

news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Syrians battle Druse militia

Syrian troops shot it out with defiant Druse gunman in West Beirut yesterday. It was the first serious challenge to the Syrians, who entered Beirut Sunday to stop fighting between rival factions. Police reported that three Syrians and three Druse were wounded in the skirmish. The cause of the clash is unknown. (AP)

Libya declared winner

Libya's official news agency is claiming that Libya has come out the winner after last year's US bombing raids. In a long anti-American commentary today, the news agency *Jana* said the air raids were "in vain" and the US government has wound up embroiled in political scandals. (AP)

Begun returns to Moscow

Freed Soviet dissident Josef Begun received a hero's welcome at a snowy railroad station in Moscow yesterday. Begun vowed to keep up the fight for Jewish emigration and human rights until all political prisoners are free. Begun arrived by train after he was released from prison last week. He expressed a desire to emigrate to Israel, but authorities made no promises. (AP)

Trial of "Arab fighter" begins

In Paris, a trial began today for a Lebanese man accused of directing the murders of American and Israeli diplomats in the French capital. In an opening statement, Georges Ibrahim Abdallah described himself as an Arab fighter, and denounced what he called "Yankee executioners" in his homeland. A group demanding Abdallah's release has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Paris last September that killed 11 people. (AP)

Jagger and Hall to marry

A published report quotes model Jerry Hall, who was cleared last week of drug charges in Barbados, as saying she is going to marry her long time companion, rock star Mick Jagger. The *New York Post* quoted Hall as saying a date has been set. The Texas model did not say where the honeymoon would be, but commented that Barbados was out of the question. (AP)

Pasternak reinstated by SWU

More than 25 years after his death, author Boris Pasternak has been reinstated by the Soviet Writers' Union Sunday. The reinstatement was the latest in a series of government actions upgrading Pasternak, who died in disgrace in 1960. In 1958, Pasternak won the Nobel Prize for literature following the publication of *Doctor Zhivago*, which resulted in his expulsion from the writers' union. (AP)

Nation

Regan hangs on to job

President Reagan's embattled chief of staff continues to hold onto his job. But sources close to First Lady Nancy Reagan predict Donald Regan will soon leave because she is determined that he must go. The first lady is said to be unhappy with the way Regan has handled the Iran-contra affair. As the rumors intensify, White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the President has not asked Regan to quit. (AP)

Governors meet with Reagan

The nation's governors met with President Reagan at the White House to discuss welfare reform. The governors felt Reagan agreed with the less costly elements of their work-oriented welfare reform proposal. But the President did not agree with their call for a national standard for welfare benefits. Both Reagan and the governors plan to submit reform proposals to Congress today. (AP)

Gephardt announces candidacy

Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt became the first major Democrat to officially announce his candidacy for President. Gephardt told hundreds of cheering supporters in St. Louis yesterday that although he is a dark horse, he intends to win the Democratic nomination through hard work. (AP)

Star Wars negotiations on hold

The White House said "Star Wars" negotiations with the Soviet Union have been put on hold until Congress and US allies are consulted about testing new technology for the program. US arms control advisors are travelling to Europe, Asia, and Australia to discuss the tests with government leaders. The negotiations are virtually deadlocked over the issue of the missile defense system. (AP)

Midwest shows economic strength

A new study shows surprising economic strength in sections of the nation's heartland. David Berson of Wharton Econometrics said his survey found a number of Midwest states, such as Michigan and South Dakota, doing well. But he cautioned that the success does not signal a resurrection of the region's manufacturing industry. He noted that the nation is shifting from an economy based on manufacturing to one based on service industries, and regions that have lost manufacturing jobs may still be strong in the service sector. (AP)

Court will hear death penalty case

The US Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether the death penalty should be applied to convicted murderers who committed their crimes before they became adults. The Justices agreed to hear the appeal of Oklahoma death row inmate William Wayne Thompson, convicted of a murder committed when he was 15. Thompson's appeal said executing teenagers is cruel and unusual punishment. (AP)

Court will rule on handicapped

The Supreme Court has agreed to study the power of public school officials to expel or suspend emotionally handicapped students for disruptive behavior.

The Justices will hear an appeal by the California Superintendent of Public Education challenging a ruling that limited the authority of school official in such cases. An appeals court ruled in July that under a 1982 Federal Law handicapped students may not be expelled for conduct caused by their emotional disorders. (AP)

Half of high school students use pot

An annual survey showed that about half of high school students had smoked marijuana last year, a slight decline from last year. Cocaine was the second most-used drug among regular drug users. (AP)

Chicago holds primary today

Today's Democratic mayoral primary in Chicago pits incumbent mayor Harold Washington against former mayor Jane Byrne. Washington voiced concern that his political foes may try to steal the election. Byrne is scoffing at polls that put Washington in the lead. (AP)

Americans recognize cancer risks

A poll commissioned by the American Cancer Society indicates that most Americans now recognize that obesity and poor nutrition increase the risk of cancer. But 51 percent of those questioned still believed they could do little to change that risk. Blacks and Hispanics were the most pessimistic, with most saying they could do nothing to improve their odds against cancer. (AP)

Sports

Royals manager resigns

Dick Howser decided to resign as manager of the Kansas City Royals after two days of spring training. Howser, who was trying to come back after treatment for a malignant brain tumor last year, said managing was "too much, too soon." Third base coach Billy Gardner has been named as Howser's replacement. (AP)

Free agents in limbo

While most players are either in spring training camp or preparing to report, some top name players are in limbo. They are free agents who are finding no takers for their services.

Bob Horner is trying to stay in shape by attending a morning aerobics class in Dallas. He received an offer of \$800,000 from San Diego, but turned it down because it was \$1 million less than he made last year with Atlanta.

Other players who are on the outside looking in include Tim Lincecum, Ron Guidry, Bob Boone, Lance Parrish, Andre Dawson, Doyle Alexander, and Rich Gedman. (AP)

UNLV retains top spot

The University of Nevada-Las Vegas (28-1) is still the top team in men's basketball. The Runnin' Rebels led off this week's AP poll with 49 of a possible 64 first place votes. Rounding out the top ten were North Carolina (25-2), Indiana (23-2), DePaul (25-1), Temple (28-2), Purdue (20-3), Iowa (23-4), Georgetown (21-4), Pittsburgh (22-5), and Alabama (21-4).

Nets forward is okay

New Jersey Nets forward Orlando Woolridge may be back in action later this week. A bone scan on his left leg showed no signs of breaks. Woolridge injured the leg in a game with Golden State last Thursday and was forced out of action on Saturday. He will miss two more games this week. (AP)

Local

Union opposes hiring of consultants

Union representatives asked Massachusetts to curb the hiring of consultants. Lobbyist Peter Lyons told a legislative committee yesterday that the hiring is just a way of putting friends on a payroll. He represented the National Association of Government Employees before the Committee on Public Service.

Jackie Cooke of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees told the committee that use of consultants is just a way to get around civil service and avoid paying benefits to state workers.

In his budget address, Governor Michael Dukakis asked lawmakers to change 1200 consultant jobs into permanent positions. The committee is studying several bills on the issue. (AP)

UMass probes anti-Semitism

The University of Massachusetts at Boston is probing several anti-Semitic incidents on campus. They include the appearance of swastikas on doors and bulletin boards and anti-Semitic letters sent to faculty members.

Chancellor Robert Corrigan said he believed the incidents were isolated. He said the university will not tolerate threats to the rights and beliefs of any member of the community. (AP)

Robbery suspect in custody

Boston police say a man being held in Cambridge is implicated in a month-long series of robberies in downtown Boston. Officers say warrants were issued Saturday against 21-year old Marcu Reese in connection with nine of the break-ins. Reese is in custody in the Middlesex County Jail after his arrest in Cambridge for a hold-up. Boston police say the robberies took place between Jan. 9 and Feb 10. In one case, the robber hit the same store three times. (AP)

Poll finds Dukakis gaining on Hart

A new poll finds Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis gaining on fellow Democrat Gary Hart now that New York Governor Mario Cuomo has taken himself out of the presidential race. New Hampshire voters were surveyed for *The Boston Herald* and WBZ in Boston two days after Cuomo declared he's not a candidate. The poll shows Dukakis nine points ahead of where he was in another poll a week earlier. But Hart still leads Dukakis 41 percent to 28 percent. (AP)

Weather

A quiet stretch

Once again we are looking at a long stretch of fair weather which should last throughout the week. Windy conditions will accompany mostly sunny skies today and tomorrow. More clouds and less wind are in store for Thursday. Seasonable temperatures and dry weather will be the rule for the week.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny and windy. Highs 35-40°F (2-4°C).

Tuesday night: A few clouds, breezy and cold. Lows near 25°F (-4°C).

Wednesday: Mostly sunny with diminishing winds. Highs 35-40°F (2-4°C).

Thursday: Quite a few clouds but dry and a little milder. Highs 40-45°F (4-7°C).

Forecast by Chris Davis

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