

## Around the Globe

### WORLD NEWS

#### Three men convicted of raping U. S. students in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Three men have been convicted and sentenced to 28 years in prison for raping and robbing American students who were visiting Guatemala last year.

A Guatemalan court on Monday sentenced each defendant for his role in the attack on 13 students and three faculty members from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

The group was robbed, and five women were raped, when the bus they were traveling in was pulled over at gunpoint on Jan. 16, 1998, near Santa Lucia, 60 miles southwest of Guatemala City.

The men convicted were Cosby Gamaliel Urias, 38, Rony Leonel Polanco Sil, 29, and Reyes Guch Ventura, 25. All had pleaded innocent.

Defense lawyer Salvador Herrera said he would appeal the convictions.

The trial began Jan. 20 in the city of Escuintla, 30 miles south of the capital.

Authorities announced Friday they had captured another suspect in the attack, Miguel Angel Salvador Hernandez Torres, who was arrested Jan. 28. Three other men are still being sought in connection with the assault.

## ACROSS THE U.S.

#### Onetime Buddhist monk executed for double murder

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. (AP) — A onetime Buddhist monk who touched many with his humble remorse and vivid art produced on death row was executed by injection today for killing two people during a 1981 robbery.

Jaturun Siripongs, 43, made no last statement.

He was convicted of killing manager Packovan Wattanaporn and clerk Quach Nguyen at a market where he occasionally worked. He was caught trying to use Mrs. Wattanaporn's credit card and most of her stolen jewelry was traced to him.

Siripongs admitted taking part in the robbery, but claimed an accomplice he never named committed the murders.

Guards described him as unfailingly polite and cooperative and former prison Warden Daniel Vasquez, a strong supporter of the death penalty, recommended clemency on the grounds that rewarding Siripongs' behavior would set a good example for other inmates.

Pope John Paul II, whose U.S. visit prompted the governor of Missouri to spare a prisoner last month, joined the pleas for clemency hours before the execution.

A prison spokesman said Siripongs had hoped for a reprieve, but failing that, believed he would be reincarnated.

## AROUND IOWA

#### Harlan school officials say leave Cupid at home

HARLAN, Iowa (AP) — School officials have told Cupid to stay away from Harlan High School this week. They say Cupid is a "disruptive annoyance."

Valentine's Day is officially Sunday, but merchants expect Friday to be a big day for romance-inspired gifts. School officials in Harlan didn't want a replay of last year, when more than 500 boxes and bouquets were delivered.

"The number of deliveries on that day ties up our offices," said Kent Klinkefus, principal of Harlan High School. "It contributes to a real chaotic environment."

Last year, Klinkefus said, school employees had to alphabetize the list of recipients and call students to the school stage to pick them up.

#### Fraternities say the party is over, pledge numbers drop sharply

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — For a variety of reasons, there are fewer fraternity members nationwide, including at the University of Iowa.

A decade ago, the university's membership in the male Greek system totaled a little more than 1,600. Today, the number hovers about 900.

Universities around the country are experiencing the same decline. According to the national Interfraternity Council, there has been a decrease in fraternity numbers in five different years since 1990.

"Fraternities have changed since the 1980s," said Iowa sophomore Todd Gengerke, president of Phi Kappa Psi. "Keg parties aren't accepted in society anymore. Numbers will drop, then go up again."

The move by fraternities at Iowa to ban alcohol at Greek functions is one way to improve a tarnished image, said sophomore Dan Parker, president of Alpha Kappa Lambda.

"We've gone dry," he said. "We're trying to change the whole attitude."

Though the trend seems to be long term, many cite the university's dry Greek campus as the reason for the drop in membership.

#### Former Cedar Rapids firefighter jailed for assaulting boy

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — A former firefighter must serve 10 days in jail, pay a fine and undergo probation after making a written Alford plea to a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

Former Cedar Rapids Fire Lt. Isidoro Santana, 39, was to go on trial Monday, but he entered the plea Friday in connection with allegations that he injured an 11-year-old boy last Oct. 10. Santana also was accused of injuring the boy's mother, who was identified in court documents as Santana's live-in girlfriend.

An Alford plea means the defendant does not admit guilt but concedes prosecutors have enough evidence to get a conviction at trial.

## Jordanians share grief with new king

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Making their way from desert camps and faraway villages, common Jordanians passed sorrowfully through the royal palace today to offer sympathy to the new King Abdullah and prayers for their late monarch.

In a separate ceremony, King Hussein's widow, the American-born Queen Noor, and other female family members held private prayers at Hussein's grave.

The half-hour visit by Noor, Hussein's fourth wife, was her first to the grave. Muslim custom had prohibited their presence at Monday's funeral when Hussein was laid to rest amid hundreds of world statesmen.

Noor and Abdullah's Palestinian wife, Rania, wore white head scarves as they stood over the grave, said palace sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. After the prayers, Noor wept.

At the palace, crowds began

forming outside the gates before dawn.

The line of mourners in simple Bedouin robes and ill-fitting dark suits waiting to shake King Abdullah's hand was a distinct contrast to the staggering array of presidents, prime ministers and kings who had paid their last respects to King Hussein the day before.

But, perhaps, there was greater significance in the 37-year-old king sharing his grief with ordinary Jordanians. Officials hope Abdullah can quickly cement the deep loyalty and popular support enjoyed by his father.

The bonds forged by Hussein with the Bedouin tribes of this desert kingdom are a vital element of the nation's stability — highly valued by Western and Arab leaders.

After beginning his reign in 1952, Hussein started projects to bring electricity and other development to all corners of the

poor country. He also welcomed opinions from Bedouin leaders on domestic affairs.

Abdullah, however, has a more difficult task in winning the trust of the nation — especially among Palestinians and others who oppose Jordan's Western tilt. As a military commander, Abdullah led an army crackdown in February 1998 on pro-Iraq demonstrations in the southern city of Maan.

"It is going to be difficult without Hussein among us, but we believe Abdullah will be fine. This cub is from the lion king," said Sheik Samir Arounti, 57, who waited with thousands of others to meet Abdullah in the throne chamber, where Hussein's body had lain in state on Monday.

As Jordan began a three-day mourning period on Sunday, black flags were flying from homes and stores in Amman. Most businesses are closed.

Abdullah, who has indicated that he will continue his father's

moderate policies, held 31 meetings with visiting heads of state on Monday evening after the funeral.

Some of the hundreds of dignitaries had put aside pressing problems to hasten to Amman for the ceremony: President Clinton, facing an impeachment trial at home, led a delegation of three former American presidents, and ailing Russian President Boris Yeltsin spent only a few hours in Jordan before flying back to Moscow.

An estimated 800,000 people had lined the 9-mile funeral procession route through Amman. In the royal cemetery, Hussein was buried in a simple white shroud next to his father and grandfather.

The cancer-stricken Hussein had lingered unconscious on a respirator for two days after returning home to Jordan last week following months of cancer treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.



#### Horse in a blanket

Amish shopping day can be pretty boring for a horse, especially when hitched to a post with nowhere to go. Fortunately, photographers come along every now and then for a chat and a few snapshots. (Photo by Pamela Ohrt)

#### Former husband skeptical about Johnny's reported visit

### Police question Noreen Gosch about son

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Police are investigating new information from a woman who says she was briefly reunited with her son more than 14 years after he vanished while out on his newspaper route.

Noreen Gosch met with police officers for about an hour Monday and told them about the brief 1997 meeting she says she had with her son Johnny. She said she was encouraged by her interview with police.

"I have always said from day one the case will be solved," she said. "And that has always been my goal, my image, my prayer, my belief. And we're drawing closer to that. I feel very good about that. I was treated with the utmost respect today at the police department."

In a statement Monday night, West Des Moines police said two detectives had been assigned to investigate the new information.

The police also called for Johnny Gosch's help.

"The West Des Moines police department asks that if this information is received by Johnny Gosch, that he contact law enforcement immediately," the department said in its statement.

Johnny Gosch was 12 years old when he vanished on Sept. 5, 1982. His wagon was found about two blocks from his West Des Moines home, filled with copies of The Des Moines Sunday Register he was to deliver.

On Aug. 12, 1984, Eugene Martin, 13, who was also

delivering the Sunday Register, vanished from a south Des Moines neighborhood, also without a trace.

Noreen Gosch first spoke publicly Friday about seeing her son.

During testimony in federal court in Lincoln, Neb., she said Johnny showed up at her West Des Moines apartment about 2:30 a.m. one day in March 1997. She said she immediately recognized the long-haired visitor and that he opened his shirt to show her a birthmark on his chest.

Gosch said that during that 90-minute meeting, her son, who was with a man he refused to identify, provided names and other information concerning members of a child-sex and pornography ring who had

abducted him. Noreen Gosch said he asked her not to tell anyone about the meeting because his life was in danger.

She said she only disclosed it Friday because she was asked about her son while under oath in court.

The stress of the case has taken its toll on the Gosch family. Noreen and John Gosch, Johnny's father, announced in 1993 that they were divorcing after 26 years of marriage. They both cited the stress of the on-going search for their son.

John Gosch said Sunday he is skeptical of his wife's statement that Johnny visited her.

"Apparently, she's trying to get more publicity or whatever to get on a talk show so she could go where it's warm," he said.

### Principal charged, remains at elementary school

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — The principal of Lucas Elementary School remained at the school after being charged with child endangerment.

The Iowa City school board will discuss tonight the fate of Brian Lehmann, accused of endangering students by letting Roland Thomson into the school.

Lehmann, 44, appeared Monday in Johnson County District Court on one count of child endangerment. Associate Judge Sylvia Lewis released Lehmann on his own recognizance.

Lehmann was at the school on Monday and was expected to be there today, Superintendent Barbara Grohe said.

Iowa City police allege that Lehmann failed to take action regarding Thomson being in the school, despite being notified by a police captain and two teachers of concerns about Thomson photographing children.

Attorney Mitchell Behr said Lehmann was surprised and disappointed to learn of the criminal charge against him.

"Mr. Lehmann will plead not guilty to the charge, and he will vigorously defend himself from this allegation," Behr said. "We are confident he will be fully exonerated."

Thomson, 71, formerly of Tipton and now of West Des Moines, made appearances last month in state and federal court on charges of child endangerment and child pornography.

He is accused of taking inappropriate photos of children in his wife Shirley's class at Lucas in 1997 and 1998 and using the photos to create sexually explicit drawings.

Shirley Thomson retired from the school last year.

Roland Thomson surrendered his teaching credentials and resigned his teaching post in the Iowa City district in 1985 after

being convicted of child neglect. He pleaded guilty to posing and photographing an adolescent girl in a suggestive position at Hoover Elementary School, where he worked.

The latest investigation of Roland Thomson was triggered last summer when the FBI received a tip from a Wisconsin photo lab that processed some of the Lucas photos. Grohe suspended Lehmann for two weeks with pay in September, after learning that a police officer had warned the principal about Thomson.

A school board investigation late last year concluded that while several people may have known of Thomson's record and his actions, no further action was to be taken.

"The results of our investigations show that there is no indication that anyone in the administration knew something and then failed to act on it,"

School Board President Susan Mims said at the time.

Mims said Monday she could not comment on the criminal charge against Lehmann, other than to say the board would discuss the matter with its attorneys.

The board will deliberate in closed session following its regular meeting tonight. Any action the board wishes to take against Lehmann will then be subject to a public vote, Grohe said.

Grohe said she notified the teachers and president of the parent-teacher organization at the school about the charge on Monday. Teachers will be counseled on how to deal with students' questions, she said.

A federal grand jury is expected to take up the federal complaint against Roland Thomson next week. If an indictment is issued, Thomson will be arraigned Feb. 19.