

NEWSBREAKERS

INTERNATIONAL

Yeltsin backs off threats

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin backed off from threats to call parliamentary elections Friday to oust his hard-line opponents, saying Russian lawmakers should serve out their terms.

The move was a clear departure from previous threats to call a national referendum or new elections to remove the former Communists who dominate the

legislature and the larger Congress of People's Deputies.

It is widely believed Yeltsin now thinks he might lose such a battle.

Yeltsin's decision earlier this week to cancel a trip to Japan was also seen as a sign of political weakness. He was under pressure from Russian nationalists not to return the disputed Kuril Islands.

Police capture Sicilian crime boss

NAPLES, Italy — Paramilitary police raided a villa before dawn Friday and captured a long-sought fugitive described as the No. 1 boss of the Camorra, the Naples-based underworld organization.

In Rome, police arrested a convicted Sicilian Mafia boss sought for two years.

The arrests brought the number of gangland fugitives captured in Italy this past week to four, a sign the nation has stepped up its battle against organized crime following

the murders of two anti-Mafia crusaders.

Officials said Carmine Alfieri, 48, sought for 11 years, was found in an underground concrete chamber of a villa in Naples. Two bodyguards were also arrested, police said.

Police said Alfieri was wanted on a series of charges including allegedly having organized an attack on a rival gang in 1984 in which eight people were killed.

NATION

Navy commander relieved of duties

SEATTLE — The commander of the Bremerton Naval Hospital was relieved of his duties after a Navy investigation found it likely that a female officer nurse was assaulted by two male enlisted men, the Navy said.

Capt. Roland McKee was relieved of command Thursday by Rear Adm. Richard Riddell, commander of Naval Base Seattle. The acting commanding officer is now Capt. Robert B. Murphy, the hospi-

tal's executive officer.

McKee was relieved because Riddell "had lost confidence in McKee's ability to command," Cmdr. Bob Anderson said Thursday.

McKee could not be reached Thursday for comment.

Accusations against the two enlisted men, including assault on a superior officer, disrespect and indecent assault, will be referred to a Navy hearing, Anderson said.

Savings and loan CEO indicted

DENVER — Michael Wise, the former chairman and chief executive officer of failed Silverado Banking Savings and Loan, was indicted Thursday on charges he illegally diverted part of a \$1.45 million loan from Silverado for personal use.

The three-count bank fraud

indictment also accuses Wise of misrepresenting the activities of the thrift institution's parent company to federal regulators.

It was the first criminal indictment issued in the Silverado debacle, which government regulators estimate will cost taxpayers \$1 billion.

STATE

Campbell wants education ideas

CHARLESTON — Gov. Carroll Campbell told southern governors Friday the South must free its schools of bureaucracy and share innovative ideas to improve education.

"We're looking to swap red tape for results," Campbell said at the annual meeting of the Southern Governors' Association.

During the two-day meeting, the

governors discussed progress toward meeting education goals established by the nation's governors three years ago.

"The goals are about performance. They are about setting standards for achievement and then freeing the communities and the schools and the teachers to meet those standards," Campbell, the association's chairman, said.

USC

USC Blockfest will be held Sept. 25

The public is invited to attend the second annual African-American Blockfest from noon to 5 pm Sept. 25.

The Blockfest, sponsored by USC's Association of African-American Students, is a showcase of the talents and culture of African people.

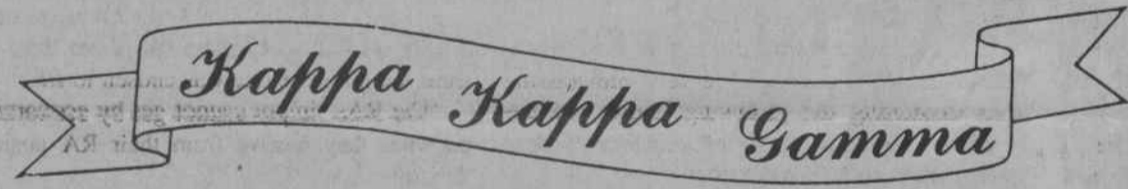
Various campus organizations and Columbia-area merchants will sponsor booths and entertainment will be provided by several African American artists and groups.

Off-campus vendors interested in participating are required to pay a \$40 non-refundable registration fee.

STREETS

Things to Think About...

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Wisconsin regents repeal speech rule

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin's board of regents Friday repealed a "hate speech" rule that banned discriminatory language directed at individuals on campus.

The regents voted 10-6 to repeal the rule, adopted after an earlier policy was determined unconstitutional by a federal judge.

Free speech is more important than a rule which inhibits and infringes on First Amendment rights, regent vice president Albert Nicholas said.

Regent Paul Schilling called the repeal a "shameful retreat" by the university, which he said should be working to protect the rights of

minorities to study in a safe environment.

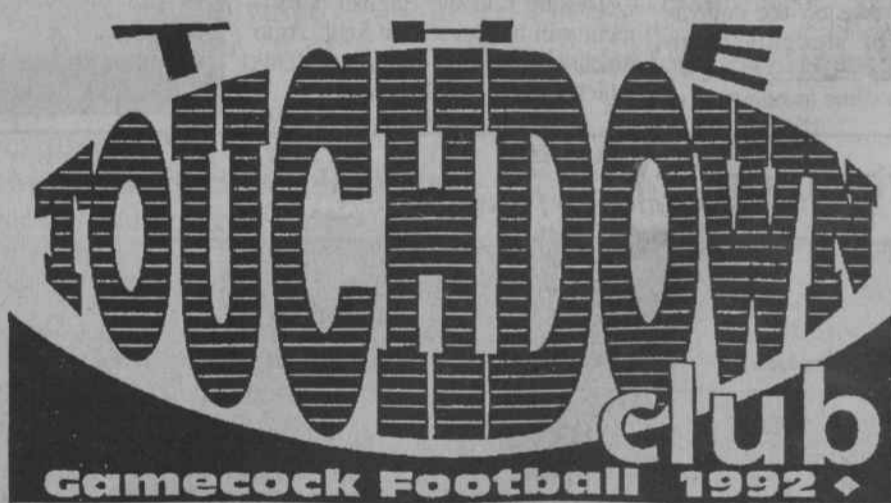
The push to initiate the rule began in the late-1980s after several racial incidents on campus, including a fund-raising "slave auction" at a fraternity house in which fraternity members dressed in Afro wigs and painted their faces black.

Regent Earl Davis said although the rule may have its flaws, the number of racial incidents has declined since the regents adopted the 1989 policy which was later struck down.

The second rule was adopted last year and carried no penalties. It applied to epithets directed at individuals in one-on-one confrontations.

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