

NewsBreakers



Belgians evacuated in Zaire crisis

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo — Zairian guards evacuated nearly 400 Belgians on President Mobutu Sese Seko's yacht Saturday after telling Belgian commandos not to intervene following two days of fierce rioting.

The latest military uprising began over pay and pitted troops loyal to Mobutu against soldiers supporting demands that the president keep his promise to end his 27-year rule and give power to a democratic government in the former Belgian colony.

Belgian troops have arrived in neighboring Congo, and a smaller French contingent has moved into the capital, Kinshasa, to bolster security around the French Embassy. Hundreds of foreigners have fled to embassy compounds.

The presence of foreign troops apparently helped bring calm Saturday to the capital, which is controlled by forces loyal to Mobutu. France and Belgium also sent forces to Zaire to protect their citizens during riots in 1991 in the sprawling central African nation.

Andre the Giant dies of heart attack

PARIS - Wrestler and actor Andre Rene Roussimoff, known in the ring as Andre the Giant, died of an apparent heart attack while visiting France to attend his father's funeral. He was 46.

The 7-foot-4, 520-pound wrestler, a native of France, lived on a ranch in Ellerbe, N.C. His body was to be cremated in France and the ashes brought to North Carolina.

"He was lying in his bed when they found him," said longtime friend Frenchie Bernard. "He just went to sleep and never woke up."

No other details were immediately available Saturday.

Roussimoff also was an actor, best known for his role as the gentle giant Fezzik in the film "The Princess Bride" in 1987.

The World Wrestling Federation announced the news of Roussimoff's death, the Toronto Sun reported.

Pro-lifers arrested near abortion clinic

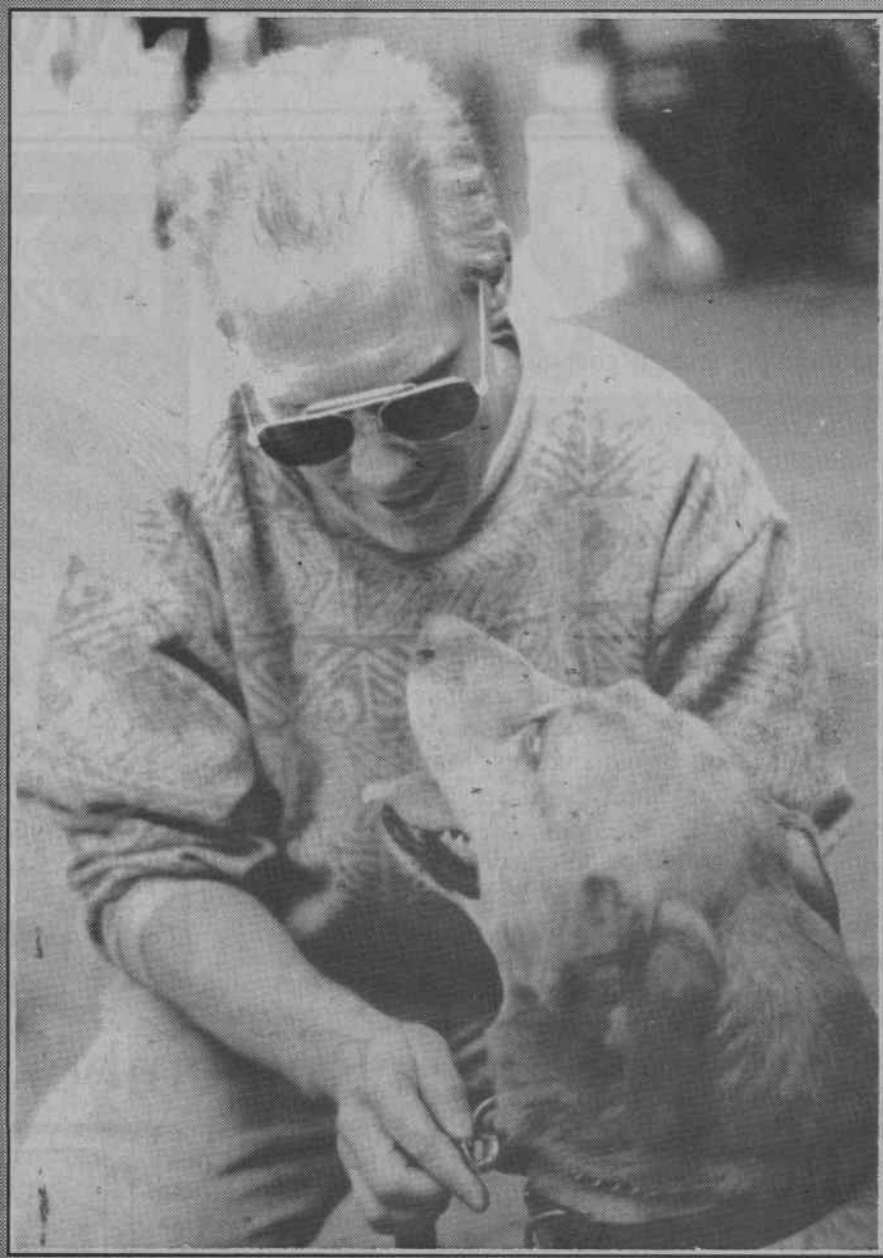
GREENVILLE — About 450 anti-abortion activists were arrested without incident Saturday outside a women's clinic and ticketed for violating the city's picketing ordinance, authorities say.

Hundreds lined the sidewalks in a prayer vigil outside Palmetto State Medical Center. As police loaded protesters onto a bus or van to be taken to court, more demonstrators filed up the sidewalk to take their places.

Clinic attorney Suzanne Coe said she was pleased the ordinance was being enforced. She said she hopes the arrests will be a deterrent to future demonstrations.

But a spokesman for the demonstrators said the arrests will make them more determined to speak out against abortion and against what they believe is a violation of their civil rights.

Dog days



Randy Bussham, a Central Wesleyan College MBA graduate student, plays with his dog, Alex, on the Horseshoe Sunday afternoon. Weekend weather was clear and mild in the low 70s.

Photo by Kelly Johnson/The Gamecock.

ROTC

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don't flatter yourself."

The spread of AIDS has also been a major concern for some military personnel who believe the admission of homosexuals to the armed services will cause rampant spread of the virus.

"In South Carolina, the largest growing segment of the population that is becoming infected with AIDS is heterosexual women," John said. "And believe me, gay men had nothing to do with the spread of this!"

He said the military has a progressive HIV testing program and soldiers are tested every six months. Those soldiers who test HIV positive are reassigned to Fort Sam Houston in Texas or Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

John added he doesn't believe this is a civil rights issue.

"I don't like the term 'civil rights.' It's human rights — basic human rights," he said. "When this country was founded, we were guaranteed life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. What some people want to do is deny our pursuit of happiness and our liberty. You can keep your life as long as you're a second-class citizen."

John said in order to achieve those rights, the gay community needs a highly visible leader, like those the African-American community has had. He said he believes the military could provide such a leader.

"What we need in the gay and lesbian community is a Malcolm X or a Martin Luther King Jr.," he said. "I think that if the ban is lifted, in the military you have some great orators who could be that Malcolm X, that Martin

Luther King Jr., and lead the gay and lesbian community."

John said he thinks the media needs to show average gay people instead of reinforcing stereotypes. That is why he called his senator and offered to testify at the Congressional hearings regarding lifting the ban. It is also the reason he plans to attend the upcoming gay rights march in Washington, D.C., with a group of about 25 USC students.

"I told them I'd drive," he said.

John said many of the heterosexuals in the military are actually gay-positive and support the ban's repeal, but are afraid to speak out because of possible reprisals. He acknowledged the threat is a real one, with several pro-gay heterosexuals in his unit already enduring harassment.

"I'm very open about my views. People don't say too much to me," he said. He added, however, that many of his friends defend his "heterosexuality," presumably to protect him.

"I've got a friend who's in ROTC also," John said. "He stands up for me and tells everyone I'm straight. He thinks I like making people wonder."

He said his hope lies with younger soldiers.

"The younger soldiers my age are more tolerant of diverse cultures and diverse lifestyles," he said. "There are still some old soldiers who don't accept blacks in the military or women. They deal with it, but they don't accept it."

John hopes they will soon be forced to learn to deal with homosexuals as well.

STDs rising among heterosexual population

By MELINDA E. HEWLETT
Staff Writer

Sexually transmitted diseases are rising rapidly for heterosexual college students, according to Eileen Korpita, the peer education coordinator for Open Door, a counseling program for students.

"Up to 50 percent of the population of college-age students have some form of sexually transmitted diseases, while only 20 percent are using condoms consistently," Korpita said.

"It's not unusual for 50 percent of people who have STDs never to know that they have them," she said.

"The rate of STDs among college-age students is epidemic," she said. Because the majority are not using condoms, the potential exists that a large portion of the student population of USC could be HIV positive and not know it.

For a student to determine if he or she is HIV positive, testing can be done at the student health center. Testing is confidential, but not anonymous.

Such anonymity can be obtained in Georgia and North Carolina, but not for long. The Center for Disease Control is about to stop all anonymous testing.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control does testing and does not check identification, hence some students have obtained testing there by using fake names.

For those who think they may have been exposed to the virus, or

WHAT ARE THE COMMON STDs?

Any of these STDs can be transmitted through sexual contact (including vaginal and anal intercourse and oral-genital contact) with an infected partner who may or may not have symptoms:

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

CHLAMYDIA	About 75% of infected people have no symptoms; however, there may be a mild mucus-like discharge from the genitals or stinging when urinating. Also, there may be pain in the testicles (men) or abdomen (women).
HPV INFECTION (including Genital Warts)	Warts are painless growths around the genitals in men and women. Potentially precancerous cell changes and some types of warts are invisible. Infected people who don't have symptoms are still contagious.
GENITAL HERPES	Sores around genitals or anus, often with small painful blisters. Some people have no symptoms but are still infected and contagious.
GONORRHEA	Men may have a creamy pus-like penile discharge and pain when urinating; however, they may have no symptoms and still be infected. Women may have vaginal discharge and pain when urinating, but often have no symptoms.
SYPHILLIS	Painless ulcer (chancre) at point of contact, usually penile shaft, around vaginal opening or anus. Secondary stage may include a rash, swollen lymph nodes.
HIV INFECTION and AIDS	Most people infected with HIV may show no symptoms for many years, but are still able to transmit the virus.

Source: Thomson Medical Center

those who know they have it, counseling of an emotional nature may be sought at the Human Development and Counseling Center. To prevent the further spread of the virus, USC is making a comprehensive effort to educate students.

Freshmen who take University 101 are given a three-hour intensive course on HIV and STDs. This course has been shown to have a significant impact on the behavior of those who have taken it.

Open Door has also organized a

group of peer sexuality educators who present programs around campus.

"HIV does not discriminate between gender, socio-economic class, ethnicity or anything else," Korpita said.

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