

World and Nation

Lawyer says companies polluted water

8 firms sued for children's deaths

Associated Press
 BOSTON — An attorney for eight families asked a federal jury Monday to find two major corporations guilty of polluting public drinking water wells, causing an outbreak of childhood leukemia and the deaths of five children.

But attorneys for W.R. Grace and Beatrice Foods said chemicals from their plants in Woburn did not get into the water. And they said that even if they did, there was no credible scientific evidence that the chemicals could have caused the cancer outbreak.

The opening arguments in federal court marked the start of an expected seven months of testimony in the case, which has attracted national attention for its potential in defining what recourse citizens have from companies they accuse of polluting their neighborhood.

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A state health study found the cancer mortality rate in Woburn between 1969 and 1978 was 13 percent higher than the statewide rate. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported the incidence of childhood leukemia was seven times higher than expected in the East Woburn neighborhood.

Attorney Jan Richard Schlichtman said the companies were negligent in allowing chemicals to be dumped on their property in the Boston suburb, which has experienced toxic waste problems for more than 100 years. He said the waste eventually migrated to two city wells that served the neighborhood where the cluster

of leukemia cases and other health problems were reported. The wells were shut down in 1979 after high levels of contamination were found.

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Shiite group issues photos to prove hostage's death

Associated Press
 BEIRUT, Lebanon — Shiite Moslem kidnappers issued photographs Monday purporting to show the body of French hostage Michel Seurat, with a statement saying the photos proved their claim to have killed him last week.

Islamic Jihad, a pro-Iranian fundamentalist group, denied in the statement that it had abducted a four-man French television crew Saturday. The photos and statement were delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut.

It said the three black-and-white pictures were intended to counter "skepticism about the seriousness of our earlier claim" that Seurat was slain last Wednesday.

One showed the hostage's chest and face, as he lay bare-chested with his eyes half closed. The second showed a body in a coffin, wrapped

in a blanket, and the third a closed coffin with a crucifix on the lid.

There was no evidence of wounds or blood in the one photo that showed the man clearly, and no way to confirm he had been killed. Friends of Seurat confirmed that the man in the photo was the 37-year-old Frenchman.

The typewritten statement was in Arabic and signed, "the Islamic Jihad (Islamic Holy War) organization."

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying it was "seeking to verify the authenticity of this abominable claim."

The photos and statement were made public during a French diplomatic effort in Lebanon and Syria to free the eight Frenchmen, including Seurat, kidnapped in Lebanon.

Monday's statement denied a claim made Sunday by an anonymous

telephone caller that the television crew members from France's Channel 2 were in the hands of Islamic Holy War.

The Arabic-language statement called Seurat "an experienced spy." It did not say what had been done with the body.

Seurat, an employee of the French Center for Studies and Research of the Contemporary Middle East, was kidnapped last May 22 in Moslem west Beirut. Islamic Jihad also holds a two French diplomats and a journalist.

Islamic Jihad has demanded that France stop supplying arms to Iraq, which has been at war with Iran since September 1980.

The pro-Iranian group also has claimed to have kidnapped six Americans missing in Lebanon, but the statement did not mention them.

Tower resigns post on arms committee

WASHINGTON — John G. Tower, the former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has submitted his resignation as a U.S. arms control negotiator "for personal reasons," it was learned Monday.

Tower has handled negotiations with the Soviet Union in Geneva on reducing long-range nuclear weapons. He was appointed to the post 14 months ago by President Reagan after announcing he would not seek re-election to the Senate from Texas.

Three U.S. officials, who insisted on anonymity, said Tower had submitted his resignation to the president. They said he gave personal reasons. Two of the officials said he would be replaced by Ron Lehman, a weapons specialist who has worked at the Pentagon and the National Security Council.

Tower, a conservative Republican, had served in the Senate nearly 24 years and was an ardent champion of U.S. weapons strength and a foe of the 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty with the Soviet Union.

He had argued the accord was not in the security interests of the United States. The SALT II pact, which never has been ratified by the Senate, imposed ceilings on various nuclear weapons on both sides. But Tower argued that it did not limit capabilities.

Coastal Corp. setting record in earnings

Associated Press
 HOUSTON — The \$2.4 billion merger last year between the Coastal Corp. and American Natural Resources Co. has enabled Coastal to set records in both earnings and revenues for 1985, company officials say.

Officials say the record earnings are even more significant considering the oil and gas industry's current condition.

According to Coastal Chairman

Oscar S. Wyatt Jr., "To be profitable in this environment, you have to operate more economically than your competitors, and I think we can because our people work harder."

Coastal President James R. Paul said operating economically means spending money when and where it is needed, but doing so wisely.

Wyatt and Paul head up a work force of about 13,000 who operate an 18,500-mile natural gas pipeline network, oil and gas exploration and

production projects, coal mines, refineries and marketing outlets.

"We started planning for a reversal in prices in 1981," Paul said. "We cut back our work force and made substantial investments in upgrading our refineries. Those moves have paid real dividends for our stockholders and employees today."

Coastal lost money in 1981 for the first time in its 30-year history, since then a profit has been recorded each year.

Authorities say police killed 7 in South Africa

Associated Press
 JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Police killed seven blacks in the remote tribal homeland of Lebowa, north of Johannesburg, and nine blacks died elsewhere in tribal faction fights, authorities said Monday.

In the eastern Cape Province, at least three more blacks were killed in the daily anti-apartheid rioting that has left more than 1,200 dead in the past 18 months.

Meanwhile, thousands of miners at two major gold mines staged strikes and go-slow actions in new labor flare-ups.

In Cape Town, a delegation from CBS News met government officials to appeal a decision to expel three CBS staff members because the network aired footage of a funeral from which cameras were banned. No decision emerged, and the two sides will meet again Tuesday.

An introduction to the funeral footage when it

was broadcast in the United States said it was filmed by an amateur and obtained outside South Africa.

Violence broke out Saturday in two districts of the Lebowa homeland for the North Sotho tribe, police and residents said.

In one clash, busloads of youths from surrounding townships tried to get past a police cordon to attend a funeral in Motetema outside Groblersdal, about 125 miles northeast of Johannesburg, resident Lazarus Palo said. Running battles followed in which police shot and killed six youths and wounded five.

Brigadier W.G. Beetge, Lebowa homeland police commissioner, said the six died attacking a police station with fire bombs. He said another youth was killed in Mahweling township near Potgietersrus when rioters attacked police.

The 10 tribal homelands, with varying degrees of autonomy, have increasingly been caught up

in unrest that has swept South Africa. Details on incidents in the homelands are often difficult to obtain.

National police headquarters said a riot patrol killed a black man Sunday who hurled a gasoline bomb at police in the Cookhouse area of Cape Province. The hacked body of a 15-year-old black was found in the same area, but it was not clear if his death was related to unrest over the race segregation system.

Elsewhere in the eastern Cape, police found two black men burned to death. Such slayings often are the work of blacks against blacks suspected of collaborating with the white government.

Tribal in-fighting that has wracked Natal Province for decades broke out anew Sunday in Umbumbulu, a rural district inland from the Indian Ocean port of Durban.

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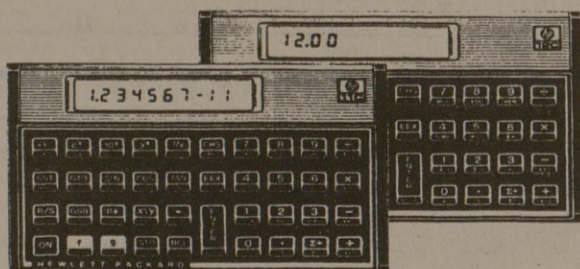
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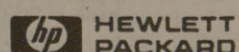
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