced retirement plans, with more departures a distinct possibility.

Unlike House Democrats who are totally shut out of the legislative process, the 46 Democratic senators have a shot at some real influence.

Trouble continues for Pa. parolee

By MARLENE AIG
Associated Press Writer

NEW CITY, N.Y. — Reginald McFadden, the murderer who was released from prison in Pennsylvania and is suspected in three killings since then, has been moved to a maximum security prison after battling with guards and trying to escape.

"He's a professional con who is well used to the system," Rockland County Undersheriff Tom Guthrie said yesterday. "He knows how to literally drive us crazy."

McFadden, 42, was moved from the Rockland County Jail on Monday to the Sullivan County Correctional Facility in Fallsburg.

Guthrie said McFadden had threatened "everyone from the judge to the district attorney; he was stopping up his toilet with toilet paper, soaping the floor of his cell so people would slip if they came in, and he was throwing urine and feces at the guards."

McFadden was also charged with trying to escape last month, he said.

He is awaiting trial in the September rape and robbery of a South Nyack woman and the murder of a computer programmer.

At the Sullivan County facility, McFadden is being kept in "disciplinary housing," in a cell covered with a Plexiglas shield, said Jim Plateau, spokesman for the state

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— Tom Guthrie
Rockland County undersheriff

Department of Correctional Services.

"If he throws things at correction officers, they will bounce off the shield and stay in his cell until he cleans it up," said Plateau. "If he soaps down the floor, it will stay soapy until he gets tired of slipping on it. If he burns blankets, we'll take away his blankets. If he stuffs toilet paper in the toilet, he'll get sheets, not rolls."

McFadden is locked in his cell 23 hours a day, said Plateau, and has no contact with other inmates.

McFadden had been serving a life prison sentence in Pennsylvania for the 1969 murder of a Philadelphia woman when the sentence was commuted and he was freed July 7, 1994. His trial judge and others testified that prison life had rehabilitated him.

He came to New York where authorities alleged he killed at least two people, including an elderly Long Island woman, and raped another.

U.S., Turkey begin talks about Kurds

By ZEYNEP ALEMDAR
Associated Press Writer

ANKARA, Turkey — A top U.S. official opened talks with Turkey's foreign minister today in an effort to persuade Turkey to end its military incursion in northern Iraq.

Four weeks ago, Turkey sent 35,000 soldiers to wipe out the bases of Turkish Kurdish guerrillas who have attacked Turkey from across the Iraqi border. The campaign has drawn strong criticism from Western countries.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who arrived in Ankara on Monday, met today with Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu. Next week, Prime Minister Tansu

Ciller is to visit President Clinton at the White House.

The content of today's talk was not immediately disclosed, but Talbott, in a speech at an Ankara university today, said the U.S. position was clear.

"The United States understands Turkey's needs to deal firmly with... a vicious terrorist organization," he said, "but at the same time we attach great importance to the assurances of the Turkish government that the operations will be limited in scope and duration."

He said the United States was reassured by the withdrawal last week of 3,000 soldiers from Iraq. The offensive in northern Iraq

targets bases believed operated by some 2,800 rebels. It involves the part of northern Iraq controlled by Iraqi Kurds who want independence from Baghdad. The area is protected by a U.S.-led allied air force and is out of Iraq's reach.

The State Department said recently that the United States opposes an independent state for ethnic Kurds and might favor a system of self-government in states where Kurds live.

In the past, Turkey has opposed similar scenarios.

Turkey has 12 million Kurds, about 20 percent of its population. Sizeable Kurdish populations also live in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Armenia.



Snow in Tokyo?

People stroll in the shower of cherry blossoms in Tokyo. Thousands enjoyed the spring season outside yesterday.