

JUDGE CONTINUES RACKETEERING SUIT ON TOBACCO The Justice Department is within its rights in its racketeering suit against the tobacco industry, a federal judge ruled. The suit, started by the Clinton administration, says the industry concealed information that nicotine was addictive and that smoking caused disease. The suit seeks \$289 billion. The defendants are Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, Brown & Williamson, Lorillard, Liggett, the Council for Tobacco Research-U.S.A. and the Tobacco Institute. The companies said the department's arguments should be rejected because it was exceeding its authority. Judge Gladys Kessler of Federal District Court said the department was trying to enforce the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. (AP)

NATIONAL ZOO SAYS IT MEETS STANDARDS The National Zoo said it had met or exceeded the standards of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. The zoo has been operating on provisional accreditation for a year because of problems like crumbling buildings and insufficient financing. Congress ordered an independent investigation of the zoo last year in response to several animal deaths, including some attributed to human error. (AP)

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