

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

D.A. says confession tape will not be used in Hale investigation



EUGENE (AP) — A district attorney said Wednesday that he made a mistake by allowing the secret taping of a jailhouse meeting between a priest and a murder suspect and the recording will not be used against the man.

"I was wrong to authorize the taping of that conversation," said Doug Harclerod, Lane County district attorney. "There are some things that are legal and ethical, but are simply not right."

Harclerod said his office will not use the tape in their investigation of Conan Wayne Hale, a suspect in the killing of three teenagers.

The Rev. Timothy Mockaitis spoke to Hale at Lane County Jail on April 22 as part of the Catholic church's Sacrament of Reconciliation, also known as the act of confession.

Harclerod said the tape of the conversation and transcripts have been turned over to Lane County Circuit Court Judge Kip Leonard, who has sealed them.

Hale is being held in connection with a robbery and burglary in which investigators think a gun used in the Dec. 21, 1995, slayings was stolen. Another man, Jonathan Wayne Susbauer, 22, has been charged with taking part in the killings.

Study: Black drivers searched for drugs four times more often



PERRYVILLE, Md. (AP) — Black drivers are being stopped and searched for drugs at least four times more often than whites by a special Maryland state police squad that patrols stretches of Interstate 95, the East Coast's main north-south artery.

This finding from an Associated Press computer analysis of car searches raises questions of whether troopers are following their own written training procedures and complying with a court ruling that specifically bars them from using racial profiles to determine likely drug couriers.

More than 75 percent of all drivers whose cars were searched by the special drug squad through the first nine months of 1995 were black.

State police steadfastly denied using racial profiles, which in the past typically targeted young minority men driving late-model cars and carrying pagers or wearing gold jewelry.

Maryland state police are forbidden to use racial profiles in traffic stops under terms of a legal settlement reached in 1994 with Robert Wilkins, a black Washington lawyer searched for drugs as he drove home from a funeral in 1992.

Survivors say doomed ferry overcrowded with people, cargo



MWANZA, Tanzania (AP) — The heavily overloaded ferry pitched from side to side, throwing passengers out of berths and onto wave-flooded decks.

"I jumped. I decided I'd rather die in the lake than go down with the boat," Godfrey Simango, a 23-year-old survivor, said Wednesday from his hospital bed.

The final toll, according to the government: 549 passengers and crew presumed drowned in Lake Victoria when the ferry MV Bukoba capsized Tuesday. One hundred and fourteen others were pulled alive from the lake.

Passengers said Captain Rume Mwiru and crewmen accepted bribes to allow people without tickets to board the ship at the western port that gave the ferry its name.

The MV Bukoba was carrying 222 more passengers than its official capacity, agreed William Kusila, the Tanzanian minister for communication and transportation. But he insisted its cargo load was within allowable limits, a statement passengers disputed.

He said the government would hire a foreign consultant to ensure an unbiased investigation of the disaster.

Senate debates group's use of Autzen stadium

RELIGION: The Promise Keepers' messages are being scrutinized for discriminatory attitudes

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Editor

The University Senate debated whether a group of Christian men called the Promise Keepers should be allowed to lease Autzen stadium this August for a religious gathering in which women are asked not to participate.

Some senate members fear that leasing Autzen to the Promise Keepers will relay a false message of University endorsement of the group, which some believe fosters discriminatory attitudes about women and homosexuals.

Amanda Powell co-chair of the senate's committee concerning gay, lesbian and bisexual issues said committee members believe the Promise Keepers aren't positive towards gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

"[The Promise Keepers] might pose a threat or sense of insecurity to minorities," Powell said.

She also said some members of the committee believe the Promise Keepers message is representative of hate speech.

University student Dave Bartlett, a Promise Keeper who attended the meeting, pointed out that hate speech is a legally

defined term and that the group's message does not fall into this category.

Bartlett said he did not believe the group's message is discriminatory.

Paul Simonds, former University Senate president, read a letter to President Dave Frohnmayer from Faith Center Pastor Steve Overman, who is organizing the Promise Keepers' Eugene event.

The letter states Pastor Overman's view that the Promise Keepers' message encourages men to love their families and to take responsibility for their actions.

Pastor Overman stated in his letter, "In all my exposure to the organization ... I have never heard or felt anything of disrespect, discrimination or hatred. In fact, I have never heard the issue of homosexual lifestyles raised."

But Simonds said the president's office plans to release a statement stating that the University does not support or endorse groups that lease Autzen Stadium. Simonds was filling in for new University Senate President Carl Bybee, who was absent.

The University Senate also discussed possibilities of counteracting the Promise Keepers' message with educational forums at the University for supporting diversity.

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