

News Briefs

Green ribbons for children

(AP) — As they wore yellow ribbons during the hostage crisis, South Carolina legislators are now wearing bright green ribbons to show concern over the murders of 21 black children in Atlanta.

That's just the beginning. The NAACP's South Carolina chapters plan to hand out more than 50,000 of the ribbons, according to a statement.

The state conference of branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has urged all Americans to "pray daily for a quick resolution of the Atlanta killings."

The civil rights group said it was not involved in any effort to raise funds. "The distribution of the ribbons is the least we can do," it said.

The ribbon campaign fulfills a promise made to Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson last month.

"The murders of the Atlanta children have raised serious concerns all over the nation," said South Carolina NAACP President W.F. Gibson of Greenville and state Field Director Isaac W. Williams in a March 18 letter to Jackson.

"We pledge our support and please feel free to call on your friends in South Carolina for any assistance we may render," they wrote.

Winthrop fees increased

ROCK HILL (AP) — Winthrop College trustees approved an 11 percent boost in student fees and also recommended Wednesday the state pay \$1 million for a motel the school has leased two years as a dormitory.

The average increase of \$99 a year will mean a South Carolina resident will pay \$506 per semester as a fulltime student. President Charles Vail said the total is well under the maximum and near the minimum charged by other state institutions.

Board members voted to ask the state Commission on Higher Education to okay buying the Winthrop Lodge, formerly a Quality Inn, three blocks from the campus. It houses 140 students in two buildings and a continuing education conference center in the other.

Showers steam up students

BYRN MAWR, Pa. (AP) — Two college students who were "really steamed" about dormitory plumbing have invented an "early-warning scalp-saver" to alert bathers of an imminent hot water surge when a toilet is flushed nearby.

Sophomores David Schwed and Adam Levy installed a smoke detector in a dormitory shower room and ran a wire from it to the toilet handle.

When the toilet is flushed, a current produced by the movement of the handle sets off the alarm. The person in the shower has several seconds to get out of the spray — the time it takes the drop in cold-water pressure to reach the showerhead.

"The other day, Adam came back from the shower room really steaming," Schwed said. "Someone had flushed the toilet when he was showering and the cold water had suddenly gone off. His scalp had been scalded."

So the two Haverford College students, who live in a co-ed dorm at Bryn Mawr College as part of a dorm exchange, went to work. Their project used 60 feet of wire, 20 feet of Scotch tape and a broken smoke detector — and cost less than \$4.

Paper finds Ringo's father

LONDON (AP) — The father of millionaire ex-Beatle Ringo Starr is a window cleaner in an industrial town in northwest England, a newspaper revealed Wednesday.

Tracked down by the Daily Express to the railroad-junction town of Crewe, cheerful Richard Starkey said of his famous son: "He's done well, the lad, and good luck to him. But he owes me nothing."

Ringo Starr is a stage name. The Beatles' 40-year-old drummer originally had the same name as his father, who left his first wife and only child when Ringo was small.

Acupuncture law changes

(AP) — The state Senate has approved a bill allowing acupuncturists who are approved by the state Board of Medical Examiners to practice in South Carolina on referrals by physicians.

The measure, sent to the House on Wednesday, would apparently affect only one acupuncturist, who is working in the Columbia area.

Senate Medical Affairs Committee Chairman Hyman Rubin, D-Richland, said his panel wrote the bill because of complaints by patients of the Columbia acupuncturist.

The law now allows acupuncturists to practice only when a physician is present. Rubin said patients complained it was difficult to find times when both the acupuncturist and physician could be present.

The bill allows acupuncture, a healing art of Chinese origin involving needles inserted into the body, to be performed only on referral of a physician.

At the insistence of Sen. Heyward McDonald, D-Richland, the bill was amended to require acupuncturists, in the future, to get written approval from the Board of Medical Examiners. The provision would not apply to acupuncturists who are already practicing.

Harris begins prison work

BEDFORD HILLS, N.Y. (AP) — Former girls' school headmistress Jean Harris has started working in the kitchen and acting as a teacher's aide at the prison where she is serving a 15 year-to-life term for the murder of Scarsdale Diet Dr. Herman Tarnover.

Prison officials announced Mrs. Harris' new assignment Tuesday, saying she has adjusted so well to prison life that she is joining the general prison population sooner than expected.

Reagan expected to go home under orders to do little work

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan is under doctors' orders to work no more than a couple of hours a day when he returns to the White House, now expected to be between Friday and Monday.

Reagan's left lung, punctured by a bullet in an assassination attempt 10 days ago, was described Wednesday as "pristine," with clotted blood and damaged tissue now "barely perceptible" in X-rays.

The White House press office, which has cut its formal bulletins on the president's health to one a day, said Reagan's temperature was "essentially normal" Wednesday — an indication he was still running some fever.

While the chief spokesman at George Washington University Hospital and White House aides indicated the president would be released soon, no firm date was set.

Hospital spokesman Dr. Dennis O'Leary, describing Reagan as a model patient, said the president has not asked to be discharged yet and is "not chomping at the bit." But he added: "He probably would like to get out of here."

Reagan could be ready to go home as early as Friday but no later than Monday, O'Leary said, assuming continued improvement and no surprises.

O'Leary said that while there has been no sign of infection, the president was still receiving two forms of antibiotics — penicillin and tobramycin — and probably would remain hospitalized until he is off the medication. Running "a lot" of fever also would delay his release, O'Leary said.

Reagan is no longer receiving oxygen, as he has on occasion, and Dr. Benjamin Aaron, the president's surgeon, described the wound as "pristine...clean as it could be," O'Leary said.

Once Reagan does go home, O'Leary said, the president's staff will "stay away from loading him up with routine things. In terms of mental work, he can do as much as is necessary."

But, the doctor said, "he will not be chopping wood next week. Instead, he will start out by putting in a couple of hours of work each day, moving up to

half a day, three-quarter work days and then full days."

The doctor said the president should be 100 percent recovered within four months, although "he might do a little better."

Meanwhile, White House press secretary James S. Brady, who was the most seriously wounded of the four people hit in the assassination attempt, was reported making satisfactory progress.

Medical tests showed continued healing of the bullet wound in Brady's brain with no sign of complications, the White House said.

In addition to former Texas Gov. John Connally, Reagan was visited Wednesday by Sen. Paul Laxalt, the Nevada Republican who is heading an advisory committee on transferring some powers and responsibilities from the federal government to the states. Reagan signed an executive order creating the panel earlier Wednesday.

He also issued a proclamation declaring the week of April 19 as "Victims' Rights Week," calling attention to the needs of crime victims.

Roads cause drivers to waste \$232 each year

(AP) — The average driver in South Carolina wastes \$232 worth of gasoline a year because of poorly maintained roads, a study by a pro-road construction group indicates.

The report says more than half the most heavily traveled roads have deteriorated to the point more than 311 million extra gallons of gas must be used.

The study — conducted by The Road Information Program, or TRIP — concluded the wasted fuel cost four times the money needed to repair the roads.

TRIP, based in Washington, is sponsored by businesses with an interest in highway construction, such as insurance companies, building contractors, car makers, equipment manufacturers and engineering firms, according to a news release it distributed Wednesday.

A spokesman for the state Highway Department, Jim Walker, described many of TRIP's backers as persons with a vested interest in highway building.

But Walker said TRIP's study is accurate as far as the department can tell.

"We think what they say is about what we've said all along: Our roads are in bad shape and need fixing up."

The study showed vehicles traveling at 40 mph consume 34 percent more fuel on "fair" road surfaces and 56 percent more on "poor" surfaces than on "good" surfaces. Reasons cited are that uneven roads cause loss of traction and that excessive vibration leads to uneven power flow through the drive train.

Just a month ago Walker Ragin, Highway department secretary treasurer, said, "At the present rate, it would take us 100 years to resurface all the roads that are in critical need of repairs." He said an additional \$30 million would be needed in the coming year, plus the \$209 million now available, "to maintain an adequate highway program."

TRIP proposed a 10-year, \$101-million-a-year program to resurface or rebuild substandard highways.



A young Special Olympics contestant takes time off to play with a hula-hoop yesterday. The Olympics, sponsored by APO service fraternity at Weems Baskin Track at the Rex Enright Athletic Center. (Photo by Joe Hunter)

Plasmatics singer found innocent in obscenity trial

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — Wendy L. Williams, lead singer of the Plasmatics rock group, was found innocent today of an obscenity charge.

"Thank you so much, thank you," she told the five-man and three-woman jury that returned the verdict in Cleveland Municipal Court after three hours of deliberation.

Miss Williams had been charged with pandering obscenity as a result of a performance in Cleveland's Agora nightclub on Jan. 21.

She said after the verdict that she would consider coming back to Cleveland.

Miss Williams, 31, was charged with pandering obscenity after appearing on stage with only shaving cream covering her breasts and simulating masturbation and other sexual activity, prosecutors alleged.

She said that she's never appeared on stage nude.

The charge, a first-degree misdemeanor, was filed after eight undercover policemen watched The Plasmatics perform in the Agora night club Jan. 21. A videotape of the show made by a WKYC-TV cameraman was shown to jurors Wednesday.

Defense lawyer Patrick D'Angelo said the singer was exercising her rights of freedom of speech and expression and did nothing that can't be seen on TV or in commercial films.

"I really can't believe why we are here today," D'Angelo said. "Maybe the performance doesn't conform with your taste or my taste, but it's not a criminal act."

Patrolman Ron Bero of the city's vice squad testified he saw Miss Williams wearing only shaving cream above her waist and that the cream later evaporated. He said she simulated sex acts with a microphone.

Today at USC

● Health Week - Health Fair from 10:30 a.m. through 3 p.m. on the Greene St. Mall highlights Health Enrichment Week events.

● Science Fair - Region II Science Fair for grades 7-12 on the Coliseum concourse at 4-11 p.m. and on Saturday.

● USC baseball - Carolina against Newberry at 7:30 p.m. at Sarge Frye Field.

● USC tennis - Carolina against Duke at 2 p.m. at Sam Daniels Tennis Stadium.

● RH Film - "Caddyshack" with Chevy Chase at 7 and 9:30 p.m. for \$1.50 and at midnight for \$1.

weather

Friday: Partly cloudy. Low in the low-50s. High in the 70s.

Weekend: Sunny and mild. Lows in the 50s. Highs in the 70s.