

# NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

## Pro-choice activists oppose candidate for his abortion beliefs



**SALEM (AP)** — Leaders of several women's groups Wednesday urged voters to oppose Republican Gordon Smith's bid for the U.S. Senate because of his stand against abortion.

A spokeswoman for the Oregon National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League accused Smith of talking up economic issues in his campaign as a way to hide a strong social agenda that includes opposition to abortion.

Smith, who is president of the Oregon Senate, said he long has

been philosophically opposed to abortion but hasn't tried to make it an issue of it in his campaign.

"Abortion is an issue of conscience upon which good people can arrive at different conclusions," the Pendleton Republican said. "My approach to this issue is principled, pragmatic and peaceful."

Planned Parenthood and NARAL helped defeat a bill during the 1995 Legislature that would have required doctors to give parents 48 hours' notice before they could perform abortions on teen-age girls.

NARAL and other opponents said the bill was an effort by the OCA and other conservative activists to take advantage of a Republican-controlled legislature to restrict abortion policy.

## Lawmakers question warrant of soldiers dying in Bosnia



**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Conjuring images of body bags and bereaved families, lawmakers challenged the Clinton administration Wednesday to justify sending Americans' sons and daughters to Bosnia to enforce a fragile peace.

President Clinton's top defense and foreign policy officials argued that the proposed 20,000-member peacekeeping mission is essential to prevent the 3 1/2-year-old war from spreading.

But many lawmakers remained skeptical.

## Meeting in China hoped to smooth relations with Taiwan



**BEIJING (AP)** — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown told China's president on Wednesday that President Clinton has not changed his policy on Taiwan and there is no need to discuss it when the two leaders meet next week.

Brown's meeting with President Jiang Zemin in the secret offices of the Chinese leadership was the last stop on the secretary's two-day visit to Beijing.

Brown tried to push ahead \$5.2 billion in deals signed during his last visit and presented Chinese officials with \$20 bil-

lion in other projects U.S. companies want to pursue.

Throughout his stay, Brown acknowledged that relations have been strained by disagreements over Taiwan and human rights. He said the Chinese leaders also seemed interested in improving relations.

China was upset last summer over a personal visit to the United States by Taiwan's president, Lee Teng-hui. Beijing canceled several meetings and recalled its ambassador from Washington after Teng-hui was granted a visa.

China felt the visit legitimized the government of Taiwan, which Beijing views as a renegade province.

Brown said he reiterated the administration's assurances that it recognizes Beijing as the sole, legitimate ruler of all China.

Accepted at  
more schools  
than you were.



It's everywhere  
you want to be.

© Visa U.S.A. Inc. 1995

## STRANGER

THAN FICTION

### Reconstruction proves Oregon State stinks

**CORVALLIS (AP)** — The hallowed halls of higher education smell, or at least the walls of Oregon State University's Education Hall do.

A waterproofing company's \$300,000 project to preserve the crumbling sandstone walls of the 93-year-old building revealed that not only had birds and bats visited the structure, but birds also had taken up residence.

The repair project began with replacement of grout between the sandstone blocks and granite blocks on the ground floor. But workers also found the upper stones were flaking apart and discovered that the walls might collapse in even a mild earthquake.

To protect pedestrians until a solution is found and financed, a protective veil of vinyl-coated fencing has been draped over the walls. A complete overhaul would cost \$14 million, according to an architect's study.

### Officials palm off hotel landscape idea

**PLEASANT HILL, Calif. (AP)** — A proposal to surround a hotel with palm trees got a far-from-front response from city officials.

"When I think of Pleasant Hill, the last thing I think of is palm trees," said Councilwoman Kim Brandt.

"This isn't Palm Springs," said Councilman Paul Cooper.

The issue arose Monday night when officials saw preliminary drawings for a Marriott hotel, replete with palms.

The tree is popular in southern California, but generally shunned by the northern half of the state as being unsuitable for the sometimes-chilly climate there — and just too L.A.

A proposal a few years ago to line San Francisco's Embarcadero with palms drew similar opposition.

A call to Marriott International headquarters was not returned Wednesday.

The development plans will be reviewed by city commissions.

Despite the general opposition, at least one city official wasn't quite ready to palm off the plan.