

World & Nation

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The Battalion

Page 11

More spent on AIDS research than cancer, heart disease

Bush defends approach to AIDS crisis

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — President Bush defended his administration's approach to the AIDS crisis Monday and urged changes in sexual behavior to halt the spread of the disease.

"Here's a disease where you can control its spread by your own personal behavior. You can't do that in cancer," Bush said on the morning after 1,500 AIDS activists staged a "die-in" on the road near his vacation home where a few local merchants shut down "on the best weekend possible."

Sunday's march by ACT-UP —

the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power — was noisy but orderly, with no arrests. The group has disrupted Bush speeches in the past.

Bush said he opposes federal funding of clean-needle exchanges — one of the demonstrators' demands — and wants effective research on AIDS, which has claimed 114,000 American lives. The virus is transmitted through contaminated blood or body fluids. Most U.S. victims are homosexuals or intravenous drug abusers.

Bush said the \$4 billion AIDS

budget was far more per capita than the government spends fighting cancer and heart disease.

"I'm in favor of behavioral change," he said. "Here's a disease where you can control its spread by your own personal behavior. You can't do that in cancer. You can't — well, to some degree some might argue you can in heart disease, if you run and stay fit."

Bush made no mention of cigarette smoking, which the surgeon general blames for hundreds of thousands of deaths each year

from cancer, heart disease and other ailments.

Dennis Lyons, an activist with ACT UP's Maine branch, said of Bush's behavior remarks: "I think he's implying a value judgment against people who happen to be gay."

"He talks about behavioral change, but he has yet to institute a national AIDS education awareness program for school children. Until he does that, kids are growing up in schools without being taught anything about safe sex," said Lyons.

East German guard admits to shooting

BERLIN (AP) — One of four former East German border guards on trial for manslaughter admitted today that he shot at two young men who tried to cross the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Andreas Kuehnpast was the first of the border guards to testify about his role in the Feb. 5, 1989, shooting of Chris Gueffroy, a 20-year-old waiter who died trying to reach West Berlin. Gueffroy died at the scene; a companion, Christian Gaudian, was wounded.

The 27-year-old Kuehnpast, who at times appeared near tears, told the court he heard an alarm go off that night and ran with other soldiers toward Gueffroy and his companion.

The guard said he heard another guard shoot and then began firing his Kalashnikov rifle. He described how both would-be escapees were dragged away after being shot.

"I was shocked. I really didn't know what to do," he said.

Under questioning by chief Judge Theodor Seidel, Kuehnpast acknowledged he got "three or four days vacation," and 150 East German

marks — then worth about \$25 — for stopping the attempted escape.

Gueffroy, who died nine months before the wall fell, was the last person known to have died trying to flee over the wall. He was among about 200 East Germans killed trying to escape since the wall and other fortifications sealed off East Germany in 1961.

Gueffroy's mother, Karin Gueffroy, is a co-prosecutor in the case, under a standard provision of the German law. She briefly held her head in her hands as the indictment describing the death of her son was read by Prosecutor Herwig Grossmann.

Defense lawyers argued that ousted East German Communist Party chief Erich Honecker, state security minister Erich Mielke and other officials of the former regime should be held accountable, not guards who carried out "shoot-to-kill" orders.

Ralf Bossi, Kuehnpast's lawyer, said "the wrong people are in court."

He argued those really responsible for Gu-

effroy's death are "the people who made these laws and who knew what contempt for human beings there was in them."

Honecker, the former Communist Party chief, is now in the Soviet Union and his extradition is being sought. Mielke, 84, and reportedly ill, is in custody and remains under investigation.

The guards, who are charged with manslaughter and attempted manslaughter, say they are not guilty because they had no choice and were following orders.

The defendants, Mike Schmidt, Peter Schmett, Ingo Heinrich and Kuehnpast, face a maximum of 15 years in prison if convicted.

Defense lawyers contend the killings were legal under East German statutes and thus cannot now be criminalized by a unified Germany.

The trial, which began today, is the first prosecution of its type, and its outcome may signal how prosecutors will fare in later trials involving abuses of the East German government.

Multiple murder in Ohio

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Four young men were found shot to death early Monday morning in a house on the city's far east side, police said.

The victims were found about 3 a.m., said police Capt. Donald Komara. Police had been notified after the fire department received a report of an incident at the house.

The men were shot in the head, Komara said. Two had been tied and gagged.

The identities of the men, who were in their early 20s, was being withheld pending notification of relatives.

Police found one in the kitchen, two in a bathroom and one in a bedroom.

No arrests had been made.

The Mahoning County coroner's office was expected to perform autopsies today, Komara said.

Youngstown is a city of 100,000 near the Pennsylvania state line in northeastern Ohio.

Cocaine bust totals \$500 million

BOSTON (AP) — Federal agents have seized 4,800 pounds of pure cocaine valued at \$500 million and arrested nine people, the U.S. attorney's office announced Monday.

U.S. Attorney Wayne Budd called a special Labor Day news conference yesterday morning to announce the bust, and said that, since June, federal officials have seized more than 9,700 pounds of cocaine in New England.

"It's much more difficult to calculate the harm, the danger, the destruction this cocaine would have had on the thousands of people it was destined for," he said, surveying the bundles of white powder and cash stacked on a nearby table.

Three of four alleged leaders in the Massachusetts-to-Florida cocaine ring were arrested Saturday: Marcos Garzon of Colombia, and Alimaco Garcia and Marco Gomez, both of Miami. All are charged with conspiracy to sell cocaine and could face life in prison and a maximum fine of \$4 million.

A fourth alleged ringleader, Robert Reister, was still at large.

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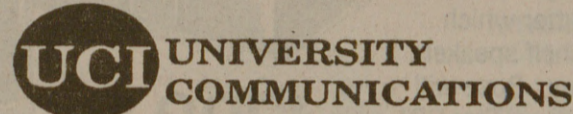
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