

Communist Chinese leader dies at age 93

BEIJING (AP) — Deng Xiaoping, the last of China's Communist revolutionaries who abandoned Mao's radical policies and ushered the world's most populous nation into the global community with capitalist-style reforms, died Wednesday.

Xinhua, China's official news agency, said he was 93, although the birth date in most records would have made him 92 when he died.

Though Deng retired from his last official post in 1990 and had not been seen in public for three years, he spent much of the past decade orchestrating Chinese politics from behind the scenes with a loosely defined title: "paramount leader."

While he put an end to the iron rule with an iron fist. The military suppression of the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests — believed to have taken place on his final orders — killed hundreds, perhaps thousands, and put a blot on the economic progress Deng had achieved.

He died at 9:08 p.m. (8:08 a.m. EST) of respiratory and circulatory failure brought on by lung infections and the Parkinson's disease that had stricken him long ago, the late-run Xinhua News Agency announced early Thursday.

The first test of Deng's legacy will be whether his handpicked successor, Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, and the other younger technocrats he installed in the 1990s will weather the political maneuvering expected to intensify in the coming months.

A meeting of China's national legislature next month, the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule on July 1 and a party congress to shuffle top posts due in the fall will provide chances for the politically ambitious.

No one is expected to supplant Jiang, who received a boost in maintaining Deng's mantle by being named chair of Deng's 459-member funeral committee.

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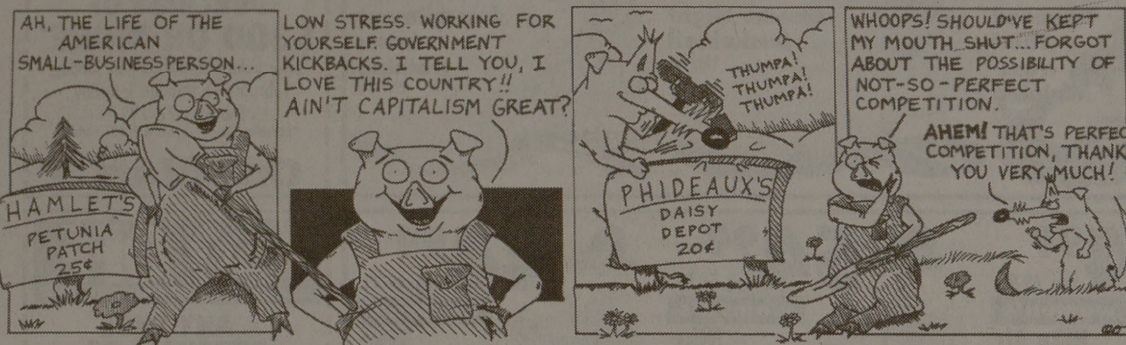
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Ex-football player sues Texas Tech

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texas Tech coaches used defensive lineman Stephen Gaines for his playing ability, then discarded him once he lost senior season to academic ineligibility, the player contends in a federal lawsuit.

Gaines, who played for the Red Raiders in the 1990, 1992 and 1993 seasons, sued the school, two coaches and a former counselor Tuesday on numerous counts, including racketeering, fraud, forgery and negligence.

The suit also contends Tech breached fiduciary duty to Gaines, meaning that the school took on a

measure of responsibility for his welfare with promises of trust made while he was a minor.

The lawsuit did not detail specific damages, although it said they are "believed to be in excess" of \$1.25 million, plus court costs and possible punitive damages.

"Stephen clearly, like any student at the age of 17 years, had no clear understanding what it is to make a commitment when everything in his whole life was promised by (Tech coach) Spike Dykes and promised by these recruiters," attorney Christopher A. Kalis said Wednesday.

Dykes declined to comment, citing NCAA rules prohibiting school officials from discussing matters under investigation. The NCAA has been looking into possible violations in the men's basketball and football programs for nearly a year.

Tech general counsel Pat Campbell and defendant Ronn Reeger, a former Tech academic counselor, did not return phone calls to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The AP was unable to reach fellow defendant Rhudy Maskew, an assistant coach.

Gaines played five games in his freshman season in 1990, then was sidelined a year by academic problems. The lawsuit alleges that Tech coaches circumvented NCAA rules while getting him reinstated.

The lawsuit revealed he was a failing student in most of his other Tech courses.

Over the past year, Gaines has been the focus of several Houston Chronicle stories in which he is accused of Tech and its coaches of forging documents, coaching him test answers and arranging for classes to ease his way through school.

Court says protesters can confront patients

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court bolstered the free-speech rights of protesters outside abortion clinics Wednesday, ruling they can confront patients on public sidewalks as long as they stay at least 15 feet away from clinic entrances.

The court did not strip abortion clinics and patients of the considerable protection granted in recent years against violence and intimidation. But the justices said a federal judge went too far in restricting anti-abortion demonstrators in the Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y., areas.

The judge in New York had ordered protesters stay 15 feet away from any clinic patient or staff member, no matter where they were. But the justices voted 8-1 that such "floating buffer zones" violate rights guaranteed by the Constitution's First Amendment.

"They burden more speech than is necessary," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court.

By a separate 6-3 vote, the court upheld a "fixed buffer zone" that keeps demonstrators at least 15 feet away from clinic doors and driveways.

The court, also by a 6-3 vote, upheld that portion

of U.S. District Judge Richard Arcara's order requiring so-called sidewalk counselors who approach patients within the fixed buffer zones to retreat when patients indicate a desire not to be counseled.

But no such duty to retreat exists outside the 15-foot fixed buffer, the court said. Rehnquist's opinion discounted "any generalized right to be left alone on a public street or sidewalk."

That one line may be turned out to be good news for union pickets, gay-rights activists and other protesters, though their causes were not mentioned in Wednesday's decision.

Anti-abortion forces hailed the ruling as a major victory. "There is no longer an exception to ... free speech ... when the issue deals with abortion," said Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice. "The court has sent a resounding message that you cannot silence a message you disagree with."

The Feminist Majority Foundation's Eleanor Smeal emphasized the court's continued support of efforts to protect access to clinics. But she added, "If the ... decision emboldens anti-abortion extremists to engage in more violence and harassment at clinics, the striking down of the ... floating buffer zone could not have come at a worse time."

In other business, the court:

—Said police can order all passengers, not just the driver, out of vehicles stopped for routine traffic offenses. The court ruled 7-2 in a Maryland case that concern for police safety justified what it considered a minor intrusion on passengers' privacy.

—Heard arguments in a key religious-freedom dispute from Texas over the constitutionality of a 1993 federal law, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, aimed at enhancing Americans' religious freedom.

—Ruled in a Florida case that states cannot cancel prison inmates' early-release credits after giving them in an effort to ease prison overcrowding.

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All entries are due by Friday, February 21, 1997, at 5p.m., in the MSC Student Programs Office (2nd Floor). All entries become the property of the Class of 1997 Council.

Finalists will be chosen and the CLASS OF 1997 will be invited to vote for their favorite design during the week of February 24-26, 1997, in the MSC Main Hallway.

For more information, contact the Class of 1997 Council at 845-1515.

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