Connecticut News In Brief

Middletown track near approval

HARTFORD (UPI) — Plans for a $50 million horse track in Middletown edged closer to the starting gate Wednesday with the final approval of three permits by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The permits were the same denied by DEP to backers of another track in Wolcott which cost them the lead in the race to become Connecticut's only horse racing and parimutuel betting facility.

DEP Water Compliance Director Robert Taylor approved the permits after reviewing favorable recommendations from a DEP hearing officer who considered the case for nearly three months.

They will permit Sawmill Brook Racing Association, developer of the Middletown track, to pump sewage into the Mattabasset Sewage Plant and to channel rain runoff into the Sawmill Brook and Mattabasset Rivers.

But before it begins construction, Sawmill must get two traffic permits from a federal and a state agency, an air quality permit from DEP and permission to build access roads over inland wetlands.

V.F.W. refuses woman's bid

HARTFORD (UPI) — The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities has ordered the all-male Veterans of Foreign Wars to explain why it has denied membership to a woman.

Dorothy Warrender complained the VFW's chapter in Willimantic will only let her join its woman's auxiliary, even though she met the VFW requirement of having been in the military overseas during World War II.

Yale welcomes 'freshpersons'

NEW HAVEN (UPI) — Yale University President Kingman Brewster Jr. Tuesday welcomed 1,306 first-year students to the start of classes at the Ivy League school.

Among the Class of 1980 candidates were Ronald Reagan Jr., the son of former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, and Kate Udall, the daughter of Rep. Morris K. Udall, R-Ariz.

Their parents did not attend.

Miss Udall was among 513 incoming women at Yale, which went coed in 1969.

Hearing scheduled on gag order

HARTFORD (UPI) — A gag order imposed on newspapers covering the trial of an accused mass murderer will be the subject of a court hearing Thursday.

Superior Court Judge Edward C. Hamill will consider the newspaper's claims the publicity will not prejudice Gary Schrager's trial on charges he murdered six persons during a 1974 robbery of the Donna Lee Bakery in New Britain.

Hamill barred reporters and public from pre-trial hearings Aug. 31 after Schrager's lawyer, F. Mak Buckley, argued the pre-trial publicity would make it impossible to find an impartial jury.

Despite problems

600,000 off to school

United Press International

More than 600,000 Connecticut students went back to classes Wednesday in schools beset by labor problems, enrollment drops, increasing class sizes and tightened budgets.

Clear and crisp skies met the youths as they headed for the state's 1,100 elementary and secondary schools, manned by more than 30,000 teachers.

Teachers in 65 of Connecticut's 159 local school districts went to work without contracts, and the leaders of the two major unions said teachers in the unsettled areas were hoping to reach agreements "within a reasonable time."

In addition to wages, teachers were concerned with the size of classes that have grown in some districts despite a decline in the elementary school populations.

The state's two teacher unions, the Connecticut Education Association and the Connecticut State Federation of Teachers, said leaders in the unsettled districts were taking a wait-and-see stance.

Another problem facing teachers is the trend toward larger class sizes. The Connecticut Education Association said a recent study showed the average first-grade class last year had 21.8 students, and the average probably will rise this year.

The CEA said the smallest class sizes were in Eastford with 14.6 and Union with 14.9. New London showed the largest size with 30 students, while Bridgeport averaged 25 and Hartford 24 students.

The New London Federation of Teachers plans to meet with local school officials Sept. 20 to discuss the rise in class sizes and other non-economic issues.

Schools, especially those in Connecticut far-flung suburban belts, have reported enrollment drops of up to 10 per cent, which translates into further tightenings of budgets already hit by the national recession.

Construction site presents danger

By ELLEN RASKIN

The construction site of the new Nathan Hale library presents dangers for pedestrians, and they are urged to avoid the area, the Physical Plant director said Wednesday.

Frank M. Laudieri said the site, which is bordered by the Psychology Building, Hawley Armory, Fairfield Road and the Graduate Center, is a "hard-hat" area and should be avoided. He said dirt mounds separate the site near the armory and the Graduate Center.

The state Public Works Department turned over the land to the construction crews, which made the safety rule requests, Laudieri said.

Natalie Cole begins series with Jorgensen appearance

Grammy Award-winning singer Natalie Cole will make her college circuit debut Friday at the Albert Jorgensen Auditorium.

The concert, which is being presented as part of the UConn Contemporary Music series, marks the first time Miss Cole, 1975's Best Female Vocalist, will be appearing before a college audience.

Natalie Cole is the daughter of the late Nat King Cole, and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She started her career by performing in local night spots in the Springfield-Amherst area.

She won aGrammyfor her first album, Inseparable, as best female vocalist. She received a gold album for exceeding $1 million in sales.

Also appearing on the bill with Ms. Cole will be "The Caribbean Sound of Jon Lucien. Tickets are available in advance at the Jorgensen Auditorium ticket office, at the door, and at Ticketron outlets.

TYPISTS NEEDED!

The CONNECTICUT DAILY CAMPUS needs good typists, at least 60 words per minute. If you're looking for an afternoon or evening job and are interested in working for us, come to our office at 121 North Eagleville Rd. for information and an application, or call Bob Kravchuk at 429-9384.

Seismologist says

Earthquakes not peculiar

By VIVIAN MARTIN

The recent series of devastating earthquakes in Europe and China is not unusual, according to the seismologist at the UConn Seismic Network at the Southeastern branch at Avery Point in Groton.

Edward F. Chiburis, associate professor of geophysics, says there are over 12,000 to 15,000 earthquakes throughout the world each year, measured from a negative retro-grade magnitude and the open-ended Richter scale.

The UConn network usually records about 500 'felt' shocks each year. Chiburis said the retro-magnitude reading recorded was an 8.5 in Asia. The recent Peking earthquake registered a magnitude of about 7.5.

An earthquake must have a retro-magnitude of at least a 6 in order for the UConn network to pick it up on its seismographs.

However, the meters are sensitive enough to pick up earthquakes halfway around the world, he said.

Chiburis speculated the reason there was more than one earthquake "seemingly back to back" was because of an earthly "catching up process." The seismologist said that the earthquakes were mainly a result of "strain release."

Seismologists still are working on ways to be able to detect major forthcoming earthquakes, Chiburis said. The University's station is one of nine cooperative seismic stations in Southern New England. According to Chiburis, all of the groups now are concerning themselves with detecting earthquake influences throughout the northeast.

Today's Weather

Sunny and warm today with highs in the low 80s. Fair and mild tonight, with lows in the upper 50s to low 60s. Fair early Friday, with increasing cloudiness with showers developing late in the day; highs around 80. Probability of precipitation is 10 per cent today, 20 per cent tonight, and 20 per cent early Friday, increasing to 70 per cent by Friday night.

EAST BROOK MALL RTE. 195 423-6460

N.Y. STYLE DELI - RESTAURANT

9:30 - 9 Monday thru Thursday 9:30 - 10 Friday and Saturday

This Sunday 9:30 - 9:00
Breakfast Served All Day

BYOB 90

DISCO

Refreshments Served

Sponsored by UConn Gay Alliance

Place: Student Union ballroom

Date: Sept. 11, 1976 Saturday

Time: 9 pm to 1 am

Mansfield Drive-in

INT. 31 & 32 228 Stafford Rd., Willimantic, Conn.

Wed. Sept 8th thru Sun Sept. 12th Ph. 423-4441

2 OF THE WACKIEST FILMS EVER!

THIS COMBO SETS MOTION PICTURES BACK 500 YEARS

A Ken Shapiro Film THE GROOVE TUBE R

PLUS

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL PG

Bring this ad to our boxoffice.

The driver of your car will be admitted FREE