

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Alvarez's former husband says her release is 'too soon'

OMAHA, Neb. — The former husband of Stella Alvarez says she is being released from a mental health center too soon after killing their four daughters.

Mrs. Alvarez, who was found innocent by reason of insanity in the 1980 killings, was ordered unconditionally released from the Lincoln Regional Center by a Madison County district judge Wednesday. She was committed to the center Jan. 9, 1981.

"It's only been four years," Anthony Alvarez said Wednesday in a telephone interview from his home near Denver. "She took four girls' lives. I think they were worth more than that."

Alvarez, who has remarried since

divorcing Mrs. Alvarez, said he would be "a little worried" if his former wife decided to move to Colorado after leaving the mental health center. Mrs. Alvarez's attorney, Ron Albin, said she is considering moving to southern Colorado to be near several of her relatives.

"There's nothing I can do about it," said Alvarez, a night foreman in Denver. "Just so she doesn't come bothering me."

In ordering Mrs. Alvarez's release, Judge Merritt Warren said there was little or no evidence that the 34-year-old woman is dangerous to herself or others.

Alvarez, 35, said he doesn't think his former wife would harm anyone, but added, "You can't ever tell what a person will do."

Testimony during Mrs. Alvarez's trial indicated the killings occurred after Anthony Alvarez told her he was leaving her to marry a friend of the family.

After killing her children, Mrs. Alvarez shot herself in the head but wasn't seriously injured, authorities said.

In an apparent suicide note, Mrs. Alvarez had written, "I know what I am doing. I told you I will not raise my daughters on welfare. . . I don't want to end up like my mom, all alone and old."

## Canadian premier calls it quits; predicts sovereignty for Quebec

TORONTO — Rene Levesque is quitting politics today, after a quarter-century in which he — more than anyone — transformed life in his native Quebec and came close to making it an independent country.

Pierre Marc Johnson, leader of the Parti Quebecois' moderate wing which would rather talk about economics than separatism, is to be sworn in today as premier with a new cabinet. Johnson, the 39-year-old justice minister under Levesque, was elected as his successor by party members on Sunday.

Levesque, 63, who was in power nine years, plans to leave later this month for an extended vacation, traveling to England, Scandinavia and southern Europe before returning home to write a book and take up other projects.

"Whatever happens to me," he told reporters Monday, "I'll become again what I once was professionally — an observer."

In the 1950s, he became Quebec's best-known television journalist, as host of a hit weekly public affairs show, "Point de Mire" or "On Target."

When he entered politics as a Liberal candidate in the 1960 provincial elections, he was the party's star performer.

That election was the beginning of what is called La Revolution Tranquille, or the quiet revolution. Almost at once, a previously backward society, ruled by tyrannical governments and

authoritarian churchmen, erupted in cultural, intellectual, political and social innovation.

In 1968, Levesque split with the Liberal Party and, the following year, founded the Parti Quebecois, committed to what he called "sovereignty-association" — a sovereign Quebec that would retain some ties to what was left of Canada.

In its early campaigns, the PQ built on a widespread feeling among French-speaking Quebecers that the English-speaking minority held all the economic power — a humiliation symbolized by clerks in downtown Montreal who refused to speak French.

The new party fared poorly in its first two elections, then astounded everyone — Levesque included — by sweeping to power in 1976. Some militant party members had wanted the electoral victory to be considered sufficient mandate for a declaration of independence, but Levesque insisted on presenting the issue for a vote.

In the May 1980 referendum that apparently settled Quebec's future, voters opted by a 3-2 margin to refuse Levesque's proposal for authority to negotiate with Canada toward sovereignty-association.

Much of what the Parti Quebecois government accomplished in nine years, especially in laws making French the language of private business and public signs, alienated Quebec's English-

speaking minority and frightened English Canada, and those laws were blamed for driving many corporate headquarters from Montreal to Toronto.

Most English-speaking Quebecers who chose to stay now are bilingual, and many say the atmosphere of resentment between French and English speakers that existed in the 1960s has virtually disappeared.

Young French-speakers, once virtually barred from Montreal's business world, are now founding their own enterprises and enrolling in record numbers in business schools.

Overall, Levesque's efforts seemed to convince French-speaking Quebecers — who represent 80 percent of the province's 6 million residents — that they could control their own affairs and protect their culture without changing the nation's political structure. Recent public opinion polls have found as few as 4 percent of Quebecers supporting independence — an attitude which places the future of Levesque's party in doubt.

The new Parti Quebecois premier, Johnson, engineered the decision earlier this year to drop sovereignty as an immediate goal from the Party Quebecois' platform. The goal is not dead, but Johnson's interests are clearly elsewhere.

Levesque still thinks a sovereign Quebec will come some day — but not now, not yet.

## Missing official is suspect in spy case

WASHINGTON — FBI agents searched a former federal official's home and car in New Mexico for code pads, microdots and other spy paraphernalia under a warrant seeking evidence of a plot to deliver national defense information to a foreign government.

The search, which occurred between last Friday and Tuesday, became known as evidence emerged Wednesday that the official, Edward L. Howard, 33, who was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow as recently as 1983, flew to Texas more than a week ago leaving even his wife in the dark about his whereabouts.

There were other developments in the case of the missing official suspected of being a spy for the Soviet Union:

Colleagues who worked with him in the New Mexico state government said he traveled widely on state business to economic conferences in San Francisco, Boston, New Orleans, El Paso and elsewhere. They also said his work led him into close dealings with some workers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where top-secret weapons research is done.

The CIA, the Justice Department, the State Department and the Senate Intelligence Committee all declined to

discuss the case. The Senate panel and the State Department said they were awaiting an anticipated justice statement, but justice spokesman John Russell said: "Everyone wants us to make a statement and if we're going to make a statement, we'll make one when we're ready."

Although Howard was officially listed in federal government documents as a State Department budget analyst in Moscow, some State Department positions are used as cover for CIA agents abroad. The New York Times said an intelligence source identified Howard as a member of the CIA's clandestine service.

## Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

**John Hinckley Jr.**, 34, who shot President Reagan in 1981 is engaged to be married to a 41-year-old patient at the New York mental institution where they are committed.

**Elizabeth Cruickshank Kilmer**, of Brady, who recently celebrated her 104th birthday, attributes her long life to a balanced diet of meat, potatoes and fresh vegetables from her garden — and never touching liquor.

**Bruce Grummert**, 34, of Lincoln, who attends an average of five wrestling events each month and spends his vacations traveling to matches around the country has been named Wrestling Fan of the Year by Wrestling Fans International. Grummert became a fan when he was 9.

**The 1980s will not** be remembered as a conservative period in American history, despite what some social

observers might think, says author Tom Wolfe. The period represents anything but renewed conservatism, Wolfe says, "It's crazed."

**Miss America Susan Akin**, 21, says the arrests 21 years ago of her father and grandfather in connection with the slayings of three civil rights workers in Mississippi should have no effect on the way she is judged. "I'm Miss America and my family is not," she says. Pageant Chairman Albert Marks Jr. says the charges will not affect her relationship with the pageant.

**Larry Holmes** says he's mulling over a rematch with Michael Spinks, who upset Holmes in a boxing match last month, keeping him from matching Rocky Marciano's 49-0 record. "If I do fight him it would be for one reason," Holmes said. "It would be to prove that I ain't shot."

## In Brief

### Hudson loses battle against AIDS

LOS ANGELES — Rock Hudson, the cinema idol whose admission of a yearlong battle against AIDS won sympathy and attention for victims of the disease, died Wednesday at his home. He was 59.

Hudson, star of "Giant," "A Gathering of Eagles" and several comedies with Doris Day on film and "Mistfillan and Wife" and "Dynasty" on television, "died peacefully in his sleep at 9 o'clock this morning," publicist Dale Olson said.

Elizabeth Taylor, who starred with Hudson in "Giant" and "The Mirror Crack'd," was one of his closest supporters in his final days, and was co-host for an AIDS benefit Sept. 18 with actor Burt Reynolds. Hudson donated \$250,000 to the benefit, which grossed more than \$1.2 million for AIDS research, and sent his last public words:

"I am not happy that I am sick. I am not happy that I have AIDS, but if that is helping others, I can, at least, know that my own misfortune has had some positive worth."

### House OKs law to close bath houses

WASHINGTON — With a congressman evoking Rock Hudson's memory, the House on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved giving the U.S. surgeon general the power to shut down public bath houses and massage parlors in the war against AIDS.

The bath house bill, which passed 417-8, is an "opening shot" in what sponsor Robert Dornan, R-Calif., promised would be a series of GOP-led measures aimed at protecting the general population from AIDS.

Rep. William Dannemeyer, R-Calif., who has said publicly that "God's plan for man was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve," is seeking support for a series of proposals, including banning children with AIDS from schools.

Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., said the provision was intended to somehow single out homosexuals as "in some way culpable and disregarding" of AIDS. Closing bath houses should be the prerogative of city officials, he said.

Shirley Barth, a spokesman for the Public Health Service, said lawyers are trying to determine what the surgeon general's authority is. But she said bath houses have always been considered a local issue.

### Kidnapped Soviet attache found dead

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Kidnappers of a Soviet Embassy employee killed one of them and said Wednesday the others will use the bodies of the kidnapped officials to halt an offensive against Muslim fundamentalists in northern part of Tripoli.

An anonymous telephone caller claimed a second captive had been killed, and another said Muslim extremists planned to blow up the embassy.

The body of cultural attache Arkady Katkov, 32, was found Wednesday, shot once in the head at close range. It was sprawled on blood-stained rocks near the Cite Sportive's stadium adjacent to the Sabra Palestinian refugee camp, which was destroyed by shellfire in Lebanon's decade-long civil war.

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for the Islamic Liberation Organization gave the location of the body in a telephone call to a Western news agency.

Another caller, also purporting to speak for the kidnapers, telephoned Beirut's Moslem radio station Voice of the Nation and said another captive had been killed. Police said no second body had been found.

In a third call, to a Western news agency, a man who said he represented the Islamic Liberation Organization said the extremists would blow up the Soviet Embassy unless it was evacuated within 48 hours.

### Gorbachev reiterates stance in France

PARIS — President Francois Mitterrand and Mikhail S. Gorbachev discussed the possibilities of "a serious, real reduction" in armaments Wednesday, six weeks before the U.S.-Soviet summit.

Mitterrand's spokesman said the president and the Soviet leader also touched on the Reagan administration's Star Wars research program for a space-based defense system in their first private meeting.

Gorbachev is in France for four days, on his first visit to the West since taking over as Kremlin leader in March.

He repeated Soviet opposition to the space-defense plan in his arrival statement, speaking of the need to prevent "an arms race in space and end it on Earth."

Mitterrand told him that "too many conflicts, suffering, attacks on the dignity and rights (of man) are afflicting men today," presidential spokesman Michel Vauzelle said. He described the two-hour, 15 minute discussion as occurring in "a cordial atmosphere with a will for better understanding, to explain oneself frankly without ambiguities, in mutual respect."

### Students boycott classes in protest

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Thousands of black students boycotted classes on the first day of the new school term Wednesday, in a protest against apartheid.

Police reported scattered, isolated, rioting but no deaths. In Soweto, the nation's largest black area, southwest of Johannesburg, students roamed the dusty streets as soldiers aboard armored personnel carriers took up positions in schoolyards.

No students attended classes at 174 of the 7,000 black schools in South Africa and attendance appeared to vary from 5 percent to 95 percent at others, said Job Schoeman, spokesman for the national Department of Education and Training.

He said it was impossible Wednesday afternoon to know how many of the 1.73 million black students in South Africa joined the boycott, which also protested the deployment of police and army units in black areas torn by 13 months of riots against white rule.

As many as half the 230,000 students in Soweto skipped classes Wednesday, Schoeman said.

The action Wednesday indicates students are able to organize boycotts despite the Aug. 28 ban of the Congress of South African Students, the main black student alliance that has been blamed for previous boycotts.