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Activists on trial for treason in South Africa

Associated Press

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa — The treason trial of 16 anti-apartheid activists began Monday and black miners announced an impending boycott of white businesses to protest the state of emergency.

Police reported 16 more arrests under the emergency imposed last month in an attempt to quell the tide of riot and protest that has swept

black cities and townships for nearly a year, claiming 500 black victims. The trial of 16 leaders of the United Democratic Front, in this city of eastern Natal province, is seen as the most significant treason case in South Africa since 156 activists were acquitted after a four-year-long legal contest that began in 1956.

Charges in this case range from praising Nelson Mandela, jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress, to making speeches

that further the aims of what the government calls the "revolutionary alliance."

The United Democratic Front is the main group fighting apartheid, the institutionalized race segregation through which South Africa's 5 million whites control the voteless black majority of 24 million. Defendants include two of the group's three co-presidents.

National police headquarters in Pretoria said the new detentions

brought the total arrests to 1,428 since the emergency took effect July 21, and 109 have been released. Most of those detained are in the second and third ranks of the UDF and its 600 affiliate organizations.

In Johannesburg, the black National Union of Mineworkers said it was preparing a boycott of white-owned businesses to protest the emergency. The same union announced Sunday it will call a gold mine strike Aug. 25 that could

cripple the gold-dependent economy.

A three-day day period during which President P.W. Botha can avert the boycott by lifting the emergency probably will be set to start Tuesday, union spokeswoman Manoko Nchwe said.

At the treason trial in a heavily guarded red brick courthouse in Pietermaritzburg, defense lawyers described the indictment as unfounded and began a procedural battle. They

contended that the indictment, covering alleged offenses over the past four years, was too sweeping and vague.

The 16 defendants stood with heads bowed for a minute in memory of Nonyamezeleo Mxenge, trial lawyer for two of the accused, who was killed by gunmen last Thursday. She was the fifth senior member of the United Democratic Front slain in mysterious circumstances in recent weeks.

Hardware to blame for backup at Pavilion

By KAREN BLOCH Staff Writer

Building a better mousetrap is not always easy. Texas A&M students learned this the hard way when the Student Information Management System (SIMS) was put to its first real test Monday at open registration.

Students attempting to register or drop-add were greeted at the Pavilion by long lines. Don Carter, associate registrar, said the lines can be attributed to the fact that more students showed up for open registration than had been expected and that there were several problems with the system's printer.

"We stress-tested the system," Carter said, "but there's no way we can predict that we'll have a problem like this." Also, SIMS has been used to register some of the incoming freshmen.

With SIMS, students register at computer terminals and know immediately if the class is available. Students also receive copies of their schedules and may pay their fees before leaving the building.

However, a problem with the printers caused long lines Monday.

Steve Williams, assistant director of the SIMS project, said that there have been no problems with the actual program, only with the hardware.

Today, 18 more terminals will be added in the Pavilion, bringing the total number of terminals to 36. This



Photo by LORI CHANEY

Students wait in line during open registration Monday morning.

should speed up the registration process, Carter said.

Williams said that since the system problems were with the printer, no schedules were lost.

Carter said that the problems seem to have been solved and registration will be held tomorrow as planned, from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Open registration and drop-add continues through August 23.

Students who were eligible for preregistration in the spring, but did not register, may register during open registration. Those who did not attend A&M during the spring semester, but have attended the University before, and students who were blocked for preregistration by

their academic departments should contact their departments to see if they will be allowed to register.

Carter warned that some academic departments will not have advisers available to register students at all times. So, students coming to campus to register or drop-add must call their departments ahead of time.

3 percent below national average

A&M students' GSL default rate low

By JERRY OSLIN Staff Writer

Texas A&M students are doing a better job of paying back their federally sponsored Guaranteed Student Loans than other students in the state and the country, says Tom Melecki, a spokesman for the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation.

Nationally, the GSL default rate is 4.4 percent, for the state, 3.2 percent, and for A&M, 1.29 percent, Melecki says.

The TGSLC, a public, nonprofit organization established by the Texas Legislature in 1979 to handle GSL's in Texas, regularly reports on the default rates in the state.

Melecki attributed A&M's and the state's low default rates to Texas' strong economy and the willingness

of its students to pay back their loans.

"The healthy economy in Texas does a lot to keep the default rate down," he says, "and students in Texas have it in their minds that they are going to pay back their loans when they borrow."

Al Bormann, assistant director of student financial aid at A&M, says the national and state GSL default rate is getting better but the default rate for A&M has always been low.

"The responsibility of the individual is much better today than it was in the past," Bormann says, "but I don't think we'll see much change here at A&M because we basically have a conservative student body that always did take care of their responsibilities."

Students are expected to start paying back their loans five months after they graduate, he says.

Bormann says the default rate on all educational loans to A&M students over the past 20 years has been about 3 percent while the national default rate has been as high as 18 percent during the same period.

He says college students across the nation have been doing a better job of repaying their loans because of better loan counseling by administrators.

"Students in the past sometimes did not know if they were receiving gift aid or loan aid," Bormann says. "Communication between administrators of the loan program and student borrowers was that bad."

Bormann also attributes the improved default rate to better collection efforts.

"Sometimes in the past students

felt that the government wouldn't do anything to them," he says. "They felt they would be lost in the numbers, but they are quickly finding out that the government has ways to track down people."

A GSL is financed by a bank, savings and loan or some other financial institution, Bormann says. But in case of default, the federal government assumes responsibility for the loan and will try to collect from the borrower, he says.

"The state of Texas will stop a state employee's payroll check if he defaults on a GSL," Bormann says, "and the federal government will stop a federal employee's paycheck also."

He says the crackdown on defaulted GSL's is a result of federal budget-reducing policies.

A-bomb dropped 40 years ago today

Associated Press

Peace activists around the world are marking the 40th anniversary Tuesday of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima with rallies, speeches, churchbells tolling the grim hour and shadows painted on sidewalks to recall those vaporized in the flash of light and heat.

In Hiroshima, tens of thousands of religious pilgrims, dignitaries and survivors stood silently today in Peace Park, which encompasses

"ground zero," at 8:15 a.m., the time the bomb struck that Japanese city.

School children in San Francisco will display hundreds of paper cranes — symbols of peace — while residents of West Virginia will set lighted paper lanterns afloat in the Kanawha River. Demonstrations also are scheduled at nuclear weapons and research facilities.

Louisiana residents readied a giant ribbon made of flags and pictures to be tied around the governor's mansion, a reprise of a

weekend demonstration in Washington, D.C.

An eight-day "festival of life" began Sunday near the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant in Colorado.

Some 4,000 people gathered Sunday at a riverfront park in Nashville, Tenn., for a peace rally that included music by country singer Roseanne Cash and a speech by a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, which occurred at 8:15 a.m. Aug. 6, 1945.

"The terrible atomic and hydro-

gen bombs should never be dropped on the Earth again," Hiroshi Miwa told the crowd. "We should raise our voice for a total ban of nuclear weapons, louder than ever. We hope that this year will be a year of a decisive turn."

Estimates of those who died in Hiroshima from the bomb called "Little Boy" range up 140,000. Three days later, on Aug. 9, 1945, an estimated 70,000 people were

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Reagan says skin taken from nose was cancerous

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan revealed Monday that tissue removed from his nose last week was a sun-induced skin cancer, the most common and easily curable form of the disease.

Reagan said no further treatment was necessary.

The tissue on Reagan's nose was removed by a dermatologist at the White House last Tuesday. The White House did not reveal the procedure until two days later and then refused to say whether it had been biopsied or whether it was cancerous.

Dr. Thomas Nigra, chief of the Dermatology Department at Washington Hospital Center and a recognized expert in his field, said there was no relationship between the skin cancer and the malignant tumor removed from Reagan's colon July 13.

While describing skin cancer as the most common and curable form of the disease, Nigra said the existence of the disease "puts you at risk" in the future. Statistically, one in seven people who have had skin cancer will get it again within a year and a half, Nigra said.

Reagan revealed the existence of skin cancer as he answered questions at his first news confer-

ence since his surgery.

In other areas, Reagan said:

- The United States would agree to a nuclear test ban moratorium at some undetermined time in the future, but only if the Soviet Union refrained from further testing and allowed the United States to complete testing for its weapons programs.

- The United States will stick with its policy of quiet diplomacy — also known as "constructive engagement" — toward South Africa although the administration opposes the state of emergency imposed by the white-ruled government in Pretoria.

- The budget compromise approved by Congress last week "was not as much as we had hoped" for in the way of savings. He promised to examine future spending bills from Congress "with my veto pen hovering over every line." The budget calls for \$967.6 billion in spending in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 and projects \$55.5 billion in savings during the year.

- He will "pull out all the stops" for passage of a tax-overhaul plan after Labor Day, and also will call on Congress for a constitutional balanced-budget amendment and for authorization to veto individual items in spending legislation.