NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

OSU students receive jail terms, probation in intimidation case

NORTHWEST

CORVALLIS (AP) — Two white Oregon State University students were sentenced to jail on Tuesday for taunting a 19-year-old black student with racial epithets and trying to urinate and spit on him.

Eric Hutchinson, 21, and Christopher John Curry, 20, each pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of first-degree attempted intimidation, said Benton County District Attorney Peter Sandrock.

Circuit Judge Robert Gardner sentenced Hutchinson to serve 14 days in jail, giving him credit for nine days served following his arrest in the Feb. 8 incident at an Oregon State dorm.

Gardner also ordered each man to read a book on racism and write a report for the court. In addition, each must pay court costs and $450 in fines, perform 80 hours of community service and serve two years' probation.

About the same time as the dorm attack, posters were defaced with racial slurs and a public fraternity ceremony was seen by some as resembling a Ku Klux Klan rally. More than 1,500 students staged a march and day-long boycott of classes last month to defuse campus tensions.

Federal appeals court strikes down doctor-assisted suicide laws

NATIONAL

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal appeals court rejected state laws banning doctor-assisted suicide Tuesday, saying it would be discriminatory to let people disconnect life support systems while refusing to let others end their lives with medication.

It is the second such ruling in a month, though unlike the earlier one, it does not claim there is any constitutional right to assisted suicide.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Tuesday it struck down two New York state laws banning physician-assisted suicide because the laws violated the Constitution by failing to treat individuals equally.

It noted that patients on life-support systems can be disconnected at their request, but others who want to speed death by taking prescribed drugs are stopped.

It refused, however, to declare doctor-assisted suicide a fundamental constitutional right, saying it is not "deeply rooted in the nation's traditions and history."

A federal appeals court in San Francisco last month ruled that mentally competent, terminally ill adults have a constitutional right to die, striking down Washington state's ban.

Investigators looking for signs of alleged war crimes in Bosnia

WORLD

VLASENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — War crimes experts began Tuesday to investigate the thawing fields of eastern Bosnia, believed to contain the remains of thousands of Muslims allegedly massacred by Serb fighters.

U.S. forces are to protect the investigators in Serb-controlled areas from Srebrenica to Zvornik, where experts from the international tribunal for former Yugoslavia are seeking evidence of wartime atrocities.

The fields around the destroyed town of Srebrenica have come to symbolize the horror of Bosnia's war. Authorities believe the spring thaw may yield proof that up to 7,000 Muslims were killed there by Serb fighters in July.

Investigators from the U.N. tribunal met Tuesday with U.S. officers at nearby Camp Lisa, headquarters of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Jean Rene Ruez said his six-member team would begin surveying the sites Wednesday but declined to provide details.

Col. John Batiste of Jaffrey, N.H., commander of the 2nd Brigade, said the team would initially conduct reconnaissance of suspected grave sites.

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