



World Beat

International

Peace activist freed

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — American peace activist Paul Alan Fisher was back in Managua today, more than two weeks after Contra rebels abducted him while he was investigating reports of rebel atrocities. Fisher, 41, of Mill Valley, Calif., was freed Friday in the eastern province of Zelaya and walked through jungles and mountains toward the town of Rio Blanco, about 120 miles east of Managua.

Members of Witness for Peace, a religious group that opposes U.S. policies in Central America, had planned to meet him in Rio Blanco and drive him to Managua. Fisher was abducted Oct. 17 near the town of La Libertad, in central Chontales province, while investigating reports of alleged

atrocities by the Contras, which are fighting the left-wing Sandinista government with U.S. aid.

National

Productivity improves

WASHINGTON (AP) — Led by manufacturers, American businesses and workers increased their productivity 2.6 percent last quarter, the government said Monday, a sign that the United States is continuing to improve its competitive posture in the world economy. The increased efficiency by the nation's non-farm businesses in churning out goods and services in July, August and September was more than double the improvement over the past year, the Labor Department said.

Productivity among manufac-

turers jumped 4.5 percent as factories raised their assembly line output by 8.2 percent — the biggest increase since the first quarter of 1984 — while working their employees only 3.5 percent more hours. That combination, plus the ability of manufacturers to keep wage gains to only 1.4 percent the third quarter, slashed the labor costs for each product coming off an assembly line an average of 3 percent, the Labor Department said.

Regional

More charges filed

EUGENE (AP) — Federal investigators brought additional charges Monday against an escaped drug smuggler who was on the U.S. Marshal Service's "15 Most Wanted List," his wife and son. U.S. Magistrate Michael Hogan

found probable cause to hold without bail Benjamin Charles Smith, 47; his wife, Constance Camille Smith, 40, and their son, Charles F. Smith, 24, said Brian Leavitt, supervisor U.S. Marshal for Eugene.

The Smiths were arrested Oct. 24 at a truck stop outside Klamath Falls, where Smith has kept a home since 1983, authorities said. Leavitt said all three were charged with conspiring to give false names to the Federal Aviation Administration to get a pilot's license and having more than five false identifications for the purpose of criminal activity.

Fire almost controlled

AGNESS (AP) — Firefighters expect to control the Silver fire in the Siskiyou National Forest by later this week, a spokeswoman said Monday. Forest spokeswoman Patty Burel said fire officials have estimated they will have the 96,540-acre fire controlled by Thursday. Between one-quarter and eight-tenths of an inch of rain fell on the fire since Sunday, allowing forest officials to ease restrictions on logging on the north and west sides of the forest, she added.

The fire was contained Satur-

day, two months after it was ignited by lightning that sparked hundreds of other fires in the region. Fire authorities consider a fire contained when enough fire lines have been constructed to stop its spread. Control comes when the fire line is reinforced and there is little chance of the fire escaping.

Position explained

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon House minority leader said Monday his writing a letter criticizing Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's homosexual rights order doesn't mean Republican lawmakers will make the topic a major issue. Miller, a Lake Oswego lawyer, said he wrote the letter at the request of the Oregon Association of Evangelicals.

The letter was dated Oct. 5, 10 days before Goldschmidt signed the executive order forbidding state agencies from discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment policies or in dealing with the public. "This is a most urgent letter," Miller's letter began. It went on to discuss the failure of a homosexual rights bill in the 1987 Legislature and then urged the evangelicals to work to stop the planned executive order.

Draft

Continued from Page 6

"If a student is going to receive the benefits of society, the student must be willing to obey the law," she said.

However, other alternatives exist. Students who are undecided about draft registration can apply for conscientious objector status. According to a Draft and Pre-enlistment Counseling Project brochure, conscientious objectors are young men who are morally or religiously opposed to the participation in war in any form.

To emphasize their stand, ob-

jectors are told to keep documented records of their activities. This includes photocopies of all documents sent to the Selective Service and to local draft board members.

In addition, objectors are asked to keep a file on all activities that help verify their claim of non-violence.

According to University senior Allen Hancock, registering as a conscientious objector not only emphasized his views but also proved that an alternative exists.

Registering as a conscientious objector is a way of "objecting to the system through the system," Hancock said. By documenting evidence supporting his beliefs, Hancock can prove to draft board members that he has always held his anti-war beliefs.

Documentation of Hancock's belief may help him convince draft board members that his aversion to war is not "some capricious thoughts that I had as soon as the draft was re-enacted."

Drugs

Continued from Page 6

such as friends, it would be much harder to look her in the eye and say no," he said.

Still, Henderson commended the curriculum for its potential effectiveness.

"In an 11-year-old it doesn't always occur to them that they could say no," Henderson said. "The program can help them to develop insight, and for that it is worthwhile."

"I don't think youngsters are less skillful than we (parents) were, but it's spooky when you think of the kinds of choices they have to make today," Henderson said.

Cathy Brown, who teaches the refusal skills at Roosevelt, said most of the children in-

dicated that they would try to use the skills.

"I'm more excited about this program than I have been about other programs because it addresses peer pressure, an area that we need to deal with," Brown said. Learning refusal skills is a more effective way for kids to say no to drugs than learning every single fact about a drug, she added.

Hardie said the school board set aside funds for the program two years ago when it recognized that children were using drugs. She said the program is expensive to implement, but additional funding from the Junior League of Eugene made the program possible.

A portion of the expense is \$8,000 spent on an annual two-day training session for 30 teachers. In addition to the cost of supplies and bringing a Seattle-based instructor, more than \$5,000 is spent for substitute teachers for those two days.

"The training was pretty intensive, so the teachers were a bit leery until they actually tried it," Hardie said. "They found out, 'Yes, this really works,' and because they went to the training, it made the implementation very easy for them," he said.

"The parents, the teachers and the administrators have been really excited about it."

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