

King faces prison for drunken driving

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rodney King was charged with misdemeanor drunken driving yesterday and ordered to spend at least 60 days at a residential alcohol recovery program.

The charges were the first filed as the result of King's four run-ins with the law since his notorious 1991 beating by police after a freeway chase.

City Attorney James Hahn charged King with one count each of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol level above the state's limit of .08 percent.

King had a blood alcohol level of .19 after his arrest early Saturday, police Cmdr. David Gascon said. He was booked after a witness said he was driving the Chevrolet Blazer that crashed into a wall near a downtown nightclub. King and two other people in the vehicle weren't hurt.

King faces a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine on each count. Arraignment was set for Sept. 15.

His attorney Milton Grimes didn't immediately return telephone calls. King, who is on parole for a 1990 armed robbery conviction, had been free on his own recognizance, but has since been sent to a treatment center, said Jerome Di Maggio, regional administrator of the state Department of Corrections.

He can receive no visitors at the center other than his attorney and is subject to arrest if he leaves before completing the program, Di Maggio said.

King, 28, may be required to pay the daily cost of \$40 to \$70, and could be ordered to stay in the program for longer than the 60 days.

Since his videotaped beating at the hands of white officers on March 3, 1991, King, who is a black man, has had a series of brushes with the law.



AP LaserPhoto

Dignified dedication

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, right, shakes hands with Palestinian dignitaries. They gathered yesterday following the dedication of a desalinization plant in the Gaza Strip town of Dier el-Balah.

Man swaps weapons for murder

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A Pennsylvania man accused of rape was charged yesterday with offering undercover federal agents guns if they would kill his accuser along with her husband and children.

Larry Labar, 25, was being held on the rape charges in the Monroe County Jail in Stroudsburg, when he wrote two letters earlier this month. He apparently didn't realize his intended assassins were agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

He promised \$5,000 worth of weapons to the undercover agents, with whom he had previously arranged — also while in jail — the sale of an assault weapon. Labar suggested that agents "eliminate" (sic) the family by detonating a hand grenade near their home.

"As far as the kids, they'll unfortunately (sic) be at the wrong place at the wrong time. I'm not letting two kids stop me from shutting up two others... I'm definitely (sic) not going to lose (sic) sleep over these two rug rats," wrote Labar, of Bartonsville.

The children are 13 and 1 1/2 years old, according to a complaint filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in Newark.

Also charged yesterday was Dorothy Thoms, 30, of East Stroudsburg. She is accused of consummating the gun sale that Labar arranged while in jail. Thoms got \$650 for a Norinco 7.62-caliber Mac 90 on July 26. The transaction took place in Hope, N.J. The Mac 90 is among the assault weapons banned in New Jersey.

Labar faces up to 30 years in prison and \$760,000 in fines. Thoms faces 5 years and \$250,000.

Released CIA documents contain letter linking Oswald to Cuba

By JOHN DIAMOND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A letter purportedly from a Cuban to Lee Harvey Oswald 12 days before John F. Kennedy's assassination praises Oswald's marksmanship and refers to an "affair" in which both are involved, newly released CIA documents show.

The letter, dated Nov. 10, 1963, was described in a secret Central Intelligence Agency memo made public this week. Addressed to "Friend Lee," the letter was written in Spanish and signed by someone calling himself "Pedro Charles."

"You ought to close the business as soon as possible, like I told you before in Miami," the letter states according to the CIA's translation. "Do not be foolish with the money I gave

you. So I hope you will not defraud me and that our dreams will be realized. After the affair I am going to recommend much to the Chief."

The letter does not identify "the Chief." But the writer says he told the Chief, "You could put out a candle at 50 meters," an apparent reference to Oswald's shooting ability.

The CIA memo raises questions about the letter's veracity, noting that it is postmarked Nov. 28, 1963, six days after the assassination.

The memo notes that the type face and signature match that of another letter also postmarked from Havana, Cuba on Nov. 28 and addressed to then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the slain president's brother.

That letter was signed "Mario del Rosario Molina." The text of the letter to Robert F. Kennedy was not included in the memo.

Assassination experts said the letter has long been known to investigators with access to secret assassination files and they said it may have been a fake, perhaps designed to falsely implicate the Castro regime in the assassination.

"I suspect it's a fabrication or something that could have been used to set up Oswald," said James Lesar, director of the Assassination Archives and Research Center, a private, Washington-based trove of assassination records.

Gaeton Fonzi, a staff member of two congressional investigations into the Kennedy assassination, said the letter was probably connected to an elaborate misinformation campaign directed by "assets" of the CIA and designed to discredit Castro.

"The strategy is to inject confusion," Fonzi said.

Other documents that are part of the 300-plus boxes of CIA material available at the National Archives included a CIA memo dated March 18, 1964, that details Oswald's psychiatric record.

The analyst, Arthur Dooley, writes that "All available evidence points to a solitary act of a mentally unstable person." The memo cites psychiatric reports from counseling sessions Oswald underwent at age 13 in which he revealed "a compulsive urge to kill people," and described "fantasies about being all-powerful and being able to do anything he wanted. When asked if this ever involved hurting and killing people, he said that it did on occasions."

As the assassination receded in time, the CIA memos increasingly concerned the agency's own image.

Anniversary of hurricane surfaces pain

By BILL BERGSTROM
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — Three hundred-sixty five days later, Hurricane Andrew remains a painful wound slow to heal.

Agonizing memories dog Jaime Curet, who huddled with his wife in their crumbling home on Aug. 24, 1992, watching their daughter's trailer fly by their window in murderous 145 mph winds.

"I feel bad," Curet said yesterday. "I feel real bad remembering it, looking back."

The anniversary yesterday of the nation's most destructive natural disaster was marked with a dawn prayer service, ground-breakings and block parties. The hurricane left 41 dead and \$30 billion in damages in Florida.

Curet and his wife Blanca are putting their lives back together, with help from the American Red Cross and an \$11,500 loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They have moved into a hurricane-damaged house they're fixing up.

But like many of their neighbors, any comfort is tenuous.

Reminders of the devastation are everywhere. Hardly a single tall tree remains. Many businesses have closed forever, their empty hulks lining streets.

An estimated 100,000 people fled the area. Divorce is up 25 percent, domestic violence cases soared, schools reported suicide attempts and increased discipline problems.

Virtually every block has at least one rubble-strewn, abandoned house.

Homestead Air Force Base, where 8,000 people once worked, will stay open, but in a shrunken form, no longer an anchor for thousands of military retirees.

Anniversary events began with a sunrise prayer service in Homestead's shiny, refurbished athletic complex.

Gov. Lawton Chiles accentuated the positive. Many of the 100,000 destroyed or badly damaged homes have been rebuilt despite numerous hassles with insurance companies and contractors.

Flattened citrus groves have been replanted, and the construction boom has created jobs.

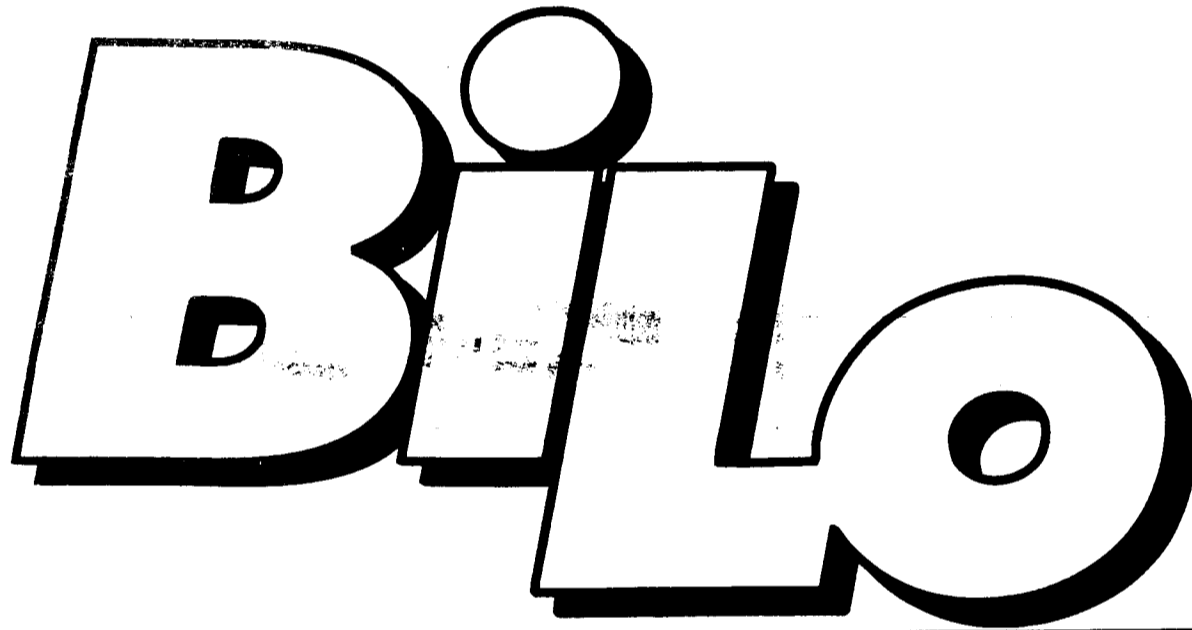
"In the last few months, there is a totally different look," Chiles said. "There's a totally different feel. Homestead is never going to be the same, South Florida is never going to be the same, but we are going to make them better."

In Florida City, symbolizing the healing, a lumber company and volunteers were feverishly working on "Miracle House," to be finished in 24 hours. A block party was planned in the city Tuesday night.

A few blocks away, Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay and Florida City officials broke ground for a new civic center and police station.

"You can see now the composite effect of all this energy and frustration," MacKay said.

Farther north, the temporary camp at St. Ann's mission in Naranja has vanished.



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