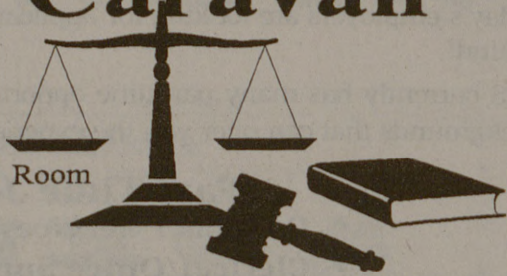


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NATION

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Doctor once stranded at South Pole confirmed she has breast cancer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The doctor who was rescued from the South Pole nearly five months after finding a lump in her breast confirmed that she has breast cancer yesterday.

Dr. Jerri Nielsen, 47, was rescued Saturday from the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Research Center, where she had been treating herself with chemotherapy while serving as the station's only doctor.

She returned to the United States on Sunday.

A statement from the National Science Foundation confirmed that she has cancer.

"It's good to be back with my family and friends in the United States," Nielsen said in the statement. "My spirit is strong."

She refused to reveal where she was undergoing treatment

and said she would not grant any interviews.

"My heartfelt thanks go out to my South Pole friends, colleagues and the general public."

— Dr. Jerri Nielsen
doctor rescued from South Pole

Nielsen, a divorced mother of three from the Youngstown area, had been treating herself in Antarctica with medical supplies dropped to her during a daring mission in July — the middle of

winter, when it was impossible for a plane to land there.

The supplies allowed her to perform her own biopsy and begin administering chemotherapy.

She emailed photographs and slide samples of the tumors to her colleagues in the United States.

Nielsen's rescue from the most remote place on Earth was announced only after the Antarctic expedition returned to the continent, slightly delayed by a storm — 58 degrees below zero — to risk the flight.

Officials said the rescue was the first time since the 1950s that a winter flight to the South Pole was necessary.

In the statement, Nielsen thanked her colleagues and the body who helped her.

"My heartfelt thanks go out to my South Pole friends, colleagues and the general public for their encouragement and best wishes during my ordeal," she said.

Clinton seeks support for expanding civil rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton asked high school students yesterday to support expanded federal civil-rights protections for homosexuals despite Republican opposition that leaves little chance Congress will broaden the hate-crimes law this year.

"The Republicans tried to kill this bill when we weren't watching."

— PRESIDENT CLINTON



"Last night the Republicans tried to kill this bill when we weren't watching, but now we're watching this morning," Clinton told a group of several hundred students at an anti-violence conference. "I want you also to speak up for that."

On Monday, House-Senate bargainers, dominated by Congress' majority Republicans, completed a compro-

mise measure financing the Commerce, Justice and Education departments.

The measure omitted language approved by the House in July that would have widened the definition of federal hate crimes to include incidents motivated by a person's sexual orientation, gender or disability.

"That was one elephant too much for this bill to carry," Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said of the measure and its wide-ranging provisions.

Clinton is likely to veto the overall measure because of disputes over hiring police officers and other provisions but the White House seems unlikely to demand the restoration of the hate-crimes language as a condition for signing the measure, Democrats said who spoke on condition of anonymity.

With Congress hoping to adjourn for the year in a few weeks, that leaves little time or leverage for supporters to push the measure through the House and Senate.

"Today's action showed a callous disregard for the crime victims and their families," Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, a rights political group, said.

Widow acquitted of clubbing husband

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. (AP) — A widow hugged her lawyer and burst into tears yesterday after being acquitted of charges that she beat her husband to death with a baseball bat to collect \$400,000 in insurance money.

Jeanie Adair, 39, was found innocent by a Superior Court jury after 12 hours of deliberation.

"I still miss my husband," Adair said outside the courtroom.

"I don't feel I can really celebrate. The people who did this to my husband are still out there, and not until they are behind bars and charged with his murder will I be happy."

Margarita Ruffino-Sutcliffe, mother of victim Robert Adair, called the trial a "mockery of justice."

"I know in my heart she killed my son," she said.

Adair was arrested two years after the Nov. 5, 1996 killing and charged with first-degree murder

with special circumstances of lying in wait and murder for financial gain.

If convicted, she would have faced a possible sentence of life in prison without parole.

Authorities alleged she staged a crime scene to back her story that a man posing as a gas-company worker forced his way into her Sylmar condominium, bound and beat her and looted the home before killing Adair when he returned home for lunch.

The prosecution argued Adair gave inconsistent accounts of the attack to friends and police and that she made three telephone calls during the time she supposedly was gagged and hog-tied.

A cable television-company worker testified about seeing a man in an outdated gas company uniform at the Adair condominium complex the day of the killing,

Man executed for killing shop clerk

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A man who robbed and then shot a sandwich shop clerk the back was executed by the state yesterday.

Asked for a final statement, son Matthew Joseph said he felt more pain.

He was convicted of the robbery and murder of 22-year-old Jeffrey Anderson.

Prosecutors said Joseph had committed other crimes, including the armed robbery and abduction of two convenience store clerks.

In a clemency petition, Joseph's lawyers argued that jurors were allowed to hear testimony that crime spree was caused in part by crack cocaine and a brain tumor that triggered violence.

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