

**state news briefs**

**Family hopes for eye cancer cure**

UPPER DARBY (AP) — The parents of a 3-year-old girl suffering from eye cancer hope a trip to an obscure mountain village in Yugoslavia will lead to a miracle cure for their daughter. Megan McMahon and her mother, Jean, will travel to Medugorje, Yugoslavia, this week to spend seven days living in the village and making daily pilgrimages to the site where, according to legend, Mary, mother of Jesus Christ, appeared to six children on June 24, 1981.

The apparitions there reportedly have caused physical healings. "When I first heard about Medugorje, I thought, 'If I could just get Megan there,'" McMahon said.

The trip is being sponsored by the Make-A-Wish foundation. Director Dave Smith heard of the McMahons' plight and called to ask if his organization could help.

Megan, who was diagnosed as having bilateral retina blastoma when she was 10 weeks old, had her right eye removed April 4, 1985. The same year, doctors removed six tumors from her left eye and submitted it to a massive dose of radiation.

**Scarfo jury picks set for today**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jury selection begins today for reputed mob boss Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo on charges of masterminding a multimillion-dollar methamphetamine operation with connections across America and in Europe.

Four Scarfo associates face similar charges in a trial that authorities hope will end by Christmas.

Selection of the 12 jurors and four alternates is expected to take most of this week. They will be sequestered — meaning they will stay overnight in a hotel while not in court — until the trial is over.

Prosecutors had wanted jurors' identities kept secret so neither they, nor their families, would face concern about mob contacts or pressures. But U.S. District Judge Thomas O'Neill denied the request, contending sequestration would provide sufficient protection.

On trial with Scarfo will be Salvatore "Chickie" Merlino of Margate, N.J.; Philip Leonetti of Atlantic City, N.J.; and Francis "Faffy" Iannerella and Charles "Charles White" Iannece, both of Philadelphia.

**nation news briefs**

**Protest 'dry run' for NYC event**

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (AP) — An anti-abortion protest in which 210 people were arrested this weekend was a "dry run" for a massive week-long demonstration planned for New York City next year, the protest's leader said yesterday.

The demonstration by about 300 people Saturday in front of the Cherry Hill Women's Center Inc. was the first major protest by a group calling itself Project Life and was intended to test the group's tactics, said Randall Terry, Project Life's executive director.

Police arrested the protesters during the 9½ hour sit-in on defiant trespassing charges. All were released without bail pending a January court hearing, police said.

People from 15 states came to the demonstration, including members of the Roman Catholic Church and various Protestant denominations, police said.

"This 'rescue mission' was a dry run for the first week in May," said Terry, a Binghamton, N.Y., resident.

He said that 800 to 1,000 people would go to New York City for a series of non-violent demonstrations April 30 to May 7.

**Ewing heir surfaces in Boston**

BOSTON (AP) — He wasn't nearly as rich as his television namesake, but there was a real J.R. Ewing.

And now, seven years after the real J.R. Ewing died in a squalid rooming house in Houston, his son has discovered that he is heir to his father's \$150,000 estate.

A pleased and somewhat stunned Charles Ewing said it has been more than three decades since he last saw his father, coincidentally named the same as the tycoon oilman of the TV show *Dallas*. J.R. Ewing had abandoned his family.

After the elder Ewing's death, an attorney was appointed to find his heirs but he said he was unable to find Ewing despite an exhaustive search.

On Saturday a friend of Ewing told him an article in *The Boston Globe* described the search for a Charles Ewing who had lived in East Boston. Ewing, who said he would never have read the paper otherwise, called the attorney.

Ewing, 51, a painter and wallpaper hanger, was stunned not only by the news that he was \$150,000 richer but also that his father had died.

**Man offers 'dollars for virgins'**

NEW YORK (AP) — A millionaire who says he's alarmed by high teen-age pregnancy rates has offered high school girls in three New York City boroughs \$1,000 to remain virgins through age 19, a newspaper reported last week.

"I read that 40,000 girls under the age of 15 have gotten pregnant in the United States. That's a tragic story," John Napoleon LaCorte told the *Daily News*.

Boys do not want to marry sexually experienced women, said LaCorte, a 78-year-old retired insurance salesman from Brooklyn.

"The Mediterraneans — the Greeks, the Spanish, the Italians — say the best gift a girl can give her husband is virginity," he said. LaCorte established a \$100,000 endowment to fund the program for high school girls in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

To qualify, girls have to write to LaCorte to say they want to qualify and submit to a medical test at age 19. Boys, he said, could not be covered under the program because "it's very difficult to test young boys to determine if they are virgins."

**world news briefs**

**Five charged with importing cocaine**

LONDON (AP) — Police charged four women and a man from Colombia yesterday with illegally importing \$3.6 million worth of cocaine concealed in records and children's books. Trained dogs sniffed out the cocaine.

Customs officers found nearly 5½ pounds of the drug hidden inside more than 100 books and records in four suitcases being transferred Saturday from a British Airways flight from Bogota, Colombia, to a Switzerland-bound plane.

The records and book covers were split so the drug could be inserted, then reassembled — so skillfully, officers said, that the records could have been played.

Those charged were identified as Luis Alberto Rozko, 29; Maria Nela Gonzalez de Arango, 37; Victoria Reyes Alciade, 28; Libia Maria de Ayala, 34; and Maria Esmeda Medina.

**Chinese TV to show U.S. classics**

BEIJING (AP) — Shirley Temple, Julie Andrews and other Hollywood stars will be singing and dancing their way across television screens in China every yesterday afternoon for the next year.

*The Good Ship Lollipop* and *The Sound of Music* are just two of 51 classics that will be shown on a weekly, Sunday afternoon United States film series, the official Xinhua news agency reported Saturday.

Other selections include the Academy Award winners *Grapes of Wrath*, *How Green Was My Valley* and *With a Song in My Heart*. The series starts today with *The Sound of Music*.

Nine of Shirley Temple's films, including *Bright Eyes* and *The Little Colonel*, will be shown.

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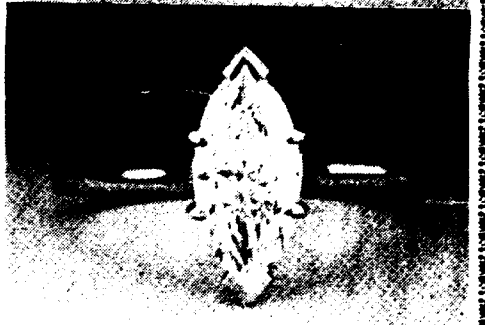
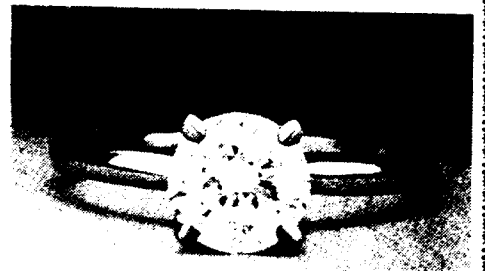
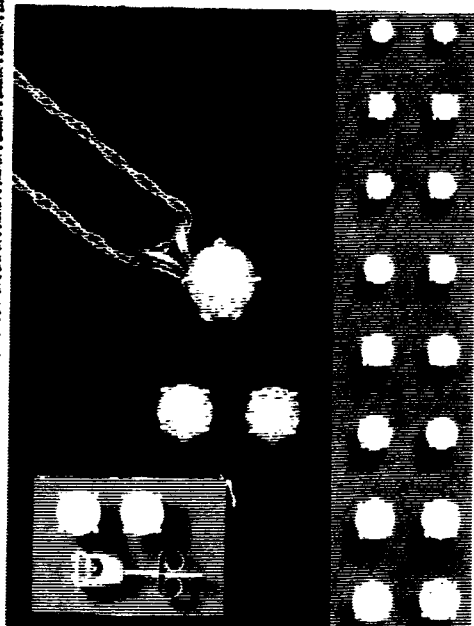
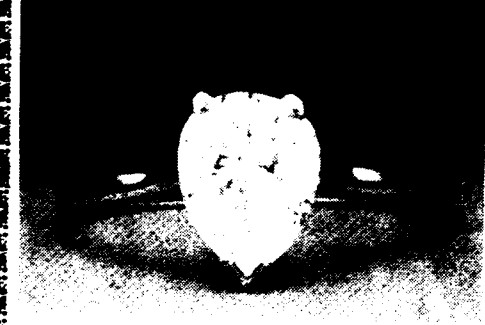
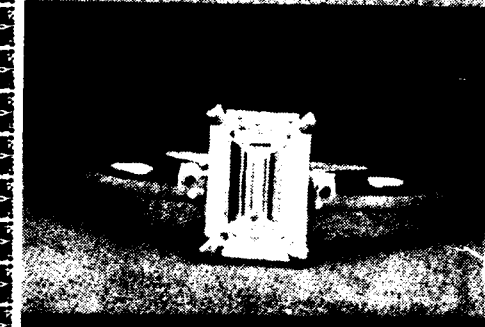
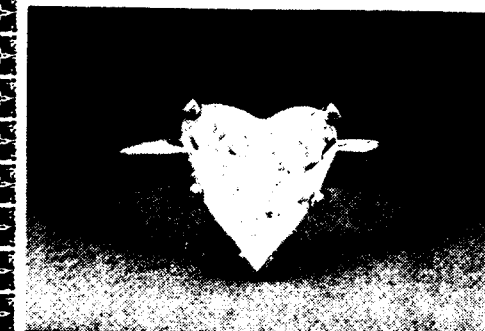
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