

World news

Court to reconsider Penk case

PORTLAND (AP) — Faculty women who lost a sex discrimination case against Oregon's state colleges and universities last year contend on appeal that a federal judge misinterpreted evidence and denied them a fair trial.

Attorneys for the state, meanwhile, maintain the evidence supports the conclusions made by U.S. District Judge Helen Frye and that it would be a waste of time and money to retry the massive case known as Penk vs. Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

Briefs describing in detail the appellate arguments of both sides have been filed with the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. A date for arguing the case has not been set.

Frye in February 1985 concluded there was no pattern of sex discrimination against women faculty members at Oregon's eight public colleges and universities, except for three individual claims involving women at Western Oregon State College.

An original class of 2,200 women faculty members had sought damages totaling \$33 million for alleged discrimination in hiring,

pay, promotion and tenure decisions.

Portland attorney Don Willner, chief attorney for the faculty women, alleged on appeal that Frye denied the women a fair trial by excluding testimony from two expert witnesses who would have been called to rebut statistical analyses performed by the state.

Willner also alleged that Frye erred by restricting time for rebuttal, and by limiting the size of class of women by about half.

A brief filed on behalf of Oregon Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer contends Frye properly refused to accept the testimony of the rebuttal witnesses because Willner failed to give notice of the experts' names in time to allow the state to prepare cross-examination. Willner's brief indicated that failure to meet the court's deadline was inadvertent.

If the appellate court fails to reverse Frye on state liability, Willner asks that the class action and the individual claims be sent back to a different judge for retrial.

Washington prepares for possible fallout

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Washington on Tuesday braced itself for possible fallout from the nuclear accident in the Soviet Union, but officials said the radioactivity probably would pose no health threat.

Gov. Booth Gardner met with officials from the state departments of Ecology, Social and Health Services and Emergency Management to review steps the state could take in the event abnormally high radiation levels reach the Northwest.

Charlie Porter, director of the Eastern Environmental Radiation Facility in Montgomery, Ala., said fallout detection stations in all 50 states will deliver data to his station. The agency is an arm of the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Gardner said readings at several monitoring stations around Washington state showed only normal background radiation.

Terry Frazee of the state radiation control office said there are no plans to test milk or water for radiation.

"Air is more sensitive (to radiation), and we

won't be testing milk unless there is increased radiation levels in the air," Frazee said.

Filters on radiation monitors at the capital in Olympia, at Spokane and at the Hanford nuclear reservation in eastern Washington were ordered changed daily. Normally they are changed once a week, officials said.

"There is nothing to be worried about in the Northwest at this point, but we will maintain continuous monitoring of the situation," said Gardner press aide Jim Kneeland.

Kneeland said state government will "use the situation as a vehicle to make sure our skills are up to handling any situation and for taking a look at what kind of a response we should have."

Federal officials have said if the radioactive cloud from the accident at the Soviet nuclear power plant at Chernobyl ascends to 15,000 feet or higher, it probably would pass over the polar ice cap, move across Canada and into the northwestern United States.

However, it is estimated that fallout, if any, wouldn't reach Washington until Saturday at the earliest.

Indonesia expels reporters

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — President Reagan, bearing a "message of freedom" for Asian allies, received a lush welcome in the Orient on Tuesday, but Indonesian authorities promptly expelled two Australian journalists in Reagan's entourage.

A third reporter, Barbara Crossette of The New York Times, who had come on her own, was also ordered out of the country, allegedly because she had written stories critical of Indonesian President Suharto.


Richard Palfreyman and James Middleton, Washington-

based correspondents for the Australian Broadcasting Corp., were ordered off the press plane accompanying Reagan, detained briefly in the airport terminal here, then told to country on the next plane to Tokyo.

Suharto banned all Australian journalists after a Sydney newspaper published an article alleging corruption in his government.

President Reagan regretted the decision by the Indonesians to deny entry to the journalists, said presidential spokesman Larry Speakes.

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