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World beat

International

OPEC to cut back

GENEVA (AP) — OPEC oil ministers reached unanimous agreement Monday night on Iran's proposal for a drastic production cut to raise prices, the cartel's president said.

Oil industry analysts consider a unanimous agreement by OPEC members on production cuts crucial to reversing a worldwide slump in prices, which have dropped from \$32 a barrel late last year to as low as \$7.35 for some grades.

Robbers raid graves

MOSCOW (AP) — Robbers dug for two years in a mass grave where 12,000 victims of a Nazi massacre are buried, stripping the bodies of gold teeth

and jewelry, according to an article by a leading poet.

Andrei Voznesensky wrote in the July issue of the youth magazine Yunost that the robberies apparently began in 1984 in the cemetery within sight of a major highway outside Simferopol, capital of the Crimea.

National

Soviet-U.S. talks set

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union, in a step toward a 1986 summit, announced Monday that planning talks will be held here in September between Secretary of State George Shultz and the Soviet foreign minister.

No date has been set for the long-delayed summit itself. Charles Redman, a State Department spokesman, said in announcing the talks Sept. 19-20.

Regional

Pot farm raids begin

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Law enforcement agents fanned out across Northern California's marijuana-rich "Emerald Triangle" Monday in the kickoff of the fourth annual series of raids on pot farms.

Raids are planned on pot farms in 37 counties, with particular emphasis on Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties, which comprise the so-called "Emerald Triangle."

Climbers feared dead

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — Unstable snow conditions forced rescue teams looking for two climbers buried in a weekend avalanche on Mount Baker to suspend their search Monday after just five hours.

Switchboard

Continued from Page 1

Probably the most well-known service provided by the Switchboard is its rideshare program. The program connects people who have cars but want someone to share gas expenses and/or driving with riders going to the same destination.

The driver leaves his or her destination and departure date with the Switchboard, which receives several calls a day from people needing rides. People seeking rides must pay the Switchboard \$3 for out-of-state rides and \$2 for in-state rides. University students with a current fee card get the service free because of an arrangement the University has with the Switchboard. Additional payments for gas must be worked out between driver and rider.

When asked about the program's safety, Tode said that since the Switchboard was started by Cynthia Wooten (now a member of the Eugene City Council) in 1969, there has not been a violent incident associated with the rideshare program.

The Switchboard, located at 556 Pearl St., is staffed by volunteers. University students can work for the Switchboard for credit or money via the ESCAPE or work-study programs.

"You have to be the kind of person who wants to help people to work here," Tode says. "Not everyone's cut out for this. Sometimes I leave this place drained emotionally."



Photo by Allan Lazo

Paula Tode thumbs through a file containing phone numbers for callers needing information and referral.

To prepare potential volunteers for the rigors of working at the Switchboard, Tode offers a three-hour training course in communication skills each month. She says that both the course and the "sociology fieldwork" of actually working at the Switchboard can teach the student valuable communication skills.

"You will learn how to talk to someone without being abrupt, how to get your voice toned to someone who's on the ceiling when they're calling, someone who's crying in your ear," Tode says. "You have to talk to them in a certain way. You can't be offhanded, you can't be non-

chalant, you can't be judgmental.

"These communication skills come in very handy in other aspects of life," she says.

Michelle Elle, a senior at the University majoring in elementary education, works at the Switchboard several days a week and finds the experience gratifying.

"I've found out that there are a wealth of agencies out there that are willing to help people," she says. "We're providing information and referral, but people still have to call the agencies to get the help they need. So basically we're helping other people help themselves, and I think that's really important."

Tode says she also finds the work rewarding.

"The compensation is immediate when someone either comes in or calls up and tells you, 'Thank you very much, you really turned my life around,'" she says. "It's so exhilarating to know that you helped somebody to see that life is worth living. That's the gratification."

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