

Pumping iron



BRIAN SMITH/The Battalion
 Ryan Stimmel, a freshman horticulture major, takes time out of his busy schedule to work out in the Student Recreation Center weight room Tuesday

News in Brief

British historian disputes Jewish Holocaust

LONDON (AP) — Historian David Irving, the author of nearly 30 books, disputes that the systematic slaughter of millions of Jews in gas chambers at Nazi concentration camps ever took place. Irving argues that killing 6 million Jews during World War II would have been logistically impossible and claims more people died in Allied bombing raids than in concentration camps. The 62-year-old Briton, who lost a libel suit Tuesday, also argued that most fa-

talities in concentration camps were due to disease and starvation, not poison gas, and that the British made up the accounts of the gas chambers as anti-German propaganda. In public statements, Irving claimed there were no gas chambers at Auschwitz. But during a hearing on his libel suit, which a British judge dismissed Tuesday, Irving conceded that gassing of Jews had taken place "on some scale." These women's odysseys took

Foreign ministers hold summit

HAVANA (AP) — Leaders of developing nations on Tuesday were drawing up a call for a new world order meant to help them escape poverty, while other heads of state held meetings aimed at solving regional problems.

Foreign ministers at the Group of 77 summit were proposing calls on rich countries to forgive debts, increase aid and trade, share new technologies and shift more decision-making to the United Nations away from institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

"We want to achieve a more democratic and equitable arrangement," said a draft of the proposed plan of action for the 133-nation organization which is holding the first summit in its 34-year history.

About 40 heads of state or government were to take part in the top-level talks scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

With many hours left open, some leaders also were tackling local problems.

"To those already enjoying them, the benefits of globalization are clear," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a speech at the University of Havana.

But he added, "Many millions experience globalization not as an agent of progress but as a disruptive force, capable of destroying jobs, tra-

ditions and even a society's cohesion, sometimes with lightning speed."

Annan told The Associated Press Tuesday that he planned to meet Wednesday with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen to discuss ways to break the deadlock in efforts to try Khmer Rouge lead-

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— Kofi Annan
 U.N. Secretary General

ers for genocide. Annan said that earlier reports that the pair met Monday were incorrect.

"We did some make some progress at the last discussions, but the talks are ongoing and we have not concluded them yet. I haven't met Prime Minister Hun Sen yet. It will be tomorrow," Annan said.

Annan on Tuesday issued a statement praising the decision for a summit between leaders of

North and South Korea and offering "to efforts aimed at reducing tensions and building mutual confidence in the region."

Among those attending the summit were South Korea's ceremonial head of state, President Kim Yong Nam, though it was reported he would have a private session with the

In documents under discussion, the representatives urged richer nations to forgive debts of poorer countries while increasing the level of 0.7 percent of gross domestic product to the amount promised in 1970.

Nigerian President Olesegun Obasanjo chairs the G-77, told a news conference Tuesday that such steps would help build democracy and stability, citing the case of Liberia, where his elected government replaced a military dictatorship last year.

"We have just established a new situation, a democratic situation where we do everything right," he said.

Obasanjo said that if he goes to Liberia, he tells them, "I wanted to give you water to pay debts ... even though the original debts are dubious, and therefore I will not to give you water ... they will say 'get your new dispensation'" of democracy.

Ethiopian famine likely to continue

GODE, Ethiopia (AP) — Sakorey Faday and Adan Mohammed are young women from two different African countries, but they share experiences as similar as they are tragic.

Adan spent 10 days walking 60 miles with her three children to a feeding center in Gode, 360 miles southeast of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The trek proved too much for her 4-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son. Both died along the way.

Faday walked to Baidoa in neighboring Somalia in search of help after drought ended her farm work.

Faday's husband died a year ago; the twin to the tiny, malnourished baby wrapped in her arms died at birth. Now, she says, she has nothing.

These women's odysseys took

place in February and March, as severe food shortages brought on by drought began to threaten millions of lives. Similar tales have been told over and over again in Ethiopia and Somalia.

"I have not seen rain for 18 months," said Adan, whose family's herd of 200 cattle and sheep died months ago. "I just have to wait for something from God."

The 33-year-old Adan, looking sad yet dignified in her dusty traditional veils, her remaining child tucked under her arm, now lives in a tiny hut of dried grass and bits of cloth. Faday has no place of her own and is forced to rely on charity.

But nature is not solely responsible for the desperate situations of people like Adan and Faday. Politics, war and centuries of nomadic culture all have played roles.

The entire region has a history

of conflict and perennial food shortages. Of the countries bordering Ethiopia — Kenya, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia — only Kenya can claim any meaningful stability.

In recent years Ethiopia has perhaps suffered the most from drought, worsened by on-and-off warfare since the mid-1970s.

In 1984, televised images of skeletal, starving Ethiopians pulled on the world's conscience, and as many as 1 million died. But famine also came in 1972, 1974 and 1989.

Officials in Gode, which is home to ethnic Somalis and one of the worst-affected areas, say the drought comes in 10-year-cycles.

Now, 11 years after the last severe food shortage, the message is being repeated. This time, aid groups say 7.7 million are at risk.

"These people are really on the edge," said Ben Foot, country

director for the British Red Cross, the international charity that is helping.

The situation is exacting a heavy toll on the lives of the people who live in the region. The nomads who raise livestock for food and income are being driven to the edge. When the rains fail, cattle, camels and sheep die — leaving people with nothing. They migrate to feeding centers, straining local resources and increasing the risk of disease. Some 70 percent of the 3.5 million people in the Somali region, are nomads, government figures say.

Ibrahim Abdi, chairman of the regional emergency task force, says the key is to persuade nomads to settle and diversify into farming.

"The problem is people adapt so quickly because agriculture is very laborious work," Abdi said.

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