

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Man, woman released after new evidence points to true killer



SALEM (AP) — A man and a woman who served four years for a 1990 strangling were released from prison Monday, three weeks after the "Happy Face Killer" was convicted of the crime.

"There's no longer any doubt that these two individuals are innocent. The evidence is compelling," Circuit Judge Paul Lipscomb said.

Laverne Pavlinac, 62, and her former boyfriend, John Sosnovske, 42, went free two months after Keith Hunter Jespersen confessed to the strangling of Taunja Bennett. He was convicted of the murder on Nov. 2.

Jespersen was nicknamed the Happy Face Killer for the smiley faces he drew on letters claiming responsibility for eight murders.

"I'm happy to be with my family and my grandchildren," Pavlinac said after her release. "I'm real, real sorry that this whole thing happened."

Pavlinac had told police she helped her boyfriend kill Bennett and dispose of her body.

But at her trial, Pavlinac recanted, saying that she had lied in an attempt to escape her abusive relationship with Sosnovske.

Newt Gingrich decides not to run as presidential candidate in 1996



WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Newt Gingrich ruled out a 1996 presidential run Monday, leaving a clearly defined field to fight for the GOP nomination and little doubt the speaker will himself be a campaign issue.

It had long been clear that Gingrich was unlikely to join the presidential race, but not until Monday did he slam the door shut. He said he would not endorse a candidate, but hoped to serve as chairman of the Republican convention next August in San Diego.

Explaining his decision, Gingrich listed the daunting challenge he faces in trying to shepherd a balanced budget through Congress, calling it "one of the most important decisions we've made in domestic government in the last 60 years."

But political calculations also played a part. Iowa's caucuses and New Hampshire's primary are less than three months away, followed by a blizzard of early primaries.

"I didn't see how I could be both speaker of the House and run a campaign of that scale," Gingrich said.

In his year as speaker, Gingrich has become a remarkably controversial, polarizing political figure, viewed negatively by 57 percent of Americans in one recent poll.

New Algerian president promises to establish democracy



ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — President Liamine Zeroual, inaugurated Monday, called for a "national dialogue" with militants fighting for an Islamic state and vowed to establish a pluralistic democracy.

In his nationally televised speech, Zeroual called on rebels to cease their four-year fight to oust Algeria's military-installed secular regime. He also warned that his government would continue to oppose what he called "criminals, traitors and mercenaries."

Algerians, weary of the insurgency, defied militants' threats of violence and turned out in large numbers Nov. 16 to elect the retired general.

The political opposition boycotted the elections, and the government barred them from participating. But the Islamic Salvation Front acknowledged Zeroual's authority for the first time and said it was open to talks.

The Armed Islamic Group, Algeria's most radical opposition group, has claimed responsibility for bombings in France that have killed eight people and injured 160.

On Sunday, Dr. Said Messai, the president of the Association of Doctors in Algiers, was shot to death in his office. Messai, who was seriously injured in an attempt on his life in 1993, strongly supported the establishment of a democratic republic in Algeria.

stranger

THAN FICTION

More than 1,000 black widow spiders found in Osaka, Japan

TOKYO (AP) — More than 1,000 poisonous black widow spiders have been found in Osaka, Japan's second-largest city, in the last few days.

No injuries have been reported, but the government is asking residents to take precautions, said Akira Kitasumi of the Osaka prefectural government's Environment and Health Bureau.

The spider's bite is venomous, but is only occasionally fatal, usually to children.

The spider, formally known as *latrodectus mactans*, is black with a reddish hourglass-shaped marking on the lower abdomen. The name derives from the fact that the female may eat the male after mating.

People living in dump fight with police for homes

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Shouting "this land is ours," hundreds of poor people who live in a Manila garbage dump fought today with police clearing the area for a housing project. One person was killed and dozens were hurt.

Residents of the Smoky Mountain dump fought police and demolition crews with stones, guns, arrows and firebombs. At least 18 people were arrested and accused of creating a disturbance.

"Heartless animals!" screamed one woman, clutching a young child as she joined others fleeing to the top of the mountain.

More than 3,000 families have settled in the area in recent decades, earning a living by selling recyclable garbage. More than half the residents have agreed to be resettled temporarily.

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MEETINGS

National Student Exchange will meet today at 12:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 346-3211.

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Alliance Women's Drop-in Group will meet today from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-1134.

Model United Nations Organization will meet tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Walnut Room. For more information, call 346-8500.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Alliance will sponsor a friendly queer social hour in the residence halls tonight from 6 to 7:30 in the Blue Carson Room. For more information, call 346-1134.