

News Breakers



International

U.N. rallies for change

GENEVA — The world economy is at an impasse for the first time since the Great Depression, with the private sector unable to muster the strength to pull out of recession, a U.N. agency reported Tuesday.

The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development recommended the governments of developed countries break the economic stalemate by increasing spending on public works projects.

In its 142-page annual report, the agency reported the United States, Japan and Britain have been especially hard hit by problems which can be traced to the robust 1980s.

In those years, there was heavy lending for investments in commercial property. That led to a "massive oversupply" of office space followed by a sharp fall in prices, the report says.

The price collapse brought severe losses to many banks, and those institutions now are increasingly cautious about loaning money, the report says. In the United States, the situation was aggravated by the savings-and-loan crisis.

Unemployment on the rise

MOSCOW — Unemployment in Russia could skyrocket 20-fold next year due to bankruptcies caused by government subsidy cuts, a senior official said in remarks published Tuesday.

The official jobless total could jump from under 250,000 to about 5 million people, Economics Minister Andrei Nechayev said in the government daily Rossiiskie Vesti (Russian News).

Authorities have said the actual jobless figure may be twice the official one.

As the government cuts subsidies to state-owned businesses, the number of bankruptcies will rise,

forcing employees to seek other work, Nechayev said.

"In 1993 ... the number of people needing work could rise to about 7 million people, or 8 percent of the work force," he said. "About 5 million of them might be called 'jobless,' of which about 4.7 million will receive unemployment relief."



Nation

Endeavour in orbit

HOUSTON — Endeavour's astronauts levitated liquid drops Tuesday using sound waves, after achieving the fertilization of eggs produced by frogs in orbit — a space first.

Mae Jemison balanced reddish beads of mineral oil in an acoustical chamber using sound waves from three speakers before some of the eight or so drops drifted off and burst.

But scientists said they had some success manipulating a few of the drops, which ranged in size from less than a half-inch to nearly an inch.

The experiment may help scientists develop methods of processing materials without contaminating them by touching container walls.

Companies call for recycling

BOSTON — More than 20 American companies, including McDonald's Corp., Coca Cola Co. and Sears Roebuck & Co., Tuesday launched a national campaign designed to create demand for recycled goods.

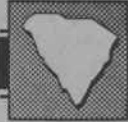
Organizers say the voluntary effort will help fill an important gap in the recycling movement that has succeeded in collecting paper, glass and other reusable trash, but has fallen short in finding markets for recycled goods.

"This will help pull material through the recycling loop rather

than push it through," said Phil Bailey, coordinator of the business alliance for the National Recycling Coalition, which is holding a conference in Boston this week.

The alliance will conduct programs around the country to show businesses how they can buy recycled goods and use them in their daily operations. Part of this effort will include a database that informs businesses where, for example, they might buy memo pads made of recycled paper.

Sears Roebuck, for instance, has set goals with its suppliers to use corrugated paper and plastic packaging that contain at least 25 percent recycled materials.



State

SRS gets cleanup money

COLUMBIA — The Savannah River Site will get an additional \$20 million in federal money for cleanup at the nuclear weapons complex near Aiken, Gov. Carroll Campbell said Tuesday.

President Bush signed legislation Monday night that transferred the money to SRS from a Department of Energy account, Campbell said in a statement. The money was originally to be spent on a new production reactor.

Energy Secretary James Watkins last week postponed all work on a new production reactor for at least three years.

The move cast doubts on whether Savannah River will ever get the new reactor, which state officials have pushed for because it would create thousands of construction jobs.

The new money will help create new ways to clean up the environment at nuclear facilities across the country, Campbell said.

Supreme Court stops cuts

COLUMBIA - Immediate across-the-board cuts would be ordered if

the state Supreme Court nullifies the Budget and Control board's plan to pare \$200 million from the current budget, Gov. Carroll Campbell said.

The budget board was to meet Tuesday to hear from some agencies who want exemptions from the recent round of budget cuts.

If the high court rules against the Budget and Control Board's plans, Campbell said Monday that the new spending cut would be needed to avoid the loss of the state's triple-A credit rating.

The state's rating from a major Wall Street firm is the highest available, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in interest on government construction projects.



USC

Nominations requested

Nominations for the USC's 1992 Distinguished Black Alumni Award are being accepted by the USC Black Alumni Council.

Written nominations of alumni who have excelled in their profession should be made by Sept. 30, including a description of the individual's accomplishments and resume. Mail nominations to USC Black Council Award, 1731 College St., Columbia, SC 29208.

Business seminar upcoming

"Financing Your Business for Existing Business Owners" will be offered Sept. 24 by the USC's Small Business Development Center and First Union Bank.

Designed for those who have operated a business for at least a year, the seminar will run from 6-9 p.m. in Room 502 of USC's college of business administration. Speakers include Theresa Singleton, chief of the Small Business Administration's financing division, and Greg Burke, vice president of First Union's commercial banking group.

Groups question Cabinet involvement in Bush campaign

By The Associated Press

Dick Cheney got laughs when he told audiences in Indiana and Tennessee this month that "I'm not involved in politics anymore, now that I'm at the Pentagon."

The defense secretary never mentioned the name Bill Clinton. Still, he's doing his part for the unofficial campaign which involves a mix of roadshow and backstage maneuvers by administration officials working to re-elect George Bush.

Democrats and government watchdog groups say they are not amused by the spectacle and raise questions about ethics, taxpayer subsidies and unreported political contributions.

But White House officials continue to plot campaign strategy deep inside the Beltway, while others in the administration scatter across the land to tear down Clinton, the Arkansas governor and Democratic nominee.

Cabinet members converged on Houston last month for partisan duty during the convention. Now they show up in a city here or there, often the same day as a visit by Clinton or running mate Al Gore, busily knocking down whatever the Democrats have just said or are about to say.

Hours before Clinton was due to arrive in Jacksonville, Fla., this past Wednesday, Labor Secretary Lynn Martin called his economic plan "slippy" and "slidy" and certain to cost the country 1.5 million jobs. Bush's plan was practical and real, she said.

That same day in Shreveport, La., hours after Gore had come to call, Energy Secretary James Watkins accused Clinton and Gore of favoring "a radical ban on all offshore drilling" which would be a disaster for the oil industry. The Democrats say they want to stop new drilling, not all drilling.

Cheney, slightly more subtle,

expressed concern in Indianapolis earlier this month about "some critics (who) are calling for deeper cuts in our armed forces that would surely destroy our military capabilities."

Clinton has proposed defense cuts twice as deep as those planned by Bush.

Other high-ranking officials on the campaign trail have included budget director Richard Darman, Education Secretary Lamar Alexander, Health Secretary Louis Sullivan, Michael Deland, head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Pat Saiki, head of the Small Business Administration, and Bob Martinez, the national drug policy coordinator.

Then there's the behind-the-scenes crew headed by White House chief of staff James Baker. He has essentially run the campaign since his return from the State Department last month, despite a memo last November in which White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray told all White House staff "anything that is obviously campaign-related should not be done here."

Fred Wertheimer, president of Common Cause, urged Bush in a July 24 letter not to bring Baker to the White House to run the campaign. He said it would be "wrong and improper" and counter to a well-established tradition of public officials leaving government to aid presidential campaigns.

Bush did it anyway, to the annoyance of at least one registered Republican who vented her feelings in a recent letter to the New York Times.

While Cabinet members and White House employees are not barred from political activity, the Hendrie letter underscores potentially problematic aspects of the way the system works.

Student attacked, robbed behind Bates House

By CHAD BRAY
News Editor

A 18-year-old student was attacked and robbed early Tuesday outside of Bates House.

Freshman David Ellis was walk-

ing behind Bates House about 1 a.m. Tuesday morning when USC Police said an unidentified man approached Ellis and punched him in the stomach.

Ellis said the man then pulled a knife and told him to give him

some money. Ellis gave up \$10 and the man ran off toward the Five Points area.

Ellis said the area was lit well and there was a call box nearby, but he no longer feels safe on campus.

"I doubt it now," he said. "I

don't feel it's safe as I thought it was."

Ellis, however, doesn't believe the blame should fall on the university for the incident.

"I shouldn't have been walking by myself that late," he said.

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