



Magnate buys paper to bolster venture

1 TORONTO — Conrad Black, who already controls more than half of Canada's daily newspapers, acquired the nation's No. 1 business daily Monday to reduce the competition for a new national newspaper he plans to start in October.

Black's Southam Inc. announced it will obtain the Toronto-based Financial Post from Sun Media Corp., which will get four Ontario daily newspapers in return.

Southam said the deal would strengthen the prospects for its new, as-yet-unnamed national newspaper, but did not elaborate. Some analysts suggested the Post might be incorporated into the new paper as its business section.

Four Ontario dailies owned by Southam — the Hamilton Spectator, the Kitchener-Waterloo Record, the Guelph Mercury and the Cambridge Reporter — will become Sun Media papers. In exchange, Southam gets Sun Media's 80 percent interest in the Financial Post and \$101 million.

The Financial Post also circulates nationwide, as does the Toronto-based Globe and Mail.

Military leader plans democracy transition

2 ABUJA, Nigeria — Mapping out his plan to return Nigeria to democratic rule, the nation's new military leader on Monday announced plans for elections and a civilian president by May 29, 1999, ordering a purge of the country's political structure.

Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, who took over Africa's most populous nation when military dictator Gen. Sani Abacha died in June, swept aside the flawed transition program begun during Abacha's rule.

He ordered the dismissal of all charges against political prisoners and the dismantling of the previous regime's electoral commission, and dissolved the five state-sponsored political parties created to support Abacha. He also said he would give independence to the judiciary, which was often criticized for its close ties to the previous regime.

"Nigerians want nothing less than true democracy in a united and peaceful country," he said in a nationally televised speech.

In his speech, he promised elections would be held in the first three months of next year.

Man charged in fatal firebombing

3 BELFAST, Northern Ireland — A 23-year-old man was charged Monday with killing three young brothers in a firebombing that stunned Northern Ireland and prompted Protestant leaders to tone down efforts to hold a divisive march.

The suspect in the July 12 attack in Ballymoney, 40 miles northwest of Belfast, was not identified. He will appear in a Belfast court on Tuesday, police said, giving no other details.

Police investigating the slayings of the Quinn brothers — Richard, 11, Mark, 10, and Jason 9 — said the attack was linked to tensions caused by a violent standoff outside Portadown, 25 miles southwest of Belfast.

Protestant marchers faced off against armed authorities blocking them from parading down a largely Catholic road for nearly a week.

Stunned by the killings, some leaders of the Orange Order fraternal group that organized the march called for an end to the confrontation. The standoff quieted down, and efforts to continue the march have now virtually ended.

Initiative could cost state millions

The proposed ban on clearcutting would cause a drop in tax revenue, officials say

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — A ballot measure that would ban clearcutting and pesticide use in Oregon forests would reduce the state's annual timber harvest by more than 60 percent, according to a draft analysis prepared by state officials.

The document, prepared by state forestry and revenue officials, estimates the financial impact on Oregon's timber industry, which harvests \$1.5 billion worth of timber each year and employs more than 50,000 people.

According to the analysis, the initiative would require a host of new regulations costing the state at least \$4.9 million annually to administer, and requiring 95 full-time positions.

At the same time, state and local tax revenues from logging could be cut by \$75 million, including a \$33.2 million drop in school revenues.

Late last week, the state treasurer, the secretary of state, and directors of revenue and administrative services signed the document.

State law requires a financial analysis for each ballot measure.

A public hearing on the analysis is set for July 30; the final document must be approved by Aug. 5. A summary will be included in the State Voter's Pamphlet for the Nov. 3 election.

The ballot measure was developed by a statewide conservation coalition called OLIFE, Oregonians for Labor Intensive Forest Economics.

Joshua Binus, an initiative coordinator, disputes the state analysis. It overstates the effect on harvests, he said, while ignoring the economic benefits, including healthier soils, cleaner water and strengthened populations of fish and wildlife.

"We'd like to see a sustainable forestry model," Binus said. "We can't sustain this rate of ecological devastation."

If the measure gains voter approval, it would force fundamental change in the Oregon logging industry, which depends on clearcutting to harvest more than 80,000 acres a year; coastal forests are almost exclusively clearcut.

After the harvests, the industry then sprays herbicides on much of that acreage to help spur the growth of the next generation of trees.

Industry leaders say clearcutting is essential to modern forestry, and can be done without harming the environment. They say the ballot measure is extreme, and will be rejected by Oregonians.

But they're not taking chances. They've formed a group called the Healthy Forests Alliance to launch a high-powered effort to defeat the initiative.

"This is important enough that if substantial resources are needed, they'll be there," said Ray Wilkeson of the Oregon Forest Industries Council, a trade association that is part of the alliance.

The ballot measure strikes at one of the timber industry's most controversial practices.

Public concern about clearcutting was heightened two years ago as landslides emanating from logged areas killed five people and destroyed more than a dozen homes.

The legislature last year passed a temporary ban on clearcutting slopes at high risk of sliding.

The initiative would ban clearcuts on all forest lands, sloped or flat. It encompasses private, state and federal lands, though federal land managers already have shifted away from clearcuts.

DDS: Vans could be running by weekend

Continued from Page 1

The situation became compounded, though, because the final budget signed by University President Dave Frohnmayer and Oregon University System officials contained both the PFC allocation and the ballot measure money, giving DDS control over \$76,212.

Although it was generally agreed that DDS would tap only \$50,000 of the money, Cowling said she urged Smith to be "cautious" with his spending to avoid any appearance of fiscal irresponsibility.

During the first week of July, however, the ASUO Executive blocked two purchase attempts by Smith. The DDS director had filed paperwork for the purchase of a \$1,500 computer laser printer and a \$16,383 nine-passenger van. In a letter to DDS, the executive said DDS did not need its own printer because the program used a common printer in the ASUO office along with several other programs. The executive also said in the letter that the attempt to purchase a van "directly violates the wishes of the students" because a separate DDS ballot measure asking voters to fund a new van had failed in the April elections.



SMITH

Smith said that the printer situation could be "negotiable," but he and the executive differed on interpretation of the failed measure for a new van. Smith claimed the measure was intended to fund a third van as an addition to the DDS fleet. The vehicle he attempted to purchase was meant as a direct replacement for the oldest van, not as a third vehicle, he said.

"The steering is shot, the transmission is shot, and it needs engine work," Smith said of the 12-year-old, nine-passenger van. "It's not safe."

On July 12, the ASUO Executive indefinitely froze the original \$26,212 PFC allocation and directed Smith to submit an itemized budget in order to access the \$50,000 ballot measure funds. According to Cowling, \$26,212 of the ballot measure money was freed immediately in order to allow DDS to function while the funding situation was sorted out. The amount was determined in large part because the ASUO Controller had already created ledgers based on the \$26,212 PFC allocation.

The student senate retains the power to transfer the remaining \$23,788 to DDS. On Sunday, senator Selena Brewington made a motion to approve the transfer of funds, but after a long discussion, the Senate voted 4-1 to table her motion until its next meeting on Aug. 1.

"I don't think any of us were prepared to go through a \$50,000 budget tonight," Brewington said at the senate meeting.

The senate and Smith still need to resolve some issues centered on a recent switch from stipend pay to hourly pay for DDS workers. On Sunday, the senate debated the large boost in pay that would result for the top program positions. In response, Smith told the senate he was concerned about legal issues that may arise if the program is forced to revert to stipends.

"I hired people at \$7 an hour and they're going to be pretty upset if I have to tell them in the fall that their pay has been cut," Smith said.

According to Smith, DDS is not currently operating because of safety concerns about both aging vehicles. However, he said he hopes that at least one van would be running by the weekend. "We're going to shoot for this Friday and Saturday," he said.

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