

The Daily Iowan

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Iowa City's Morning Newspaper

Tuesday, December 15, 1987

Worst attack of Gulf War claims 22 Iranians

By Daniel J. Silva
United Press International

MANAMA, Bahrain — At least 22 crewmen from an Iranian tanker hit by Iraqi missiles were missing and feared dead, Norwegian officials said Monday, in possibly the worst attack on a merchant vessel since Iran and Iraq began preying on gulf shipping three years ago.

If the deaths of the missing mariners are confirmed, Thursday's attack would be the deadliest on a merchant vessel in the Persian Gulf since the tanker war erupted

March 27, 1984, with the Iraqi Exocet strike on the Greek tanker Filikon L.

It would be the worst strike on any ship in the gulf since May 17, when a sea-skimming Exocet fired from an Iraqi jet apparently by mistake slammed into the USS Stark, killing 37 American servicemen. The attack was followed by a massive U.S. naval buildup in the gulf and the placement of 11 Kuwaiti tankers under U.S. registry and naval protection.

tion to an OPEC meeting checked out of its hotel Monday amid rumors Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was in a coma. The sudden departure before the end of the meeting fueled rumors of Khomeini's health.

But Iranian officials have denied the rumors and said he had not been hospitalized.

Norwegian Foreign Ministry officials in Oslo said Monday the Norwegian captain of the tanker Susangird, Olav Leroy, 58, and 21 of his Polish and Filipino crew were missing and feared dead after

an attack Thursday.

The Norwegian officials' report Monday apparently was the first public disclosure on possible casualties aboard the Susangird.

The attack was the second of two Iraqi strikes within 12 hours on the 218,467-ton supertanker. It ignited a raging fire and shipping officials speculated panic-stricken crewmen might have leaped to their deaths in the burning, storm-tossed seas of the northern gulf.

ALSO MISSING AND unaccounted for were an unknown

number of Iranian Tanker Co. officials who remained on board the tanker after the first Iraqi Exocet strike late Wednesday, the Norwegian officials said.

Four Filipino crewman and one Polish officer were hospitalized in the Iranian port of Bushehr with injuries suffered in the second strike that ripped a hole in the Susangird's No. 1 tank and ignited a roaring blaze.

Iranian helicopters and vessels searched the waters of the northern gulf Monday for any sign of survivors, said Per Paust, Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The fire that ravaged the Susangird had been put out by Monday and the vessel was in port at the Larak Island in the southern gulf, Paust said, quoting a report prepared by the Norwegian Embassy in Tehran.

THE SUSANGIRD, an Iranian-flag tanker that shuttles between Iran's primary offshore oil-loading terminal at Kharg Island and storage vessels at Larak Island, is operated by the Reksten Management shipping company of Bergen, Norway.

Farmers still face financial problems

By Adam Shell
The Daily Iowan

Despite recent reports that the farm crisis is in its final stages and recovery is imminent, serious financial problems still persist for about 25 percent of Iowa farms, a survey compiled by the Iowa State Cooperative Extension Service shows.

"There is definitely a certain segment of farmers that are still treading towards troubled waters," Iowa State University agriculture economist Mark Edelman said. "For those who are in that bottom 25 percent, to a certain degree are faced by a crisis."

The survey reveals two major conclusions. First, that 16,000 farms moved from a stable position to a strong position. These two groups — stable and strong farms



A Denver resident skis through snow-covered inches of snow overnight. Forecasters predicted a pine trees Monday after a winter storm dumped 4 overnight snowfall of 6 to 9 inches for Iowa City.

Iowa City gets first taste of old man winter's wrath

By James Cahoy
The Daily Iowan
United Press International

The first winter storm of the year was on its way to Iowa City Monday night and was expected to dump 6 to 9 inches of snow on the area, according to the National Weather Bureau office in Des Moines.

Snow began falling around 7:30 p.m. and was expected to continue throughout the night. A winter storm warning was issued Monday night by the

bureau for all areas east of Des Moines.

Winter storm warnings were also extended northeast to the Great Lakes region, and Iowa residents were warned by one weather bureau official to stock up on food and supplies while they could.

"People shouldn't take this storm lightly and should make preparations in advance," said Bill Schumacher, a spokesman for the National Weather Service in Des Moines. "Go to the grocery stores and stock up and set

your alarms a little earlier tomorrow morning to give yourself a chance to shovel out."

THE STORM ALSO buried parts of the southern Rockies and Plains under up to a record 4 feet of snowfall and swept into the nation's midsection Monday, closing roads and schools, stranding motorists and killing at least three people. Traffic accidents were reported in abundance.

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Supreme Court nominee Anthony Kennedy is sworn in for his confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee Monday.

Confirmation hearings for Kennedy begin

By George Lobsenz
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Democrats and Republicans praised Anthony Kennedy as an able and "acceptable" Supreme Court nominee as confirmation hearings opened Monday, but some senators promised close questioning of the judge's record.

The volatile issue of abortion arose almost immediately, just hours after the nation's highest court affirmed — on a 4-4 vote — a lower court ruling striking down portions of the law that placed restrictions, including a 24-hour waiting period, on a minor's right to abortion.

Kennedy, a moderate conservative, denied to the committee that he had made any promises to anyone about his vote on abortion cases.

The panel began the second set of hearings in three months on a nominee to the nation's highest court with kind words for Kennedy, who now sits on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Sacramento, Calif.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOSEPH BIDEN, D-Del., led Democrats in lauding Kennedy's "sterling character and qualifications," and Republicans spoke warmly of a judge who would practice judicial restraint and take a tough, no-nonsense view on law-and-order issues should Kennedy be confirmed.

However, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., citing several of Kennedy's appellate court rulings, expressed concern about the nominee's stand on civil rights.

"In reviewing Judge Kennedy's opinions and speeches, I have seen some hopeful signs — and some troubling ones," he said. "I am troubled by the narrow interpretation that Judge Kennedy has given civil rights in a number of cases."

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, another outspoken liberal, said the nominee "is clearly qualified by ability and temperament to sit on the Supreme Court."

WHILE, "YOU WOULD NOT BE MY IDEAL nominee," Metzenbaum told Kennedy, "the signs are that you are an acceptable nominee."

Biden also said he would ask Kennedy whether anyone sought "commitments" on how he would rule on certain issues. The Delaware Democrat asked about reports that the nominee had made such a commitment to Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who had initially threatened a filibuster on Kennedy.

Kennedy said he did not give Helms any hint of how he might vote on abortion cases — particularly any case that could overturn the Supreme Court's landmark 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling permitting abortion.

The nominee acknowledged telling Helms at a Nov. 12 White House meeting that he admired the conservative senator — "as I would tell anyone who has strong moral beliefs." But Kennedy said it was incorrect, as reported by conservative columnist Cal Thomas, that he expressed admiration for Helms in the context of the abortion issue.

"TO BEGIN WITH, THIS WAS NOT THE statement," Kennedy said. "These two matters were not linked."

After the Nov. 12 meeting, Helms dropped the threat of a filibuster. Kennedy, 51, is President Ronald Reagan's third nominee to fill the

See Kennedy, Page 6

THE IOWA FARM CRISIS



This is the first of a two-part series on Iowa farmers

— account for about 74 percent of the state's farms — about 74,000 farms. Second, that despite these improved market conditions the number of those under severe financial stress have declined only slightly.

"WE'VE REALLY GOT two different sets of farmers," said Edelman, author of the 1987 Iowa Farm Finance Survey. "The haves and the have-nots. The crisis has subsided for some but not for others."

The survey states that 11 percent of Iowa's farms — about 11,000 of them — are under severe financial stress and unlikely to remain in farming for more than a few years. Another 14 percent — about 14,000 farms — are in weaker positions and would require some debt restructuring to improve their financial positions.

Defining the farm crisis is difficult. A recent report by the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C., states that the agriculture crisis is in its final stages. The report cites the decline in rural bank failures, fewer problem loans, stabilizing land values and a movement toward slightly higher farmland values.

"IT'S WELL ON its way to being over," said Emanuel Melichar, senior agriculture economist at the Federal Reserve. "The losses

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Weather

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. If it snows enough, maybe they'll cancel finals. Right. Today, plenty of wind, snow, low temps and other associated nasty stuff.

UI student campaigns to save Max

By Liz Pearce-Burton
Special to The Daily Iowan

"Save M-m-m-m-m-max Headroom" is the plea of UI sophomore Peter Rosberg who has begun a unique petition to try to persuade ABC television officials to return the missing cybernaut to network television.

Instead of collecting signatures, Rosberg is collecting video footage to make what he believes will be the first video petition ever.

Rosberg, who is active with UI Student Video Productions, intends

to film "Max Headroom" fans begging ABC not to cancel the computer-generated newsmen's program. He hopes to intersperse this footage with excerpts from televised "Max Headroom" programs to make his own Max-style video to send to ABC.

"Max Headroom" is a video-dominated show, and the logical way to protest the cancellation of 'Max' is by making a video petition," Rosberg said.

THE SHOW VANISHED from television a month ago in the

middle of a 13-part series. The show received poor ratings, but Max fans believe it is more than just the ratings that made ABC decide to remove the ill-fated newsmen from their prime-time line up.

Rosberg said the program might have alienated sponsors because of its cynical approach to television advertising.

One show featured a phenomenon called blipverts — commercial messages that condense 30-second advertisements to three seconds. The fictitious television network on the show devised blipverts to stop

viewers from channel-switching during commercial breaks.

The blipverts caused an electrical short in the brains of sedentary people which literally made them explode. The fictitious television station was reluctant to remove the blipverts because they did not want to lose their sponsors or their rating as the No. 1 channel.

THAT EPISODE'S message about television stations, sponsors and ratings may have been too close for comfort for ABC officials, Rosberg said.

"Some fans believe that Max may have been canceled because of its approach to TV," he said. "The show ridicules television and everything it stands for — that's the whole gist of the series. It's tough to air a TV show that makes fun of TV."

UI students have been receptive to Rosberg's video petition so far. "The petition seems a great idea because it's related to the show," UI sophomore Julie Hord said.

"It should get people's attention if they see a tape on their desk

See Max, Page 6

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Steam whistle keeps city, UI students running on time

By Tammy Miller
Special to The Daily Iowan

Many people depend on the whistle that sounds at 8 a.m., noon, and 1 and 5 p.m. in Iowa City to keep them on time or to break up their days.

And because it is so reliable, most people assume the whistle is automatic.

But a minute-long, horn-like sound signaling the significant times during a typical 8-to-5 work day is actually activated by a UI Physical Plant utility worker — or pump man — four times a day, every day, except Sundays and holidays.

The whistle sound results when steam — generated by the 50-year-old power plant to provide electricity and heat to the UI — is pumped through a moon-shaped orifice at the top of a pipe, which is about 3 inches in diameter.



The Daily Iowan/Carlos M. Trevino
A UI Power Plant worker presses a small button by a clock to set off the whistle that blows — usually on schedule — four times a day.

POWER PLANT turbine operator Mark Peterson said the pipe resembles "something you'd see in cartoons. It is a little straight pipe with a cap on top."

According to Peterson, the daytime pump man simply watches a clock to know when he should release the steam.

"We make sure the clock is accurate — it's within a minute or two," he said.

UI junior Tammy Rowley said her co-workers in the UI Office of Special Support Services in Calvin Hall rely on the whistle to mark lunch time.

"When it blows at noon they say, 'Oh, horn. We can go,'" she said. "Then they return a little early because they know they have to be back by the time it goes off at 1 o'clock."

Marshall Stewart, manager of the plant, said the whistle used to be sounded in the 1950s whenever Iowa would win a football game. "It used to be so seldom then," Stewart said.

TODAY, THE WHISTLE also sounds when the city is threatened

by a tornado or some other hazardous condition.

"The sheriff's office contacts us, and we have certain instructions to follow," Stewart said.

The whistle has probably been blowing regularly since about 1927, Stewart said, adding the whistle has become a popular phenomenon in Iowa City.

The extent of its popularity was

realized, he said, about 10 years ago when a disgruntled student's campaign against noise pollution brought an end to the whistle-blowing.

"It was off for two days, but there was such an outcry from students and downtown business people that we started it up again," Stewart said. "And it's been blowing ever since."

The Daily Iowan
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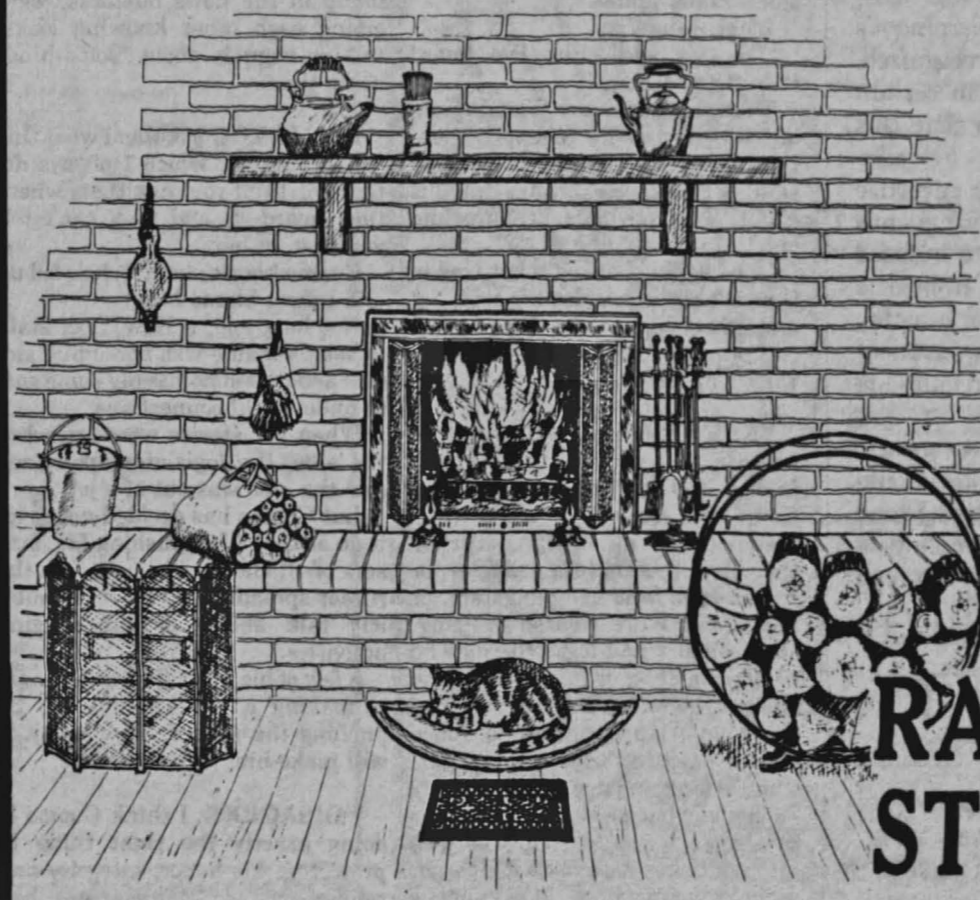
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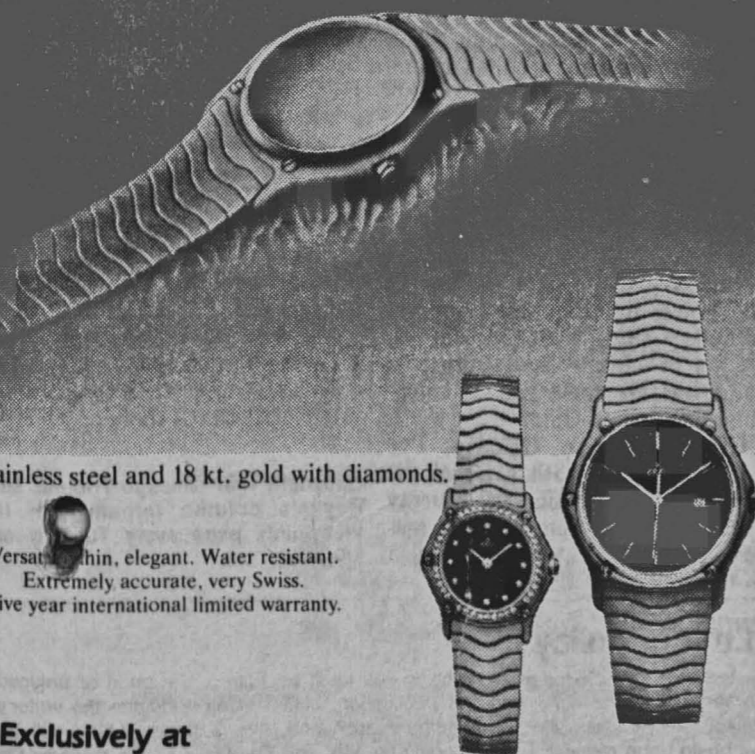
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Nation/world

Supreme Court strikes down part of Illinois abortion law

By Henry J. Reske
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court struck down an Illinois abortion law Monday in a split decision that illustrates the power the next man to join the court will wield in deciding the course of women's right to abortion.

The court, one member short since Justice Lewis Powell retired in June, split 4-4 to affirm a lower court ruling striking down portions of the law that placed restrictions, including a 24-hour waiting period, on a minor's right to abortion. A split vote sets no national precedent.

The ruling, in a one-line order noting the court was "equally divided," did not even list the votes of the individual justices. It was an anticlimactic ending to a case that has been before the court for more than a year and extending through two terms.

NONETHELESS, GROUPS on both sides of the abortion issue and members of the Senate were quick to note the vote and the impact Judge Anthony Kennedy, whose confirmation hearings began Monday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, will have on the next abortion case.

Legal scholars also noted the court's landmark 1973 decision, Roe vs. Wade, decided on a 7-2 vote with Justices William Rehnquist and Byron White in dissent, would not necessarily rise or fall on Kennedy's vote.

They noted the Illinois case did not address the basic right to abortion and instead dealt with the extent of a minor's access to the procedure, a right the court has already said is not as extensive as that of adults. They said there is no evidence the court would line up as equally divided if the basic right to abortion was at issue.

hearings, Chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., of the Senate Judiciary Committee said Supreme Court justices for the last 40 years have agreed there is a constitutionally protected right to privacy, the underpinning of Roe vs. Wade and other decisions.

In response to Biden and other questioners, Kennedy agreed there is such a right. Without elaborating how far he thought the right extended, he told Biden, "It seems to me most Americans, most lawyers, most judges believe there is... a right to privacy."

Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, called the decision a good one, but said it also "illustrates the critical nature of the selection of the new Supreme Court nominee."

Dick Howard, a University of Virginia law professor, said the issue before the court was a "tight point, and the vote doesn't tell how far the court will go."

DURING THE KENNEDY

Reagan assures allies of security; predicts confirmation of INF Treaty

By Norman D. Sandler
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Scoffing at charges that West European security is in jeopardy, President Ronald Reagan predicted Monday that Senate hearings on the INF Treaty signed at last week's summit "will lay anxieties to rest" and would a case for ratification.

In a speech to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a foreign policy think-tank, Reagan said the treaty, contrary to the arguments of its critics, would return the military balance in Europe to conditions that existed before the introduction of Soviet medium-range missiles in 1977.

At the same time, he quoted British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in claiming full backing from the NATO allies and insisting the accord would not "decouple" the United

States from the defense of Western Europe.

"GIVEN THAT THE treaty accomplishes NATO aims and has the firm support of our NATO allies — more important, given our duty to build a safer peace as we work to expand freedom — how can we fail in the end to hail this treaty as a historic achievement?" Reagan said.

The selling of the summit continued in earnest as Reagan promoted the accord on Intermediate Nuclear Forces not as a "rearrangement of numbers," but an unprecedented agreement by the superpowers to reduce their nuclear arsenals.

The exercise in presidential salesmanship, aimed at upcoming debate over Senate ratification of the INF Treaty, came as the administration injected a sharp note of realism into the post-summit euphoria, characterizing Gorbachev as a tough adversary who gave no ground on major areas of disagreement.

"Behind the steel teeth was a hammer-and-sickle tongue," Fitzwater said, "and it talked tough."

THE INF AGREEMENT was the unquestioned centerpiece of the three days of talks last week between Reagan and Gorbachev, which ended on a note of optimism about prospects for dramatic reductions in strategic nuclear weapons and a sober admission that in other areas of their relationship — most notably Soviet behavior at home and abroad — the two sides remain at odds.

The outcome of the summit continued to be clouded by questions of what was and was not discussed as administration officials tried to explain the positions that had been taken on issues from Afghanistan to Star Wars.

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surprise, surprise — after giving him name from nomination spring, Dick is now to be considered if the wish.

COURSE, he couldn't have had himself so nicely for the captain of the Titanic.

UI Presidential Search Chair Samuel Becker, who says he's pleased with the search, has discovered, in that there are only two in the entire world both enough and willing to UI. One's a schoolmarm; the other is deeply into Finnish. And then there's on.

news that the academic depends on making the right finding the proper channel the correct pap. But it can't remove us from our truth. The truth of the UI presidency is plain: something is very, very wrong with the position and with the search or this whole search has been an insult to all of

I, have a joyous holiday Like I care.

b's column appears on the page every Tuesday.

mad

Jack "Greasy Thumb" is once a nice Jewish boy. The "Terrible" Touhy's folks in the Old Sod. Not long ago my Eto, who's Japanese, a federal protective custody of his days in the mob. The Italians have to put the Godfather Syndrome. more politically successful name, as in Cuomo's case, is knowing the smirks the more frequent the es are peddled: "I heard common knowledge that... it'll come out that..." starting a personal rule re other journalists to

at time somebody tells me something" in Cuomo's nd, I'm going to whip out a pencil and say: "Fine, you on that." swallow their tongues or go to, that's their problem.

1987 Chicago Tribune. Mike column appears in the page every Tu ay and

igned. Unsigned or untyped should include the writer's nd address, which will be the Daily Iowan reserves the

in by DI readers. The Daily I be typed and signed. The ill not be published, should bmissions. The DI reserves

Kennedy

Continued from page 1

seat left vacant by the June 26 retirement of Justice Lewis Powell. The first choice, Robert Bork, was rejected by the Senate 58-42 Oct. 6 after an acrimonious partisan debate over his judicial philosophy, specifically charges by liberal groups that Bork would roll back civil rights gains and jeopardize privacy rights by interpreting the Constitution too narrowly. Six days after the Senate vote, Reagan selected Douglas Ginsburg, but he withdrew a short time later amid revelations that he smoked marijuana in the 1960s and '70s. During the latter period, he was teaching law at Harvard.

BORK AND GINSBURG ARE JUDGES ON THE U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. For his third nominee, Reagan went to his home state of California to select Kennedy, a judge on the appellate bench for 11 years.

As the executive and legislative branches spent the autumn wrangling, the Supreme Court has been operating with only eight justices, creating

the likelihood that key cases would be stymied by a tie vote. Such was the situation Monday, when the high court voted 4-4 — setting no national precedent — to uphold a lower court's ruling that threw out provisions of an Illinois law placing a 24-hour waiting period on minors seeking an abortion and ordering that both parents must be notified of a minor's decision to have an abortion.

Biden vowed to question Kennedy about his philosophy on civil rights, the rights of criminals and other fundamental issues — a promise creating the only tension of Monday's generally harmonious hearing.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, objected to Biden's intentions and he advised Kennedy not to be "badgered or bullied" into answers he thinks might compromise his ability to be impartial in hearing future cases.

"I think future litigants (before the Supreme Court) need to know you are open to their arguments and that you are not prejudiced against them," Hatch said.

Max

Continued from page 1

rather than a stack of papers," sophomore Paula Fredell said.

Rosberg said he has not captured too many appeals for Headroom's return on film yet, adding he thinks students are shy about appearing on videotape.

"IT'S AN EASY thing to sign your

name because it's not very attached to you," he said. "Four or five people can share a name, but a video image is unique."

But the video petition has brought out the actor lurking in some people, Rosberg said. UI senior Howard Spiro appears on the video standing with open arms squarely

in front of the camera delivering a passionate plea imploring ABC to bring "Max Headroom" back.

Rosberg said many people have strong feelings — which he would like to capture on videotape — about "Max Headroom" because the show represents a new television genre.

This genre, he said, revolves around how an individual survives and functions after a disaster which leaves the world in the hands of a gigantic computer network and is a refreshing one for network television.

"I would say 'Max' is a lot better than 'Mr. Belvedere' which has taken its place," Rosberg said.

Weather

Continued from page 1

New Mexico and Texas were snow-bound by sunrise Monday. Interstate 40 — the main east-west route across the two states — was closed from Grants, N.M., to Amarillo, Texas, a distance of about 400 miles. Abandoned cars and trucks littered the highway, where at least three weather-related traffic fatalities occurred over the weekend, including two on the New Mexico side.

But despite the storm's expected severity, Iowa City Police Department officials said Monday night they were not taking any special precautions for the storm.

"We'll just be monitoring the

storm, we don't expect to have any extra officers on duty," said Iowa City Chief Dispatcher Nancy Sereuduck. "It's the first storm, so it's probably going to be a bit hectic, but at least it's at night when traffic levels are low."

Sereuduck said she didn't know whether there would be any increase in accidents because of the storm, but advised motorists to take precautions before driving.

"PEOPLE SHOULD just take more time and drive safely," Sereuduck said. "Hopefully there won't be too many problems."

Iowa City snow crews were scheduled to be on call for the night,

according to Iowa City Public Works Director Chuck Schmadeke. Schmadeke said the Public Works Department had eight snow plows to cope with the storm, but added things could get rough if high winds cause problems with drifting snow.

"How much trouble we have clearing the streets really depends on how much blowing snow there is," Schmadeke said. "Each storm is kind of unique in that respect."

IOWA CITY snow crews have a priority list of streets to clear. Schmadeke said, with "arterial routes" given first priority as far as snow clearance.

"Arterial streets such as hospital routes and bus routes generally come first," Schmadeke said. "Local streets are the lowest priority on the lists."

Snow crews generally both clear and salt streets, Schmadeke said, and will continue to work throughout the night to keep streets clear.

Schmadeke advised motorists to drive carefully, and said it would probably not do much good for residents stranded by the storm to call the Public Works Department.

"The crews have a list they specifically follow," Schmadeke said. "All streets will be cleared eventually."

Summit boosts Reagan's popularity

By Richard Morin
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan has reaped immediate, but perhaps temporary political gains from last week's

summit and reversed sagging public confidence in his administration, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News Poll.

The most recent survey also disclosed increased support for the treaty to eliminate medium- and

shorter-range nuclear missiles in Europe, which was signed last week by Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and now goes to the Senate for ratification.

Americans, however, viewed Reagan as more effective than Gorbachev

at the summit talks: 42 percent of those surveyed said Reagan did the better job, while 26 percent said Gorbachev.

Following a week of high-powered summitry, the Reagan presidency emerged as the clear early winner.

S.Korean election expected to result in violent protests

By Spencer Sherman
United Press International

SEOUL, South Korea — The government warned Monday that radicals will try to disrupt the nation's first direct presidential election in 16 years amid indications social unrest will continue no matter who wins.

The warning came as opposition candidate Paek Ki-wan tearfully dropped out of the campaign for Wednesday's election "in order not to split the people's votes" with the two leading opposition candidates, Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young-sam.

Paek, an ideological spearhead of anti-government students and dissidents, had negotiated to forge a united opposition behind one candidate which Western analysts said would be a nearly certain way to beat government candidate Roh Tae-woo.

THE TWO MAIN opposition candidates have repeatedly called on the other to drop out but refused to do so himself. On Monday, Kim Young-sam again urged Kim Dae Jung to drop out of the

first direct presidential election in 16 years, saying the "general trend has already been decided in my favor."

A sobbing Paek told reporters he would continue to pressure the two men to field one candidate in the election, which the government agreed to after violent protests last summer.

"I ask our people not to vote for government candidate Roh in any event because we must terminate military rule," Paek said.

There are now five candidates in the race — Roh, the two Kims, former Prime Minister Kim Jong-pil and Shin Jeong-il, leader of an indigenous religious cult.

Culture and Information Minister Lee Woong-hee said Monday the government had "clear signs" some radicals are maneuvering to disturb polling and ballot counting with violence and other disruptions.

"ALL PRECAUTIONARY measures are being taken to prevent violence which might obstruct polling and ballot counting. If violence takes place, anybody involved will be arrested and dealt

with sternly." Lee gave no specific information to back up his claim.

Spokesmen for the three main opposition parties and the National Coalition for Democracy, an influential dissident organization, charged the government with engaging in fraud.

"If the present situation continues, any kind of popular protests could erupt," they told a news conference. "We urge government authorities to take immediate measures to insure a fair election."

The three opposition parties — Kim Young-sam's Reunification Democratic Party, Kim Dae Jung's Party for Peace and Democracy, and the New Democratic Republican Party — formed a joint committee Sunday to fight ballot fraud.

Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young-sam have repeatedly said Roh, a former general and close ally of President Chun Doo Hwan, could not win without massive fraud.

Kim Dae Jung has threatened to spearhead anti-government protests if Roh wins. Korean and Western diplomats and observers are becoming more certain protests will break out if Roh wins.

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"They say things ter, but 50 cents of farm income this from a government Sen. Tom Harkin, that's an economic strangest kind of r seen."

This improved is attributed, Reserve, to the from stressed farm operators. Some far force sell land, other ets, while to foreclose.

"YOU IMPROV by foreclosing or way or another the underwater." M adding that the fin these individual d signal an end to th

The emotional b mers and their lan to view the crisis a world, Melichar s mers believe they thing but a farmer

"It's hard to belie anything else," M seems a good farm a good car-sales thing."

The Des Moines front-page story b eral Reserve data line "Farm crisis reports." Howeve stress that reporti cultural crisis by not always tell the

"JUST BECAU Moine Register p something is over they're necessari man said. "I thi dramatic improv conditions, but the tell the whole stor certain percentag that continue to b debt situations."

There are, howe agree with the cl Register and the that the crisis is n

"The farm crisi people. I'd really li that," Les Friedric Farm Bureau said. are farmers who b bankruptcy this ye

In Iowa, bankrupt indicate about 862 the end of Septemb there were 1,258 f all bankruptcy rat first three month 40 percent over th — from 105 cases per month.

EVEN AT TH crisis in Septemb

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Farm

Continued from page 1

are simply drying up, they're not there."

In addition, the government is paying out \$22 billion in subsidies which helps some farmers earn higher profits than they have in years.

"They say things are getting better, but 50 cents of every dollar of farm income this year is coming from a government paycheck," Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said. "If that's an economic recovery, it's the strangest kind of recovery I've ever seen."

This improved economic situation is attributed, by the Federal Reserve, to the moving of assets from stressed farms to more stable operators. Some farmers have been forced to sell land, machinery and other assets, while others have had to foreclose.

"YOU IMPROVE THE industry by foreclosing or resolving in one way or another the people who are underwater," Melichar said, adding that the final resolution of these individual difficulties would signal an end to the crisis.

The emotional bond between farmers and their land causes farmers to view the crisis as the end of the world, Melichar said. Many farmers believe they "can't be anything but a farmer."

"It's hard to believe they can't do anything else," Melichar said. "It seems a good farmer ought to make a good car-salesman or something."

The Des Moines Register ran a front-page story based on the Federal Reserve data under a headline "Farm crisis ends is near, Fed reports." However, economists stress that reporting on the agricultural crisis by the media does not always tell the whole story.

"JUST BECAUSE THE Des Moines Register pronounces that something is over, doesn't mean they're necessarily right," Edelman said. "I think we've had a dramatic improvement in overall conditions, but the averages don't tell the whole story. We still have a certain percentage of producers that continue to be faced with high debt situations."

There are, however, people who agree with the claim made by the Register and the Federal Reserve that the crisis is nearly over.

"The farm crisis is over for most people. I'd really like to emphasize that," Les Friedrichsen of the Iowa Farm Bureau said. "But there still are farmers who will probably take bankruptcy this year."

In Iowa, bankruptcy court records indicate about 862 filings through the end of September 1987. In 1986 there were 1,258 filings. The overall bankruptcy rate in Iowa for the first three months of 1987 was up 40 percent over the 1986 average — from 105 cases per month to 147 per month.

EVEN AT THE height of the crisis in September 1984, there

Year	No. of Farms	Average size (in acres)	Farm real estate values
1980	119,000	286	\$1,811
1981	118,000	286	\$1,889
1982	117,000	289	\$1,889
1983	115,000	293	\$1,684
1984	113,000	299	\$1,499
1985	111,000	303	\$1,064
1986	109,000	308	\$841

Sources: Iowa Agricultural Statistics, 1987-88 Statistical Profile of Iowa, U.S. Department of Agriculture

were only a small percentage of farmers suffering financial stress, economists said. Many people held the wrong impression that it was all farmers.

"It always was only a part of the farmers in severe trouble," ISU agriculture economist Arnold Paulsen said. "If 11 percent was a crisis to begin with, then it's still a crisis today."

"I don't exactly like the word crisis because it implies that it is a condition which can't persist," Paulsen said. "But the condition has persisted for several years and will continue to persist for several years."

Prairiefire, a farmer advocate organization in Des Moines, disagrees with the bright picture painted by the Federal Reserve. Citing conservative Department of Agriculture statistics, Prairiefire reported that 43,000 farms were lost nationwide in 1985, or one every 10 minutes. An additional 60,000 vanished in 1986, an increase of a shocking 40 percent.

"IF YOU LOOK at the economic plight of farmers who carry any substantial debt, the crisis is hardly over — in fact it is still getting worse," Daniel Levitas of Prairiefire said. "If there's any light at the end of the tunnel, it's the train coming."

In Iowa, the number of farmers receiving food stamps climbed to 2,228 in December 1986, from 1,473 in June 1985, according to the State Department of Human Services. This year only 1,500 out of 2,500 farmers eligible for assistance have applied. In the early 1980s it was unheard of for farmers to seek food stamps.

Many economists say the debt facing stressed farmers cannot be solved in one year, but will take years to resolve.

"Generally, people want to declare this thing over," Paulsen said. "Maybe if it's a crisis, the crisis should be declared over, but the condition is not over. It might take us another six or eight years to get all the rearranging of assets to take place. It's by no means over."

JOANNE DVORAK, an outreach counselor for Farmers Helping Farmers, agrees that the crisis has left many farmers with problems that may — if at all — take years to overcome.

"The people who are saying the crisis is over are looking at it simply as cash and assets," Dvorak said. "If you want to say that the crisis is over, then you must realize that we are left with a chronic condition."

Many indebted farm operators hope a dramatic turnaround in the farm economy will help them pull out. Economists, though, see very little chance for this group to save its farms.

The odds for farms of surviving is about one in 10, Edelman said. A full recovery is unlikely because earnings are low and assets insufficient to pay off debts and interest.

The inability of farms in weak and severe positions to pay off their debt can be seen in the debt to cash ratio. This ratio measures the time it would take to pay off the debt.

FARMS IN A strong position would need two years. Stable farms would require 11 years. Weak farms would require some form of restructuring to survive. Farms in severe trouble because of negative cash flow, would be unable to repay their debts.

Thus, a large number of farms are falling into the hands of larger, financially stable operators. Iowa has lost about 2,000 farms every year since 1980 and the average farm size has increased from 286 acres to 310 acres.

"If people want to live in small towns and communities... then we ought to enact policies and programs that will permit people to do that," Harkin, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee said. "The success of rural America and family farms can't be measured in dollar terms alone."

"Many farms won't be able to survive financially under current market conditions given the current financial structure they have," Edelman said.

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INSIDE SPORTS



Dick Vitale has taken his place among the greats of college basketball broadcasters. He owes it all to his addiction to the sport.
 See Page 9

Big Ten delays basketball playoff decision

By Randy Minkoff
 United Press International

CHICAGO — Plans for a postseason basketball tournament in the Big Ten were sidetracked Monday when the league presidents postponed a final decision on the matter.

The Big Ten's Council of Ten was expected to formally ratify a postseason basketball tourney, beginning with the 1988-89 season.

But the group decided to postpone a final decision and said it would try to get additional information.

Items the school's presidents and chancellors wanted more information on concerned possible missed class time, site selection and financial considerations.

"They postponed final consideration," said Big Ten spokesman Mark Rudner. "No time was set to bring up the matter again."

HOWEVER, RUDNER said the Council of Ten meets only "once or twice a year." He said the council could call a special session to consider the proposal and still have it in place for next season should the plan be approved. No plans were made to call another meeting on the subject at Monday's meeting in suburban Chicago. Other items were discussed at the meeting but the postseason basketball tournament was the major agenda item,

Rudner added.

Big Ten athletic directors approved the proposal for a postseason tournament earlier this month. Conference basketball coaches approved the plan earlier this year with only Indiana Coach Bobby Knight voting against the proposal.

The Big Ten was one of the last holdouts for holding a postseason tournament to determine its automatic NCAA tournament representative.

Only the Ivy League and the Association of Mid-Continent Universities (AMCU-8) are the only other Division I conferences that do not conduct a postseason tournament to select its automatic NCAA tournament representative.

THE PLAN REPORTEDLY would have cut the regular season conference schedule from a round-robin, 18-game schedule to around 14 or 15 games. In addition,

breaking the conference into two divisions was also considered.

Knight led a fight that complained that adding a postseason tournament would take athletes out of the classroom. He claimed his team had voiced opposition to a postseason tourney.

But the league's other coaches said they favored a postseason tourney, noting it would give teams that didn't finish in the upper division a

See Big Ten, Page 9

Sacrifice paces Regan's career

By Scott Wingert
 The Daily Iowan

John Regan loves to make sacrifices.

As a wrestler, sacrifice means disciplining your body to cope with regular shifts in body weight.

Most of the time the shift is downward, which the junior has done plenty of times during his



Iowa's John Regan takes a hold of Northern Iowa's Marty Anderson during their 134-pound wrestling match Saturday at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Regan, a junior from Cedar Rapids, won 5-4. Last season he won the Big Ten Championship at 118 pounds.

Wrestling

career at Iowa. Last year, after competing at 126 pounds all year, Regan dropped to 118 for the tournaments and captured the Big Ten title.

This year, though, Regan may be looking to add another conference title — at 134 pounds.

Former national champion Brad Penrith is rolling over opponents at 126 pounds, Regan's ideal weight. And Steve Martin is manning ably the 118-pound slot, so Regan's best chance to contri-

See Regan, Page 10

Sailing club set for 'Bowl' regatta

By Hugh Donlan
 The Daily Iowan

Iowa will be represented in the Orange Bowl over the holidays — the Orange Bowl Regatta that is.

The Iowa sailing club is traveling to Miami for the third consecutive year to compete in the regatta being held December 29-31 in Biscayne Bay, Fla.

"It's a combination of sailing in warm weather to keep everyone in the swing and . . . a mini-vacation for everyone to just get out of the

Sportsclubs

Iowa weather. So we go to Florida," Coach Bob Woodward said.

The event is also important because it is one of the few opportunities a sailing club from a climate like Iowa's has to compete over the winter months.

"WE HAVE TO (compete)," Woodward said. "If we don't go, we'll go without sailing for three months. You just can't do it. You won't be able to compete with other schools from down South like Tulane."

The regatta has traditionally been for East Coast and Southern schools such as Navy, Old Dominion and Tulane. In an effort to increase participation by Midwestern schools, a new class of boats has been added to the regatta — flying juniors, the boat most commonly sailed by racers from the Midwest.

Last year, four Midwestern schools — Michigan, Toledo, Iowa and

See Sportsclubs, Page 10

Former star Lester watches Iowa like a hawk

By Hugh Donlan
 The Daily Iowan

Saturday night's game between Iowa and Arizona was a homecoming — not only for former Iowa Coach Lute Olson, but for former Hawkeye great Ronnie Lester as well.

After logging six frustrating years in the NBA, Lester retired from professional basketball last season, a knee injury cutting short his once-promising career.

Although his playing days are over, Iowa's second all-time leading scorer (1,675 points) remains close to the court on which he once was a

master.

"I'm scouting for the Lakers right now," he said explaining his visit to Carver-Hawkeye Arena. "I'll be scouting for the Lakers in the Midwest covering basically the Big Ten, the Big Eight and the Missouri Valley (conferences)."

LESTER WAS HIRED only

recently and said he has enjoyed his new affiliation with basketball — scouting college players for the professional ranks. After four years with the Bulls and two seasons with the Lakers, the knee injury became too much for him to continue his career. Lester stayed away from the game for an entire

year before being hired by the Lakers less than two weeks ago.

"The main thing was that I played for them for two years. I know the type of players that they look for. It was a good opportunity for me and I'm looking forward to doing it for the next couple of years," Lester

See Lester, Page 9

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Hart '88 for p

By Richard March
 United Press International

CONCORD, N.H. — who bailed out of his White House seven amid a sex scandal, Democratic presidential day, saying he wanted people decide.

Hart, a former Col who waged a tough campaign for the 1988 nomination, unexpected candidacy papers for New Hampshire primary.

"Getting back in this the toughest thing done," Hart said in a on the steps of the New Statehouse. "There is losing, only in quitting."

With his wife, Lee Hart said he has no and no money, but to present his "new voters."

HART WAS THE front-runner in M

Los

By Adam Shell
 The Daily Iowan

WILTON, Iowa — farmer's wife, gaze kitchen window of last winter, but in the familiar sight of Ralph working in the witnessed her worst.

"I watched them loads of corn down watched them machinery down the Hoag recalled, her with emotion. "wasn't worth a who belonged to us. It's you goes every time down the lane."

THE IOWA FATHER CRISIS

This is the last series on Iowa

Like many Iowa and Doris Hoag, Iowa, lost their farcial crisis that has lives of countless f. The loss of their especially painful b inherited from I father after a tr fields.

"MY FATHER were killed at th while working in Doris Hoag said, struck by a bolt of On a recent Sund farm couples gat the dining room ta and Lou Jipp of W share their commo

Alvin All, a UI busi Tuesday after more Monday night during