

INDEPENDENCE

Bernice E. Bastian, 93, died Wednesday morning, April 9, 2003, in Peoples Memorial Long Term Care Center following a long illness. Services: 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Immanuel Lutheran Church, by the Rev. Tom Jones. Burial: Mount Hope Cemetery. Friends may call from 2 to 8 p.m. today and 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Reiff Funeral Home & Crematory, Independence, and from noon to service time Saturday at the church.



Survivors include two sons, Jim of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Roger of Madison, S.D.; and four sisters, Viola Fagle of Waterloo, Mildred Scott and Hazel Keppen, both of Minneapolis, and Linnea Ferrizo of Edina, Minn.

Also surviving are a sister-in-law, Thelma Morton of Independence; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

NEWHALL

Richard Henry Stien, 90, died Thursday, April 10, 2003, in the Vinton Lutheran Home following an extended illness. Arrangements are pending at Phillips Funeral Home, Vinton.

PALO

David Joseph Hartjes, 63, of Little Chute, Wis., formerly of Palo, died Wednesday, April 9, 2003, in his home after a short illness with cancer. Services: 10 a.m. Saturday, Holy Cross Catholic Church, Kaukauna, Wis., by Father Jack Mullarkey. Burial: church cemetery. Friends may call from 5 to 8 tonight at Boettcher Funeral Home, Kaukauna, Wis. There will be no visitation at the church.



Survivors include his wife, Bertie; two sons, David and Michael, both of Kaukauna, Wis.; four daughters, Dawn Hartjes of Menasha, Wis., Sheila McGraw of Moscow Mills, Mo., Michelle Hipes of St. Charles, Mo., and Sue Stanton of Center Point; a brother, Jack of St. Cloud, Minn.; and five sisters, Marilyn Coonen and his twin, Donna Hoffman, both of Kaukauna, Wis., Kathryn Weyenberg of Appleton, Wis., Joan Lindahl of Camano Island, Wash., and Janet Ray of Greensboro, N.C.

ROWLEY

Wilma R. Brunko, 88, of Rowley, died Wednesday, April 9, 2003, in West Village Care Center, Independence, following a short illness. Services: 2 p.m. Saturday, Presbyterian Church, Rowley, by Pastor Mike Andrew. Burial: Rowley Cemetery. Friends may call after 2 p.m. today at White Funeral Home, Independence.



Survivors include her husband, Donald; two sons, William Beachler of East Lansing, Mich., and James Beachler of Marion; and a daughter, Judy Kress of Independence.

DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARIES

Death notices and obituaries can be submitted to The Gazette between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 4 to 7 p.m. on holidays. Daily submissions must be made by 7 p.m. Arrangements pending and death notices, including immediate survivors, and a photo of the deceased are published as a news item on this page. These notices must conform to Gazette style and sequence or the item is subjected to the per-word charge. Other obituary material, including additional survivors, employment, education, military service, civic and social activities, accomplishments, special interests and hobbies, friends, pets, memorials and eulogies will be published for 35 cents per word.

Second-day funeral notices and other deaths (formerly out-of-town) will be published at 35 cents per word.

Emblems to accentuate the deceased's involvement in various organizations are available at \$10 each. Up to three symbols may be used per obituary.

See your funeral director for help in preparing an obituary. For further information about The Gazette's guidelines call 398-8221.

Regents oppose fee for building use

Plan would charge universities for using state property

By Tom Walsh
The Gazette

CEDAR FALLS — The state Board of Regents wants no part of a consultant's suggestion that the state charge Iowa's three public universities for use of state-owned

property, buildings and equipment.

"I would vigorously oppose some kind of capital charge, as proposed," Owen Newlin, the board's president, said Thursday during a meeting at the University of Northern Iowa. Newlin said the proposal would require the universities to collectively pay \$40 million a year, an amount that represents \$600 per student, "not an insignificant

amount," he said.

"We do understand the straits the state is in, with respect to its financial situation?" he said. "We're a part of that, and will need to absorb part of any cut, but I do not think this is a sensible approach to solving the problem. It would further strain the regents institutions' tight budget."

Greg Nichols, the board's executive director, described

the concept as "a very bad idea for a number of reasons."

Nichols said he's encouraged by signals that the state's executive branch doesn't like the concept either.

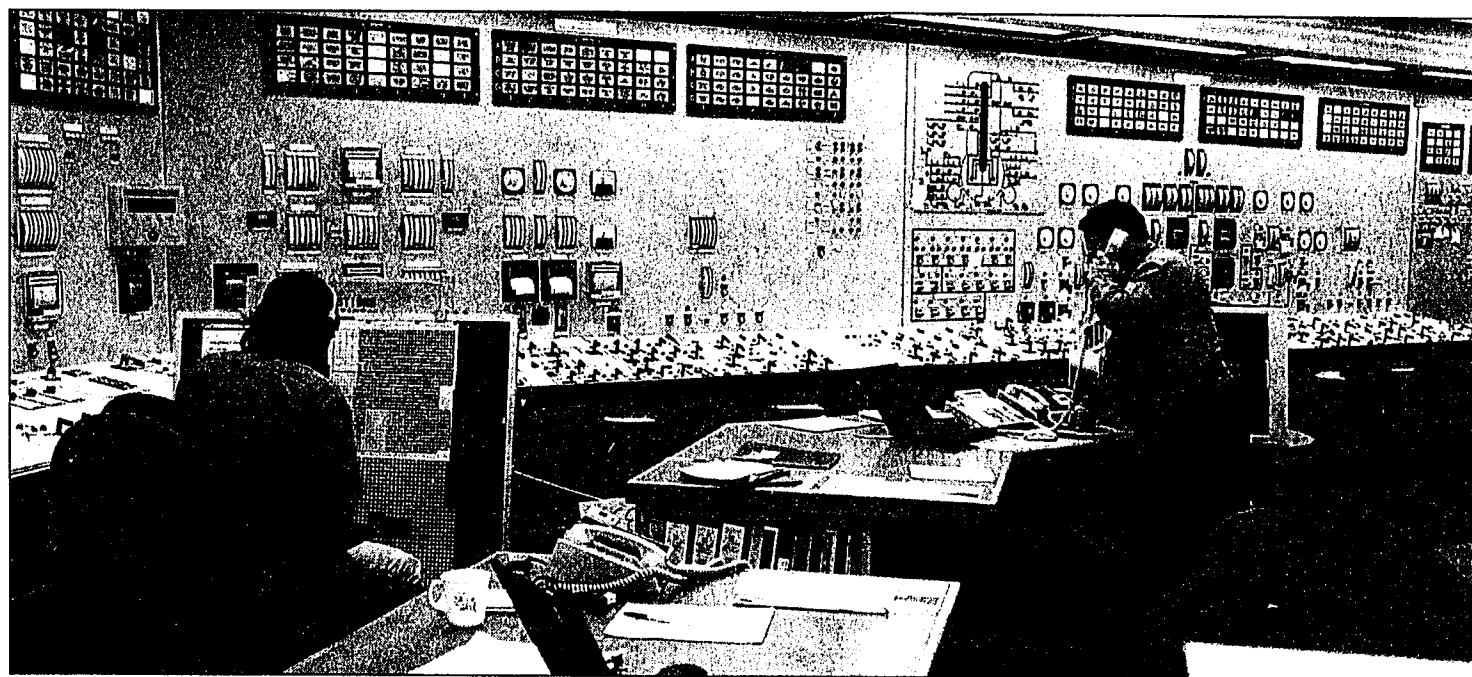
"It's a back-door way of doing a budget cut," Nichols said.

Regent David Fisher of West Des Moines said what has been described as a prop-

erty tax on students and their parents is "like a \$600 tuition increase."

"They don't need that on top of the tuition increases of the past few years," Fisher said.

Regent David Neil of La Porte City agreed: "The person who called (the proposal) an idiotic plan had it right," Neil said.



Kevin Wolf/The Gazette

Workers in the control room coordinate the transfer of fuel bundles Monday in the reactor at the Duane Arnold Energy Center in Palo.

Ramblin': Look inside Palo nuclear plant reveals emphasis on security

From page 1B

- Look at those guns. Guards pace here and there with pistols on their hips and rifles slung over their shoulders. "We have understood the idea of bad people having bad intentions for a long time," says our tour guide, Bruce Lacy, manager of Nuclear Business.

- Security has always been tight. It's not so much the threat of terrorist destruction as it is someone trying to steal uranium. Terrorists always look for a weak target. Without tons of equipment, that would be impossible

here. Plus, exposure to active uranium kills.

- Look at those fences. Double fences topped with barbed wire ring parts of the DAEC. Jersey barriers, those concrete barriers seen lining road construction, have been placed in a zig-zag pattern at the entrance. The defense of the plant, Bruce says, is based on four "D's" — deter, detect, delay and defeat.

- Look at those security cameras. Smile. This is the detection part. But nobody will tell you how many security cameras keep an eye on

the place. Just get used to the idea you're being watched.

- Safety is No. 1. As tourists, we gave our "name, rank and serial number." We signed waivers that we knew this is a nuclear plant. We were issued security cards, dosimeters, hard hats and safety goggles. We passed through various security check points. We were told not to touch certain things or cross certain lines. Workers in the off-limits areas wear special uniforms, hard hats, goggles and rubber gloves.

- I felt secure. Bruce tells

me surveys indicate that most people aren't leery of nuclear power, but that most people think other people are. That's me.

But water, lead and concrete keep radiation contained. "Nuclear power has never been a threat to the health and safety of this nation," Bruce says. Myths need to be contained, too.

■ Dave Rasdal's column appears Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He can be reached at (319) 398-8323 or dave.rasdal@gazettecommunications.com (Previous columns at www.GazetteOnline.com)

Pierce case prompts scrutiny

Gazette staff and wire reports

IOWA CITY — The University of Iowa athletic department should take steps to limit the role of outside advisers, religious or otherwise, in university matters, according to a faculty report issued Wednesday that examined the Pierre Pierce case.

Pierce was charged with third-degree sexual abuse on a female student following a party at his Iowa City apartment in September.

The sophomore guard later pleaded guilty to a lesser charge, assault causing injury, after attorneys from both sides brought in a mediator to resolve the case.

The report also highlighted contacts the victim had with people with informal ties to the university, Coach Steve Alford and the basketball team.

One such contact, by a member of the religious organization Athletes in Action, suggested the victim and Pierce settle the matter through prayer.

That suggestion gave the victim the wrong idea about the university's intentions and acted as the catalyst for pursuing criminal charges, the report said.

"The female student's reaction to this contact was concern that the university was improperly involving itself in trying to resolve the matter," the report said.

End of Iraq war will turn voters to economy, 3 Democrats say

Edwards, Gephardt, Lieberman say Bush is vulnerable

By James Q. Lynch
The Gazette

DES MOINES — As the U.S. intervention in Iraq moves closer to a nation-building effort, it's likely voters' attention will return to the economy and other domestic issues on which President Bush may be vulnerable, according to a trio of Democratic presidential hopefuls who supported war.

"As we move forward, people will still be interested in the aftermath of the war," North Carolina Sen. John Edwards said in a Thursday conference call with Iowa and New Hampshire reporters, "but because it won't be as dominant in the daily news coverage and I think people will pay more attention to what's happening with the economy here at home."

Campaigning in central Iowa, Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt said that war or no war it's probably too early to expect voters to be paying much attention to the candidates and their campaigns.

"If the economy works well most problems melt away," Gephardt said. "But we've lost 450,000 jobs in the past few months, we're probably moving back into some sort of slowdown in the economy."

Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, who was campaigning in western Iowa, predicted the campaign would inevitably return to a discussion of domestic issues like health care and jobs, issues where Democrats can score heavily against Bush.

"There's more insecurity in our country today than I've seen in a long time," Lieberman said. "Part of it is the fear of terrorism after Sept. 11, but a lot of it, a big part of it, is economic security."

Lieberman, Gephardt and

Edwards voted for a resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq, a vote that cost them the backing of some liberal activists, including many caucus-going Iowa Democrats.

Gephardt said he doesn't know whether the apparent success of the war will make support of the Iraq war resolution a non-issue with caucus participants.

"I know there are differing views and I respect that deeply," Gephardt said. "But I've felt that this issue should not be politicized and that's what I've tried to do."

Edwards and Gephardt said the post-war efforts in Iraq present an opportunity to re-engage the United Nations and rebuild ties with many allies that were strained by disagreements over the U.S. role in Iraq.

The Associated Press contributed to this story

Church sets up fund to help woman who lost husband, daughter in fire

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — A Cedar Rapids church has established a memorial fund to help a woman who lost her husband, daughter and home in a fire last weekend.

Donations can be made in care of the Grahman Family Memorial Fund at any U S Bank in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area. Alice Palmer, a deaconess at Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, 1622 42nd St. NE, said the community has been calling the church to see what can be done to help Vickie Reed-Grahman, 32, and her three children.

Six-year-old Jaymie Grahman died Sunday after suffering brain damage from the

fire at her home, 3755 H Ave. NE. Grahman's father, Jay Grahman, died Wednesday from burns.

Also, a Coe College sorority will sell Hershey candy bars. Each candy bar sold by the Theta Alpha Chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha will cost \$1. Proceeds will go toward medical bills, funeral costs, and replacing lost possessions. The sale will be Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Wal-Mart, 2645 Blairs Ferry Rd.

Also, Kaylee DeWitt, 10, a student at Kenwood Elementary, organized a car wash. The car wash will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at Drugtopia on the corner of 32nd Street and Oakland Drive NE.

Walker pleads guilty

Dubuque man admits to killing children, attempting to kill wife

DUBUQUE (AP) — A Cub Scout leader and high school tennis coach pleaded guilty to first-degree murder Thursday for the slaying of his two children and attempted murder of his estranged wife.



Michael Walker Sentencing to be June 2

Michael Walker, 38, told in Dubuque County District Court how he suffocated his daughter Lindsay, 9, and strangled his son Jordan, 8, on Feb. 17. He said he also tried to kill his wife, Karen, 34, and intended to commit suicide so his family could be together.



Lindsay Walker 9-year-old daughter

Sentencing is set for June 2. First-degree murder carries a mandatory life sentence.

Dubuque County Attorney Fred McCaw said Walker decided about a week ago to change his initial innocent plea. His trial was scheduled for April 28.



Jordan Walker 8-year-old son

Dubuque County District Court Judge Alan Pearson asked Walker several questions to make sure he understood what was taking place. Walker said he was on medication for bipolar disorder but could comprehend the proceedings.

The plea was not part of a negotiation and was against the advice of his attorneys, said public defender Tom Goodman, one of Walker's lawyers.

Police said Michael and Karen Walker were married in 1991 but had been separated since at least last summer. The children spent most of their time at their mother's home, although they were staying with their father the night they were murdered.

Walker was a Cub Scout leader, an active member of the Dubuque chapter of the United Way and as varsity girls tennis coach at Dubuque Senior High School.

CANDIDATES

Dean to make area appearances

IOWA CITY — Democratic presidential candidate Gov. Howard Dean will be making campaign stops in Iowa on today and Saturday.

Dean meets with University of Iowa students and Democrats at 11 a.m. at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City.

At 2 p.m., he meets with University of Northern Iowa students and Democrats in Sablin Hall in Cedar Falls.

Other appearances: 4:30 p.m. today, Edgewood Community Center, to meet Democrats from Delaware and Clayton counties.

6 p.m., Sportsmen Restaurant, Hazleton, Fayette County Democrats Dinner.

1 p.m. Saturday, Bandag Research and Development Co., Muscatine, Muscatine County Democrats Earth Day Celebration.

Kucinich to speak about war in Iraq

U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, a 2004 Democratic presidential hopeful, will talk about the war in Iraq and what the U.S. should do next during a visit to Legion Arts/CSPS, 1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Kucinich also plans to visit the "peace camp" at the University of Iowa campus at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

For information: kucinich2004@yahoo.com, or call (515) 778-9014.