

Ray: 'fair' job in office

OLYMPIA—Legislators responding to an Associated Press poll have given the 9-month-old administration of Gov. Dixy Lee Ray a barely passing grade.

Lawmakers say the governor's main failing is her inability to communicate with the Legislature, the public and the press.

A handful of legislators who rate Ray's work as good like her intelligence, willingness to learn and position against tax increases.

All 147 members of the state House and Senate were asked whether they thought the governor was doing an excellent, good, fair or poor job. Fifty-eight lawmakers, or about 39 percent, responded in the mailed survey completed about three weeks ago.

The responses were about evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. An estimated 60 percent of them came from the House.

Assigning three points for excellent, two for good, one for fair, and zero for poor, Ray's average grade was 1.1.

UN sanctions debated

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.—Ambassador Andrew Young said he favors mandatory United Nations sanctions against South Africa but the Carter administration has not decided yet whether to go that far because of the white South African government's latest crackdown on blacks.

In a Security Council debate that began Monday, black African nations are demanding that the council order a mandatory arms embargo and other stringent international measures against South Africa.

Arab official murdered

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates—A gunman shot and killed a top United Arab Emirates official yesterday in an apparent attempt to assassinate Syria's foreign minister, authorities reported.

Security officials arrested the white-robed gunman after he tried to hijack a Czechoslovakian cargo plane.

Panama OKs treaties

PANAMA CITY, Panama—Panamanian strongman Gen. Omar Torrijos said he is content with his people's 66 percent "yes" vote for the new Panama Canal treaties. But opponents of Torrijos' authoritarian rule say the size of the "no" vote is encouraging to their campaign for a return to democratic government.

An unofficial count of 95 percent of the votes in Sunday's vote, announced Monday night by Controller General Damian Castillo, showed

468,664 in favor of the treaties, 228,697 against, more than 12,000 invalid ballots, and a turnout of 96 to 98 percent of the estimated 800,000 persons eligible to vote.

Women's bank started

WASHINGTON—The first nationally-chartered bank owned and operated by women will cater to women's financial and credit needs.

But it will not ignore men, said a future executive of the Women's National Bank, set to open here in late December.

"We will do as much good for the women's cause if we are extremely successful as if we just tried to confine our business to women," said Meredith M. Homet, a public relations consultant who will be second in command.

Statue held by radicals

NEW YORK—About two dozen persons who said they represented the New York Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners took over the Statue of Liberty yesterday morning, police said.

The group arrived on the first sightseeing boat to Liberty Island and immediately occupied the statue.

The FBI said it was notified of the take over but that it planned no immediate action.

Birds of a feather.....

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—The Canadian Wildlife Service is being asked to launch an operation to balance the sexes at Stanley Park following indications of burgeoning homosexuality among male mallard ducks.

In an interview Monday, Stanley Park Zoo curator Larry LeSage said, "It's a real problem. We've taken up the issue with the wildlife service, and I would like to see them program the ducks to create a balance.

"Why there are so many males here I don't know. I first noticed the mallards were gay about three years ago, but now the wood ducks have picked it up.

"Lost Lagoon is a well-known meeting place for ducks. Many of them migrate here when the hunting season starts—there are literally thousands of them."

Rick McKelvey, a wildlife service technician, said it is difficult to interpret what animals are doing in human terms.

"If they are gay, it's not because the ducks are becoming decadent," said McKelvey. "Ducks have aggressive tendencies, and a lack of females could make them turn to each other."

"I'm not surprised. This sort of thing is not unusual among waterfowl—particularly when they are densely populated."

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Staff insurance deadline: Oct. 31

The deadline for staff and faculty to enroll in life and long-term disability insurance is before 5 p.m. Oct. 31.

According to Ben Jenness, WSU retirement and insurance officer, persons now enrolled in the long-term disability insurance plan need not re-apply; they will not be dropped from the plan.

Instructions about enrollment were mailed to all university employees and, according to Jenness, all persons involved should have received the information. If they have not, he suggested they call the Retirement and Insurance Office.

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