

World and Nation

7 killed as gunmen attack South African police station

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Gunmen attacked the central police station in the Transkei black homeland with grenades and rifles, killing seven people, and a government minister in KwaNdebele homeland was blown up in his car, officials said Wednesday.

The violence Tuesday night brought to 202 the death toll from political unrest since a state of emergency was declared June 12.

South Africa's currency dropped Wednesday in reaction to President P.W. Botha's rejection of British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's suggestions for peaceful negotiations to end apartheid.

The rand opened at about 38

cents, down a cent from its closing value Tuesday, and ended the day at 38.5 cents.

Piet Ntuli, KwaNdebele's minister of home affairs, was alone in his car when it was torn apart by explosives, according to the government's Bureau for Information.

A plan to make KwaNdebele independent in December is bitterly opposed by anti-apartheid activists and some tribal leaders.

The KwaNdebele areas north of Pretoria, the South African capital, have been virtually closed to outsiders, as gangs opposed to homeland government policies have battled security forces and an armed group reportedly headed by Ntuli.

Transkei's police commissioner, Gen. R.S. Mantanga, told a news conference in the homeland's capital, Umtata, that three police officers and four civilians were killed when attackers struck about 10 p.m. with hand grenades and AK-47 rifles.

He said seven other police officers and two civilians were injured in the assault, which he said was timed to coincide with a shift change at the station.

Mantanga said witnesses saw three people with firearms near the station, and one police officer was killed as he drove up to the building. Nearby residents reported hearing a muffled explosion and machine-gun fire.

Mail from World War II delivered

WASHINGTON (AP) — Terry Espinosa finally received a letter from her boyfriend Raul Alvarez on Wednesday — 42 years late and hand-delivered by the postmaster general of the United States.

That letter and 234 others turned up recently in an attic in North Carolina, dumped there in a duffel bag with some socks by a scared soldier who forgot to mail them.

In his letter, Alvarez promised, "No one will ever come between us."

Although the letter was sent in May 1944 and not delivered until 1986, she held him to the promise.

They married in 1950.

After years of listening to complaints of the postal service losing mail, Alvarez, a former letter carrier in Livermore, Calif., said, he was glad to see something to "really show that the postal service is doing something good."

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World Briefs

Brain-dead mother gives birth to girl

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — A healthy baby girl was delivered today by doctors who had sustained the life of the infant's brain-dead mother for seven and a half weeks to allow the fetus to develop.

The baby, Michelle Odette Poole, had been the center of a court fight between the mother's parents, who wanted doctors to disconnect life support systems when their daughter died, and the father, who went to court to protect the developing fetus.

The father, Derrick Poole, was at the Kaiser Permanente Hospital when doctors delivered his daughter at 8:53 a.m., according to hospital spokeswoman Denise Clarke. He had no immediate comment.

The baby weighed four pounds, five ounces at delivery and was 16 and a half inches long.

Stock market rallies to post slight gain

NEW YORK (AP) — Blue-chip issues set the pace as the stock market rallied from some early declines to finish mostly higher Wednesday.

Analysts said the market's gyrations came as Wall Streeters tried to assess the outlook for the government's next quarterly sale of bonds and notes.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, down about 13 points at midday, closed with a 12.52 gain at 1,779.39.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange picked up to 146.69 million shares from 115.69 million Tuesday.

After the close, the Treasury announced that it would sell \$28 billion in bonds and notes next week.

Evidence may revise Titanic theories

WASHINGTON (AP) — Explorer Robert Ballard on Tuesday unveiled a photographic treasure obtained on his second — and avowedly final — visit to the Titanic, including evidence certain to revise historical accounts of how the great liner went down.

Ballard, who discovered the sunken luxury ship in the North Atlantic on Sept. 1 last year, said its collision with an iceberg in April 1912 did not create a huge gash in the hull — as many, including himself, had long supposed. Instead, he said, the 12-inch-thick plates on the hull sim-

Drought

Crop damage estimate passes \$2 billion mark in Southeast

(AP) — Estimates of crop losses in the Southeast's worst drought in a century soared past \$2 billion Wednesday, and Maryland officials said 10 percent of that state's farmers face ruin with no crops to pay off debts.

There "just isn't any hope for a lot of farmers," said Wayne A. Cawley Jr., Maryland's secretary of agriculture. "I advise them to quit while they're ahead."

Unusually hot weather on the southern Plains, with highs up to 110, led agencies to offer help with fans, shelter or advice in parts of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Tennessee, and electric utilities reported record demand. The heat

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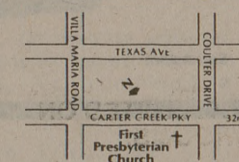
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Senate-approved bill promises tax increase

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 24 million couples and individuals would face a tax increase next year under the tax overhaul bill passed by the Senate, even if the rate reduction took effect earlier than planned, negotiators were told Wednesday.

If rates were cut Jan. 1, at the same time several deductions were reduced or repealed, 24.4 million taxpayers would pay more than they do this year, according to estimates from the Joint Committee on Taxation.

If the rate cut was delayed until July 1, as the Senate measure would

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Aliens (R)
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Haunted Honeymoon (PG-13)
1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

Out of Bounds (R)
1:45 3:45 5:45 7:45 9:45

Post Oak III

Post Oak Mall 764-0616

Ferris Bueller (PG13)
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:40 9:50

Legal Eagles (PG)
12:30 2:45 5:05 7:30 9:55

About Last Night (R)
2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

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*KARATE KID II PG 2:30 7:15 4:50 9:35

*TOP GUN PG 2:45 7:25 5:05 9:45

*RUTHLESS PEOPLE R 2:30 7:15 4:55 9:50

MANOR EAST 3

Manor East Mall 823-8300

*BACK TO SCHOOL PG-13 2:30 7:15 4:50 9:45

HEARTBURN R 2:40 7:20 5:00 9:40

THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE R 2:10 7:15 3:50 5:30 9:00

SCHULMAN 6

2002 E. 29th 775-2463

CLUB PARADISE PG-13 2:40 7:20 5:00 9:55

UNDER THE CHERRY MOON PG-13 2:30 7:25 4:40 9:50

*MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE R 2:30 7:35 4:50 9:55

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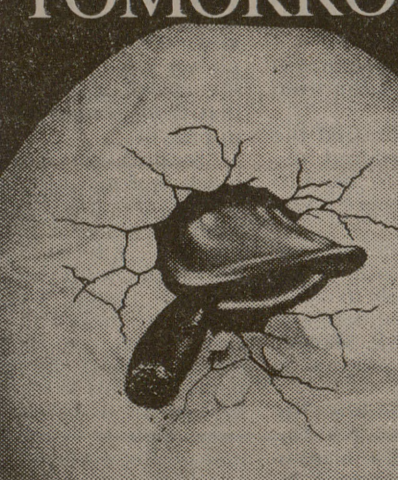
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