

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Group stands against Utah's impending firing squad execution



SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Anti-death penalty advocates, in Utah for the firing squad execution of John Albert Taylor, offended the state's legislative leaders Wednesday by implying the state is barbaric.

Taylor is scheduled to die at 12:01 a.m. MST Friday before a firing squad at Utah State Prison for the 1989 rape and strangulation of an 11-year-old girl.

"It got a little tense when people came in from New York and accused us of being brutal and barbaric for having the death penalty," said House Minority Leader Frank Pignatelli, D-Salt Lake. "I resented it, and I think the others did as well."

"We tried to tell them that going through with this execution . . . was dragging the state down to the same level. That the state itself is committing a cold-blooded, premeditated murder," said Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Pignatelli said he supports capital punishment in some instances. "And in this case, with the rape and strangulation of an 11-year-old girl, I support it."

Prison officials will begin a formal "deathwatch" — a detailed log of Taylor's visitors, mood and conversations — about noon on Thursday, 12 hours before the execution.

Corrections spokesman Jack Ford said Taylor has requested a pizza and a Coke for his last meal.

Ford escorted more than 60 reporters from around the world on a tour of the temporary death chamber. Photographers snapped pictures of the glossy black metal chair made especially for Friday's execution.

The armless chair is simply a frame with a mesh seat. Behind is a five-foot-high pile of sandbags covered by a black tarp. Wide Velcro-like straps will secure Taylor's legs, waist, arms and shoulders.

Wall Street service threatens to default because of deadlock



NEW YORK (AP) — The federal budget deadlock drew an ominous warning Wednesday from one of Wall Street's chief credit-rating services, which threatened to lower its quality rating on \$387 billion in Treasury debt.

The move by Moody's Investors Service marked the most dramatic reaction yet in the financial world over the possibility of a first-ever default by the U.S. government.

Moody's said it was placing Treasury bonds with interest payments due Feb. 29 and April 6 "on review for possible downgrade."

"The positions being taken in the current debate over the budget and the debt ceiling have significantly increased the risk of a default on the above-mentioned security obligations," Moody's said.

Clinton visits officers, condemns crime

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Fresh from articulating his newest commitment to fighting crime, President Clinton sought today to underscore it with a campaign-tinged visit with police officers in Louisville.

Clinton spoke with police officers and community leaders at a west Louisville precinct near the site of a weekend drive-by shooting in which 16-year-old Dwayne Simiril was killed.

"This, in my opinion, is the way the federal government ought to relate to American citizens," Clinton said. "We have got to get back to a point in our country where crime is the exception rather than the rule," Clinton said.

"We don't want police forces to be occupying armies in our cities. We can't be in a position anymore where the fastest growing job category in the United States is prison guards."

Serviceman convicted for refusing to serve under U.N. command



WUERZBURG, Germany (AP) — A U.S. soldier whose refusal to serve under U.N. command was lauded by conservatives, but called a potential "cancer" by the Army was convicted of disobedience Wednesday and given a bad-conduct discharge.

Spc. Michael New, 22, is the first American serviceman court-martialed for refusing to accept foreign command on a United Nations operation.

The jury could have slapped New with a dishonorable discharge, six months' incarceration and a loss of pay. New's attorney said he thought the less-severe sentence indicated the jury believed New's concerns were legitimate.

Pope urges media to show more positive images of women

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Lamenting that women are often exploited and treated as objects, Pope John Paul II has urged the mass media to focus on the "true heroines of society," including Roman Catholic saints.

In a written message, the pope said the media — from news to entertainment to computer networks — play a powerful role in how society recognizes women.

"Sadly though, we often see not the exaltation but the exploitation of women in the media," the pope said. "How often are they treated not as persons with an inviolable dignity but as objects whose purpose is to satisfy others' appetite for pleasure or for power?"

The role of a woman as a wife or a mother is often ridiculed, the pope said, while the role of women in professional life is often depicted "as a masculine caricature."

He also urged women to protest to media agencies and advertisers regarding programs that insult them.

Activism: Rust endorses new bottle bill

Continued from Page 1

problems affecting Oregon. "We've got some of the worst environmental destruction on the planet right here in River City," he said. "The great public lands of the Northwest are up for grabs."

Lane County also has several thousand homeless and hungry people, he said. Rust said students need to play a role in reducing this number.

"We have several thousand families, with children often,

that are homeless in Lane County," he said. "There are things we can do about this."

"There's no reason, no need, for people in America to be hungry at night."

Rust said Lane County is making strides in its recycling efforts, reusing or recycling about 34 percent of its recyclable products.

He said he would endorse further efforts to recycle a wider range of products and he supports a new state bottle bill.

"I would endorse a statewide expansion of the bottle bill," Rust said. This bill would extend the current language of the bottle bill so it would apply to a wider range of containers.

Sadie Rogers, OSPIRG's higher education project leader, said the group chose to bring Rust to campus because of his work on a variety of issues.

"He's really working with environmental issues and student activism," Rogers said.

Changes: Student conduct code examined

Continued from Page 1

cause them to leave campus, and they can be gone for longer than 10 days," said Audré Bonadea, student defender supervisor.

The hearings also addressed changes to the amount of time students have to reschedule a meeting with a formal hearing officer from 72 hours to five days when they face disciplinary action.

"I think it has a real advantage as a courtesy to hearing officers," said Elaine Green, student conduct coordinator and secretary for the Student

Conduct Committee.

University attorney Peter Swan led the hearings. Representatives from the Office of Student Advocacy, the Student Conduct Committee and University Housing support most of the changes.

Earlier in the day, another hearing took place concerning a proposition to require students contesting debts to contact the appropriate academic department within 60 days of billing, and before they contact the Office of Business Affairs. No one contested the proposition.

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