

Nation/World

from The Associated Press

Accused robbers being investigated in Olympic bombing

SPOKANE, Wash. — Three men charged with several bombings and bank robberies in the Pacific Northwest also are being investigated for possible links to the Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta, a newspaper reported Sunday.

However, while anonymous Justice Department and FBI officials told The Spokesman-Review that the Spokane bombing suspects are being investigated in the Atlanta case, they cautioned that they have other leads and no solid suspects.

"At this point, they are our strongest lead in the Olympics bombing," one Justice Department official told the newspaper. "But there's a lot more work to do, and it's really early on in the investigation."

The three men are being held without bail on charges of robbing banks and bombing one of the banks, an abortion clinic and an office of The Spokesman-Review.

Airplane with blown tire lands safely in Omaha

OMAHA — A Midwest Express airplane with about 50 passengers and four crew members made an emergency landing Sunday with a blown tire.

No one was injured, and the plane landed without incident, said Robert Barrett, a communications officer at Eppley Airfield. Firefighters and rescue crews called to the scene were not needed, he said.

Reinterpreting Beethoven

BERLIN (AP)—The Ninth will sound the same, and so will the Fifth. Beethoven will still be Beethoven because of a British musicologist who is painstakingly restoring the composer's symphonies.

Average listeners probably won't bolt from their seats in epiphany upon hearing the restorations, the first since the composer's death 150 years ago.

After a dozen years of comparing Beethoven's original scribbles with later copies, Jonathan Del Mar is giving the music world reason to reconsider long-held notions of the composer's work — and the popular image of Beethoven as a sloppy genius.

Del Mar's first corrected symphony, Beethoven's Ninth, was published just last week by Baerenreiter musical publishers, of Kassel, Germany. But the corrections already have been performed by many conductors, including John Eliot Gardiner, who incorporated them in his 1994 recording of the Ninth.

"They are not footnotes," Gardiner said. "I think anyone who is at all serious about interpreting Beethoven's symphonies will find they have totally new insights into the workings of that extraordinary mind."

It has long been acknowledged that copyists and music publishers over the years introduced errors into Beethoven's nine symphonies. Never before, however, have all the symphonies been corrected, due in part to the sheer volume of notes in a symphony. Del Mar's version of the Ninth is 350 pages long.

He plans to finish the remaining eight symphonies by 2000, several years ahead of a similar project by the Beethoven Haus in Bonn, a cultural center dedicated to preserving the composer's work.

Whether Del Mar's own corrections to the Ninth alter listeners' experience depends on how familiar they are with the symphony.

"If they knew the piece ... I would hope that 30 times they would sit upright and think, 'Oh!'" Del Mar said.

Ninth Symphony

Ludwig van Beethoven's sloppy handwriting caused hundreds of tiny errors as copyists and music publishers transcribed his works. Here, a horn passage in the Ninth Symphony.

As commonly published...



... and as revised by British musicologist Jonathan Del Mar.



Del Mar found Beethoven had written two extra notes in these three measures. This smooths out the rhythm and sustains the passage.

AP/Eileen Glanton, Tonia Cowan

Del Mar determined what he believes were Beethoven's final notations through close comparisons of scores, some in Beethoven's own hand, in libraries and private collections throughout Europe.

Though Beethoven's original texts were a copyist's nightmare, Del Mar said, in reality, Beethoven "was remarkably meticulous."

He sometimes wrote and rewrote a pair of notes, crossing out bar after bar until there was only a tiny clear space left to record his final thought, which often was overlooked when the piece was copied. Musical transitions were lost, replaced in passages by unintended repetition.

Del Mar's new versions, Gardiner said, "will defuse the image of Beethoven as a flawed, capricious genius who never knew how to finish his pieces, who was in a state of permanent indecision as to how his music should sound."

"Beethoven, despite his extremely untidy handwriting, will emerge as extremely clear in his thinking, someone who knew exactly what he wanted."

San Francisco law on domestic partners may have wide reach

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Disney's done it. So have Levi Strauss, IBM and American Express.

All offer benefits to employees with domestic partners, many of whom are homosexual. Companies and employees alike say the policy improves morale and can sharpen the recruiting edge.

But nobody forced the decisions. Then San Francisco told United Airlines it had to obey an ordinance requiring companies doing business with the city to offer spousal benefits to their workers' unmarried and same-sex partners.

"We're surprised. ... We're disappointed," said Mary Jo Holland, a United spokeswoman in Chicago.

Holland said if United offered benefits in San Francisco, it would have to offer them worldwide. United had no estimate of what such compliance might cost.

United already complies with a New Zealand Human Rights Commission ruling that bans benefits applying only to married couples. That ruling permits New Zealanders to nominate any beneficiary, and United now allows its employees in New Zealand to follow suit.

In San Francisco, United employees want to offer benefits to their chosen families, straight or gay, married or not.

"It's about equality," said Kent Bloom, a flight attendant who has worked 22 years for United and hopes to one day offer his benefits to his partner, Mike Ownbey.

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