

Judge denies ties with Mafia hitman

United Press International
COMPTON, Calif. — Confessed Mafia hitman Aladena "Jimmy the Weasel" Fratianno, a key witness in the record \$522 million libel suit against Penthouse magazine, says he is a good friend of the judge hearing the trial.

Superior Court Judge Kenneth W. Gale conceded he knew Fratianno through the mob figure's second wife, the former Jean Gearin, who he had represented in legal matters before he became a judge.

Owners of Rancho La Costa, a posh San Diego County resort, filed a libel suit against Penthouse after a March 1975 article claimed the spa was a mob hangout built with syndicate money funneled through the Teamsters Union.

"He never admitted he knew me," Fratianno said Tuesday. "I

But he denied having a "per-

MSC Council

now has applications for Cubicles in the Student Programs Office for the school year of 1982-83. Applications are available at the Secretaries' desk in Room 216 MSC. Applications will be available from March 22-29. Deadline for applications is March 29th.

Penthouse attorney Roy Grutman late Tuesday said the team of magazine attorneys was discussing "the appropriate action to take," but refused to say whether he will seek a mistrial based on the Fratianno-Gale ties.

Fratianno, who was paid about \$40,000 by Penthouse for his time, testified at the trial last month he had once met at La Costa with other mobsters to discuss killing entertainer Desi Arnaz for producing "The Untouchables," which he said portrayed Italian-Americans as criminals.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

'Committed to compassion'

Reagan defends policies

United Press International
NEW YORK — President Reagan, bristling against mounting criticism of his lack of "commitment to compassion," is pointing to his record in the White House as proof he is trying to assist the needy.

The president ignored more than 10,000 demonstrators gathered around the New York Hilton Hotel to condemn his economic, domestic and foreign policies, and almost stridently defended his cause.

"Today I am accused by some of trying to destroy government's commitment to compassion and to the needy," Reagan said.

"Does this bother me?" he asked, then answered immediately and emphatically, "Yes." Reagan compared himself to Franklin Roosevelt, who had to answer criticism he was trying to destroy the free-enterprise system.

"Like F.D.R., may I say I am not trying to destroy what is best in our system of humane, free government — I am doing everything I can to save it: to slow down the destructive rate of growth in taxes and spending; to prune non-essential programs so that enough resources will be left to meet the requirements of the truly needy," he said.

While he was receiving the coveted Charles Evans Hughes Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the well-coordinated demonstration outside the hotel swelled in numbers to become the largest single protest of a Reagan appearance since he became president.

A dozen forces of the mounted patrol, standing side by side across the Avenue of the Americas to wall off the demonstrators, was part of the massive

police protection around the midtown Manhattan hotel.

However, guests arriving in tuxedos and evening gowns saw the spotlighted banners and heard the bullhorn-amplified chants.

Reagan departed from his prepared text to take note of the demonstration and plead for a dialogue to settle differing opinions.

"Just as those outside this hall spoke with such passion and conviction earlier this evening, yes, there will at times be disagreement over the path we should take, but can't such a dialogue be carried on with decency and understanding without a tone of hatred?" Reagan asked.

"Our ability to carry on a dialogue, a debate, has always been a pillar of strength in this land," he said. "And even as we disagree, we can remain as one in seeking a common destiny for society that is just and humane and free."

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger presented the award to Reagan and saluted him for "fighting for his principles, not only when it was expedient but all of his life."

Kissinger, who won the award in 1973, said Reagan "has met the test of history," and upon "his judgment depends our liberties, the liberty of all free people, and the hope of oppressed people everywhere."

Pet python prowls, cops search trees in Redwood City

United Press International
REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — An 8-foot pet python was loose in Redwood City Wednesday, but police said they thought only small animals were in danger.

"It's extremely unfriendly within a 6-foot striking distance," police Capt. Robert Gsell said he was told by owner Ken Reynolds Tuesday.

Pythons use their bodies to squeeze small animals to death before eating them, he said.

Asked how he was going to find the snake, Gsell said: "Very carefully. It hides in trees."

Gsell said there was no law against having pythons in the city, "although maybe there should be."

He said the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was leading the search efforts.

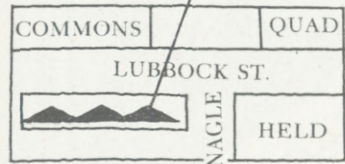
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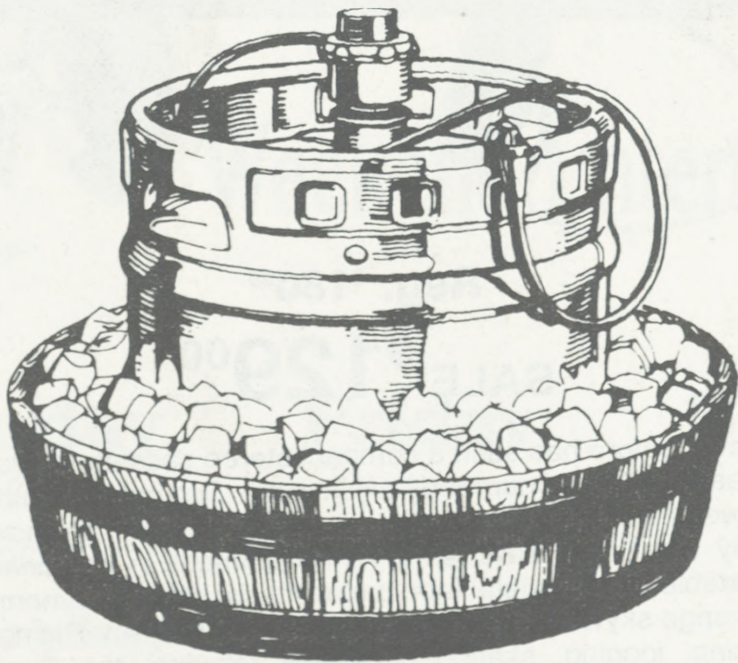
(The abortion controversy)

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Elephant's toothache uprooted

United Press International
CHICAGO — Babe, a 36-year-old Asian elephant that once weighed 6,160 pounds, was scheduled to have a 8½-pound tooth removed Wednesday.

The offending tooth was scheduled to be removed in a two-hour operation at the Brookfield Zoo.

Zoo officials say Babe lost 500 pounds as a result of the painful molar.

The weight loss had to be stopped, zoo spokesman Jovz Gardella said.

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