

Crane prepares to clear wreckage on the carrier Nimitz, left, hours after a Marine jet crashed, killing 14 and injuring 48. A sailor limps off the ship, right, after it returned to Norfolk. It was declared ready to sail when no major damage was found.

New York Reading Scores Surpass National Average for First Time

NEW YORK — The reading scores of city public school students are higher than the national average for the first time since citywide reading tests were introduced 12 years ago. Results of the California Achievement Tests, given in April, show that 50.7 percent of the city's elementary and junior high school students in grades 2 through 9 scored at or above their grade level.

The citywide scores were up 4 points since 1980 and more than 10 points since 1979, when only 40.3 percent of the children scored at or above their grade level. The tests were introduced in 1970.

Students in the fifth and sixth grade scored best on the test, and students in the second grade scored worst, with 48.5 percent scoring at or above grade level.

La. State Senator Ousted

BATON ROUGE, La. — Casting out one of its members for the first

time in history, a somber Louisiana Senate voted 33 to 3 to expel jailed Sen. Gaston Gerald from office. Gerald, who declined a furlough and remained in a Texas federal prison instead of attending Thursday's five-hour hearing, is serving a five-year term for attempted extortion. He will be up for parole in July, 1982.

He won election to a third four-year term after his conviction and sentence, receiving 64 percent of the votes cast by his East Baton Rouge Parish constituents.

The resolution to remove Gerald from office cited the fact that, as a convicted felon, he had lost his right to be a registered voter, one of the constitutional qualifications for a senator.

Gerald was convicted on federal charges in 1979 of trying to extort \$15,000 from a Baton Rouge building contractor seeking to avoid paying a penalty for being late in finishing a city building project.

AROUND THE NATION

Nimitz Ready to Sail

NORFOLK — The USS Nimitz can sail again today, just 48 hours after the aircraft carrier brought home mangled planes and the bodies of crewmen killed in a jet crash and its explosive aftermath.

No major damage to the \$2 billion warship was uncovered that changed predictions for a quick turnaround, Atlantic Fleet spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Tony Hilton said yesterday.

Pinto Damages Upheld

LOS ANGELES — The state Court of Appeal upheld a judge's 1978 award of \$6.6 million in damages against the Ford Motor Co. in a Ford Pinto fuel tank explosion case.

The court, however, declined to restore the original record \$128.5 million jury verdict.

The case involved 22-year-old Richard Grimshaw of Orange, Calif., burned over 90 percent of his body at age 13 in a 1972 crash involving a Pinto that stalled and was rear-ended on Interstate 15 near San Bernardino.

A neighbor, Lily Gray, who was driving the car, died two days later in a hospital.

The 1978 trial included testimony that Ford marketed the Pinto although company executives knew the gas tank would explode on rear impact at relatively low speeds, and that the hazard could be minimized with devices costing no more than \$10 per vehicle.

Pardon Sought in Drug Case

PORTLAND, Ore. — The district attorney said he will ask Gov. Vic

Atiyeh to pardon 56 people because of improper behavior by narcotics officers who arrested them.

An investigation confirmed indications that officers planted drugs on suspects, lied to obtain search warrants and stole property from people who were arrested, District Attorney Michael Schunk said.

He said no officers would face criminal prosecution, adding that four of them were given immunity from state prosecution.

Schunk said pardoning the 56 people would save the county time and money that could be better spent elsewhere.

None of the 56 is in jail, although some have served prison terms.

Addenda

- Chicago financier Christopher Janus, who spent years and a fortune in an alleged pursuit of the fossilized bones of the Peking Man, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to charges of defrauding two banks to obtain loans.
- Former Iran hostage Robert Blu-

- cker is to leave Arkansas today to start his new job as consul general of the U.S. Embassy at West Berlin.
- A Delta Airline DC8 with 63 passengers taxied into another aircraft waiting on a foggy runway at Newark International Airport. No one was injured.
- A former policeman who was a consultant to the movie "Fort Apache — The Bronx," a police detective and four other men were indicted on charges of smuggling \$26 million of cocaine a year.
- Connecticut Gov. William O'Neill has signed stiff new gun-control legislation imposing a one-year mandatory jail term for carrying a handgun without a permit and a five-year prison sentence for using a firearm to commit a crime.
- Bowing to protests from the National Rifle Association, the New Orleans City Council has eliminated a controversial three-day waiting period for people who want to purchase guns. The waiting period was approved three weeks ago.

From news services and staff reports

MARYLAND-VIRGINIA BRIEFS

Group to Probe Charges of Abuse At Mental Hospital at Staunton

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — The Mental Health Association of Charlottesville and Albemarle County says it will conduct an investigation into charges of patient abuse at Western State Hospital in Staunton.

Ted Hogshire, president of the Charlottesville-Albemarle association, said Thursday that a committee made up of nurses, psychologists, ministers and others would be appointed to investigate the allegations against the

hospital reported in a recent series of articles by The Washington Post.

The committee also will look into allegations that hospital employees who tried to report abuses were intimidated by hospital administrators.

The Mental Health Association of Northern Virginia has also asked a number of state officials and agencies to investigate Western State and report their findings "with concrete recommendations," Rhonda Buckner,

staff advocate for the association, said Thursday.

The Charlottesville-Albemarle committee will report its findings and make recommendations to appropriate agencies, including legislators and the Human Rights Commission in Richmond, Hogshire said.

Records Request Rejected

RICHMOND (UPI) — The Virginia Supreme Court has rejected a request that it order state corrections officials to produce records showing how many prisoners have been released on orders of circuit court judges during the last 11 years.

Cumberland County Circuit Judge J.R. Snoddy, under fire from Attorney General J. Marshall Coleman over the early release of three drug smugglers from prison, wanted the state Department of Corrections to release the records.

Coleman contends Snoddy lacked authority to order the release of Larry N. Sherman of Durham, N.C., David S. Taylor of Breckenridge, Colo., and Daniel C. Crowley of Jupiter, Fla., and has asked the court to void the orders.

The men were convicted in one of Virginia's largest drug smuggling cases and served a combined 24 months on sentences that totaled 37 years.

In denying the request, the three-judge panel apparently has decided to leave unanswered the question of how widespread the practice of reducing or suspending prison terms of felons has been in Virginia.

A full Supreme Court hearing on the propriety of Snoddy's actions is scheduled for next month.

Md. Corrections Aide Named

BALTIMORE (AP) — Maryland House of Correction Warden Paul J. Davis has been appointed to head the state's controversial pre-release program. Davis will succeed William E. Lamb Jr., who was reassigned after the arrest in March of 27 inmates on charges they committed crimes while on release passes.

Davis was appointed by Maryland Correction Commissioner Jon P. Galley. Davis' replacement was not named.

Order Delayed On Police Power Over Pedestrians

The U.S. Court of Appeals yesterday agreed to delay a federal judge's order barring District police from questioning pedestrians and asking them for identification when there is no reason to suspect that the person has committed a crime, or is about to commit one.

Senior U.S. District Judge Edward M. Curran ruled May 13 that such informal encounters between police officers and pedestrians — known as "contacts" — violated constitutional protections of personal privacy. Curran had ordered the police department to rescind a 1973 general order that permits such contacts and to draw up a new order that would prohibit such conduct.

The class action lawsuit was brought on behalf of all pedestrians in the District who were represented in the case without charge by attorneys from the Washington firm of Wald Harkrader & Ross and the Washington office of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Yesterday, the appeals court granted a request from city lawyers that implementation of Curran's order be delayed until the case could be fully reviewed by the appeals court. These lawyers, who represent the police department, argued that there was no legal support for Curran's ruling that an informal contact between a police officer and a pedestrian can be initiated only if there is reason to suspect that criminal activity may be involved.

The appeals court ordered attorneys to prepare for expedited consideration of the case.

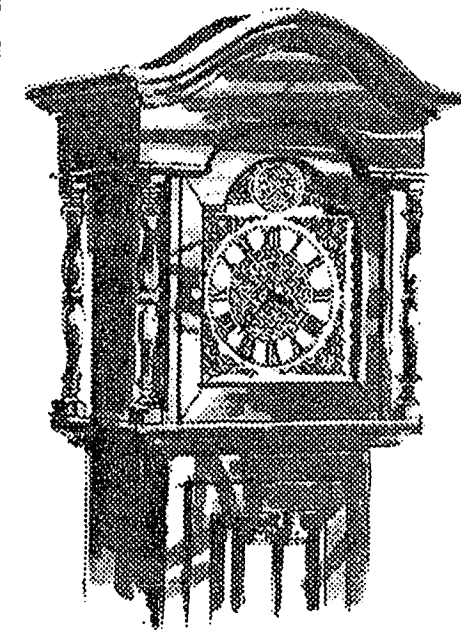
Spring Brings Romance To Hialeah Flamingos

HIALEAH, Fla., May 29 (UPI) — For the first time in nine years, spring has brought back romance to flamingos that enliven the infield at Hialeah Park race track.

Race track workers report the gangly pink birds have laid more than a dozen eggs in the last week and they expect more. It takes about 21 days for an egg to hatch. The mother and father take turns sitting.

No eggs had been laid since Hialeah lost midwinter racing dates in 1972.

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