

Judge rejects request to postpone Lockerbie trial

By Anthony Deutsch
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands — A Scottish judge — noting the defendants already have been held for 416 days — rejected yesterday prosecutors' request for an eight-week delay in the trial of two Libyans accused in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

Prosecutors had argued they need more time to review 119 new witnesses and additional evidence submitted by the defense last week. The judge, Lord Sutherland, who has granted two delays sought by the defense

since last June, ruled the trial will begin May 3 as scheduled.

"I should feel obliged to refuse the request," Sutherland said after a heated session in which prosecution and defense attorneys blamed each other for missing deadlines for submitting witness lists and evidence exhibits.

"It's useless to blame each other for what has gone wrong," said Sutherland, a Scottish High Court judge. "Parties should endeavor to cooperate fully."

The judge noted the defendants, alleged Libyan intelligence agents Abdel Basset Ali

al-Megrahi and Lamem Khalifa Fhimah, had already spent 416 days in pretrial custody, an unprecedented period in Scottish law.

The defendants are charged with the murders of 270 passengers, crew and residents of Lockerbie, Scotland, killed when the New York-bound Pan Am jumbo jet was blown out of the sky Dec. 21, 1988. Among the victims were 189 Americans aboard the plane.

Sutherland's ruling was welcomed by the families of the Lockerbie victims, who are eager for the trial to begin.

"I am relieved that the trial is not going to be delayed," Jim Swire, spokesman for

British relatives, told Britain's Press Association. "I am pleased and impressed with the way Lord Sutherland dealt with the case."

Prosecutors wanted the delay in the trial at this former U.S. air base to review 119 new witnesses and additional evidence submitted by defense lawyers on April 20. The new witnesses are from Libya, Malta, Sweden, Germany and the United States.

"We simply haven't had the opportunity to assess the documents," Chief Prosecutor Colin Boyd told the court.

But defense attorney William Taylor countered that prosecutors previously inter-

viewed 31 of the witnesses and already "had 11 1/2 years to investigate this case."

The judge acknowledged the defense material was submitted at a late date. But he said prosecutors should have enough time to continue preparations in the opening stages of the trial, before any witnesses are called.

In December, prosecutors gave notification of their own list of 1,172 witnesses, including intelligence agents from several countries. The trial was initially scheduled to begin on June 7, 1999, but Sutherland twice acceded to defense requests for more time to prepare.

Miami mayor fires city manager

By Rachel La Corte
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MIAMI — Miami Mayor Joe Carollo fired the city manager yesterday, just days after he demanded the man dismiss the police chief for failing to warn the mayor about the raid to seize Elian Gonzalez.

Carollo had asked City Manager Donald Warshaw to fire Police Chief William O'Brien, saying he "lost all confidence" in the chief for not telling him federal agents were about to raid the Gonzalez household early Saturday. Warshaw refused.

Carollo insisted yesterday that Warshaw's firing had nothing to do with "little Elian." Carollo said Warshaw has been criticizing him, lying and trying to turn department heads against him.

The seizure of the 6-year-old Cuban boy has plunged City Hall into political turmoil. Only the city manager can fire the police chief, and Warshaw's refusal set the stage for the confrontation at a City Commission meeting last night.

Warshaw, who preceded O'Brien as chief, shook his head with a look of disgust as Carollo spoke.

The city commission can overturn Carol-



Tony Gutierrez

Elian Gonzalez waves to supporters of his Miami relatives April 21 outside their home.

lo's decision if four out of five commissioners vote to do so. Hours after Elian was taken from the home of his Miami relatives, Carollo said of O'Brien, "If I had that power ... I would fire him."

The police chief had an hour of advance notice of the 5:15 a.m. raid, but has said he didn't want to tip off the mayor, who unlike

O'Brien is Cuban-American and had openly sided with the Cuban boy's Miami relatives.

"This was a police issue, not a political issue," O'Brien has said.

The mayor had also demanded O'Brien's firing for letting the police department's second in command, Maj. John Brooks, get involved in the raid.

Brooks rode in the van that whisked Elian away. Police said Brooks did so so that other police officers on duty at the house would realize that it was an official action. Officers on the scene had only a moment's notice of the raid.

Days before the raid, the mayor had declared that Miami police officers would not help federal agents remove the boy from the Little Havana home.

City Commissioner Tomas Regalado sided with Carollo in calling for the police chief's firing, saying: "He has lost his ability to direct the department."

City Commissioner Johnny Winton, who supports both O'Brien and Warshaw, said: "We have a mayor running around here pouring fuel on the fire instead of providing leadership to our community. It's a very, very sad statement for all of the citizens of our community."

Cancer may push Giuliani out of run for N.Y. Senate

By Timothy Williams
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK — Mayor Rudolph Giuliani disclosed yesterday that he has prostate cancer and acknowledged that while the disease was caught early, it could spell the end of his Senate run against Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Appearing upbeat and energetic at a City Hall news conference, Giuliani, 55, confirmed speculation that started Wednesday evening when he was seen entering a hospital and leaving three hours later.

"I was diagnosed yesterday," Giuliani said. "It's a treatable form of prostate cancer. It was diagnosed at an early stage."

The Republican mayor said he would continue his Senate run for now, but would make a more definitive statement in two to three weeks after he decides on a course of treatment. He still plans campaign appearances in Saratoga and Buffalo today and tomorrow.

"I really need to know what the course of

treatment is going to be before I can evaluate," he said. "And then, after I determine that, then I will figure out does it make sense this year or doesn't it or whatever."

Treatment of the cancer would almost certainly require as much as several weeks away from City Hall and off the campaign trail.

The first lady, who was campaigning in the upstate village of Penn Yan, spoke briefly by telephone with the mayor and wished him "a speedy and complete recovery," said Clinton spokeswoman Karen Dunn.

Clinton did not even obliquely criticize Giuliani, as she has done at many of her recent campaign appearances. Aides said that given the news of the mayor's health, even a veiled political attack would have been inappropriate.

Rep. Rick Lazio, who has considered challenging Giuliani for the GOP Senate nomination, issued a statement offering his prayers and support, adding that health issues transcend politics.

Government report says higher beer taxes reduce STD rates among young people

By David Pitt
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTA — Cheap beer is a leading contributor to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, according to a government report that says raising the tax on a six-pack by 20 cents could reduce gonorrhea by up to 9 percent.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study, released yesterday, compared

changes in gonorrhea rates to changes in alcohol policy in all states from 1981 to 1995. In years following beer tax increases, gonorrhea rates usually dropped among young people. The same happened when the drinking age went up — as it did in many states during the 1980s.

"Alcohol has been linked to risky sexual behavior among youth. It influences a person's judgment and they are more likely to have sex without a condom, with multiple

partners or with high-risk partners," said Harrell Chesson, a health economist with the CDC.

Beer industry lobbyists, however, said recent statistics show young people are already drinking more responsibly, thanks in part to efforts by brewers.

"Excise taxes have little or nothing to do with alcohol abuse in society," said Lori Levy of The Beer Institute in Washington. "I think that our members understand the impor-

tance of educating young people about how to make responsible choices once they're old enough and they put a lot of money and effort into those programs."

Gonorrhea, one of the most common venereal diseases, was examined in the CDC study because long-term statistics are available and the disease is more evenly spread among states.

The CDC analyzed the drops in gonorrhea rates following different tax increases and

came up with the estimate that 20-cent increase per six-pack would lead to a 9 percent drop in gonorrhea rates.

Chesson cited the example of a 16-cent per gallon — about 9 cents per six-pack — tax increase in California in 1991. Gonorrhea rates in the 15 to 19 age group dropped about 30 percent the following year. Drops in other states were not as dramatic.

During the study, various states raised beer taxes 36 times.

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Congratulations to the newest staff members of the Business Division. You worked so hard all semester and we are really proud of you!

You made it!

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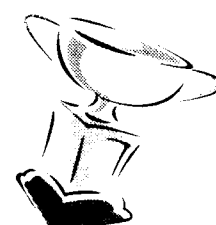
And the Trainees of the Semester are...
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Congratulations!

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