

the nation

Principal defends expulsion

United Press International  
ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A private principal claims the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom gave him the right to expel a girl because he thought she was a black boyfriend.

Lee Bledsoe, a fundamentalist preacher and principal of the Episcopal Christian School in Alexandria, Va., expelled Melissa Fiedler, 14, in January because he thought she was romantically involved with Rufus Bostic III, 14.

Ms. Fiedler's parents, supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, filed suit alleging their daughter's civil rights had been violated. The family is seeking \$70,000 in damages.

Bledsoe's lawyers maintained the expulsion was a violation of Baptist doctrine and their client had the right to discipline the child.

The Fiedler's attorney, Victor H. Hargrett, argued the expulsion was a violation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution and said religious schools have no right to practice discrimination.

In testimony Monday, Bledsoe said he was not aware that the relationship between blacks and whites was unlawful.

"I have never studied the law," Bledsoe said. "I have studied the Bible."

Bledsoe ruled Bledsoe had reason to think the two children were romantically involved and such relationships do violate Baptist tenets.



Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

Show me some tricks

Paul Driscoll gets a student to help him with one of his many magic tricks Wednesday in the MSC. Driscoll's act is one of the recent shows sponsored by the MSC Summer Programming Committee.

Program against smoking ended

United Press International  
ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. — In one of his last acts as Health, Education and Welfare Secretary, Joseph Califano agreed to end a controversial program in which his department subsidized employees to participate in anti-smoking programs, Sen. Walter Huddleston, D-Ky., said Tuesday.

Huddleston and Sen. Robert Morgan, D-N.C., have been trying to get the program halted since it first was revealed several months ago by a Washington newspaper.

The department informally agreed to drop the program several weeks ago, but refused to put it in writing — as the senators insisted — until the final days of his secretaryship.

"This was the kind of excessive zealotry that annoyed and angered tobacco state congressmen," Huddleston said. "I believe he clearly exceeded his authority in order to pursue his private crusade against smoking."

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Researchers studying wreckage of Monitor

United Press International  
BOARD JOHNSON SEALINK — A large fish divers call "Sam" the wreck of the Civil War Monitor, the famed ironclad that sank in 210 feet of water in the notorious graveyard of the Atlantic, 16 miles southeast of Hatteras, N.C.

The shell-encrusted wreckage lies on a flat sand plateau, hidden from all but a closeup view, by

murky waters that envelop the 172-foot ship like a dense fog.

To observers peering out of tiny portholes in a small research submarine, schools of amberjack provide the initial signal that the Monitor is close by. Suddenly the armor-plated sides of the Monitor appear, clearly indicating the severity of the vessel's death plunge during a New Year's Eve storm in 1862.

The Monitor landed upside down. Its revolutionary revolving turret separated from its bronze support ring and slid aft. A large section of the Monitor's 5-inch-thick belt of side armor rests atop the turret, suspended a few feet off the shell-littered floor.

The bottom of the ship's iron-plated hull, now face up, has buckled in some sections and is missing in other areas, with only the iron beam skeleton remaining. The sides of the ship, however, appear surprisingly intact.

Although water visibility Tuesday was only 15 or 20 feet, the precise maneuvering of the 22-foot, four-man Johnson Sealink II research sub provided a closeup look at the entire vessel.

Accompanying the submarine on its slow cruise around and above the Monitor was the grouper nicknamed Sam. Diver Bill Bond said the fish,

estimated to weigh 100 to 125 pounds, has been seen at the wreck for two years. At one point the fish seemed to gaze into the lighted cabin of the sub as its occupants peered out.

The Monitor was discovered in 1973 by a team of researchers from Duke University. It was photographed extensively in 1977, and two weeks ago divers began the first detailed study of the federal ironclad.

The project is a joint effort by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Harbor Branch Foundation of Fort Pierce, Fla., and the state of North Carolina.

Divers operating from this submersible and a sister ship, both developed by Harbor Branch, are concentrating on a 5-foot section of the ship's belly. They are slowly removing several feet of sand to reach the ship's officers' quarters and the captain's stateroom furnished with black walnut chests.

Divers so far this month have picked up a mustard bottle bearing the inscription "U.S. Navy," and a wine bottle of undetermined origin. Next to the wreck is a waterlogged orange crate and divers also report finding bits of plastic on the sea floor, evidence of more recent pollution.

Army lawyer resigning from Pentagon job

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Jill Wine, one-time assistant to the sergeant special prosecutors Arthur Cox and Leon Jaworski, is resigning as the Army's top lawyer.

Wine, 36, who helped convict key Watergate figures, said today she will resign Sept. 30 after three years as the Army's general counsel.

Wine had offers from law firms and corporations, but won't decide until she leaves the Pentagon, she said.

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