

NEWS BREAKERS



**Yeltsin to work out Russian aid plan**

VANCOUVER. British Columbia — President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressed hope Saturday that their first summit would produce an economic rescue plan that can be sold to skeptical Russians and Americans alike.

The two presidents talked a half-hour longer than expected at their opening session and emerged smiling broadly, apparently pleased by the personal rapport they had established.

The meeting, which represents Clinton's first presidential venture onto foreign soil, differs greatly from previous U.S.-Soviet summits in drama as well as substance. Rather than focusing on the tensions of two nuclear superpowers, this meeting emphasizes economic solutions to political problems.

In their initial session, Clinton laid out the broad outline of the economic package he is proposing with details to be filled in during a dinner with senior Russian and U.S. officials Saturday night.

**Republicans thwart Clinton agenda**

WASHINGTON — Lacking enough votes to blast through a Republican logjam blocking a \$16.3 billion economic stimulus package, Senate leaders intensified a search for what one Democrat said was inevitable compromise.

President Clinton took a partisan slap at Republicans, but also signaled that he was ready to deal. "Good things can be accomplished when we reason together," the president said in his weekly radio address.

For the second time in two days, Democrats were unable to choke off the GOP filibuster against the measure, a basic element of Clinton's overall economic plan. The 52-37 party-line vote was eight short of the 60 necessary to bring the bill to a final vote.

Mitchell and Dole met for more than an hour and then agreed to continue their discussions Monday, when a third vote to break the filibuster will be taken.

**Nuclear plant jobs face uncertain future**

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The number of jobs expected to be cut from the Savannah River Site has become a swinging pendulum, and the Energy Department admits it's anybody's guess until some time after the budget is finalized.

Even after that is settled, officials must determine exactly where to make cuts at the nuclear weapons complex near Aiken, S.C., The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle reported Sunday.

The job cut estimate was somewhere around 4,000 a couple of weeks ago, according to U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C. But it soon dropped to about 1,600. The latest guess is around 2,500 positions cut in the coming fiscal year.

As late as Friday morning, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said she believed the department's estimate of 1,200 to 1,650 layoffs would stick.

"My sense is they will remain the same," she said.

**Professor tackles fish DNA mystery**

From Staff Reports

Trading in his lab coat for a fishing boat, Bert Ely wants a tiny part of the hundreds of striped bass and swordfish that will be caught this spring.

He won't grill the catches with butter and lemon, nor will the fish become wall trophies. The USC biology professor fishes for the genetic secrets that lie within the DNA of South Carolina's striped bass and swordfish, and he is asking the state's anglers to help with the effort.

Ely is a pioneer in studying the genetic makeup of fish to identify them — without harming them. The research is helping answer important questions: How can the benefits of fish stocking efforts be maximized? And can swordfish survive America's appetite for fresh fish?

In South Carolina, Ely's DNA technique is helping the Wildlife Department evaluate the genetic health of the Santee-Cooper striped bass population. It's important for stocking efforts to both build fish populations and support genetic diversity.

"If the population becomes genetically inbred, it makes the fish

susceptible to disease and other problems," Ely said. "Stocking efforts can lead to inbreeding. The long-term key to sportfishing is good, healthy breeding stock, and current estimates from Santee-Cooper indicate that 80 percent of the females are harvested before they reach breeding size. Because of the demand, fishery managers must augment populations with stocking."

Ely's project will provide information to fisheries managers so they can continue to enhance the stocking program and the native breeding stock.

Fellow anglers have provided samples, and Ely said he hopes to find more fishermen who are interested in signing on to the project.

At least 200 samples are needed from the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Wateree rivers this year. About 170 samples were fished from those rivers last year by Ely and his students in a cooperative effort with the Wildlife Department.

By looking at the genetic codes of fish, Ely and his students will be able to determine whether a few fish or many fish actually produce offspring in a given year.

The results will be compared to the genetic diversity of the fish produced by hatcheries, offering a comparison that will allow fishery managers to predict the long-term effects of the state's stocking program and the genetic health of the population it produces.

Unlike other techniques, Ely's DNA test can be done using only sperm or a blood sample that can be obtained before releasing a fish. The DNA test is also much quicker than other, earlier efforts to track fish populations.

"It's a new technology we're just starting to use to study fish," said Ely, whose work on bacterial genetics led to the DNA tests.

Ely is using the same technique to study swordfish, which are subjected to overfishing and can cost as much as \$12 per pound. He's trying to determine how many distinct breeding stocks or families there are in the Atlantic Ocean. Learning the answers may help shape future harvest policies to promote genetic diversity and build the ocean's swordfish population.

This spring, Ely will seek assistance from fishermen in South Carolina for his striped bass project.

**BRAIN** continued from page 1

mistic.

"Right now USC has great programs, so even if a few good men leave, the programs will still be great," he said.

Honors Dean William Mould


shares the same optimism.

He said, "We can dwell on the dark side too much. When senior faculty leave, they're replaced with newer, younger, dynamic individuals fresh from graduate school and

on the cutting edge. In 20 years, they'll be a Burney Dunlap or Earl Black."

Staff writer Matt Hanley and The Associated Press contributed to this report.


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