

Casino picket lines peaceful after arrests

United Press International
LAS VEGAS — Peace returned to 14-day-old picket lines Sunday at 29 Las Vegas gambling resorts, ending a weekend show for gamblers who saw mass arrests and a solidarity march down the "strip" by thousands of strikers.
 Seventy-two people, including a top ranking international AFL-CIO officer, were arrested

in front of the MGM Grand Hotel Saturday night when police moved in on several hundred strikers as they locked arms and sat down on the sidewalk bordering hotel property. A crowd of spectators jeered. Bottles and glass crashed around police dressed in full riot gear.
 The protesters were charged with destruction of county property, specifically glass windows in a paddy wagon, and

contempt of a court order limiting the number of pickets. One of those arrested included Robert Harblant, president of the Food and Allied Service Trade Department of the AFL-CIO, who was in Las Vegas from Washington D.C. to work out financial assistance for Las Vegas strikers.
 Harblant said he was forced into a paddy wagon when he approached police and asked

for the officer in charge, attempting to help prevent the rowdiness.
 Since the strike began April 2, more than 355 people have been arrested.
 Mass arrests at the MGM Grand Hotel Saturday night were in sharp contrast with a peaceful Saturday afternoon march down the Las Vegas "strip" by thousands of pickets. Police estimated the number of

marchers at 4,000. Union organizers said 5,000 to 7,500 striking union workers participated. There were no incidents and no arrests.
 United Farm Workers union leader Cesar Chavez was at the head of the line, flanked by Las Vegas union leaders and a giant banner reading "Solidarity, Las Vegas 1984." Observers lined the street to watch the sea of strikers slowly walk along the

neon-lighted "strip" eight to 15 abreast. The line of people stretched more than a mile from one end to the other.
 Chavez told a post-march rally they were walking "for every working man and woman in America." He urged them to stick together to conquer nameless, faceless corporations.
 The strike is directed at 29 Las Vegas hotels and casinos, plus four clubs in the nearby



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Missing boy mails tape to Reagan

United Press International
DENVER — A missing 12-year-old boy caught in a custody battle between his Pentecostal mother and homosexual father has taped a plea to President Reagan, a minister involved in the case said Sunday.

In a tape recording made by Brian Batey and mailed to Reagan, the boy said he did not want to be returned to his father, who has legal custody, said Rev. Maurice Gordon, pastor of the Lovingway United Pentecostal Church in Denver.

The boy's mother, Betty Lou Batey, remained in jail Sunday after refusing to tell authorities her son's whereabouts.

Batey had been living with his father, an admitted homosexual who lives in Palm Springs, Calif., until 18 months ago, when his mother abducted him.

She and the boy then lived in hiding with friends and members of the Pentecostal Church until she surrendered to federal officials in Denver April 4.

In a transcript of the tape sent to Reagan, the boy reportedly said of his father: "If he gets me back ... he's going to have to hog-tie me and give me drugs or something, but he ain't gettin' me back, and ... my mom, I want her out of jail and I need some help...."

"My father ... says in the newspaper I've been reading that we had a good relationship and everything, which ... is not true right now, and he says he's going to get me back and that ain't true either," the transcript reads.

The transcript was dated April 13, and is signed with a signature that reads "Brian Batey."

The transcript was delivered to local media by Gordon, who said the cover letter had been typed "by a friend of Brian's."

"He's asking that he be given a chance to tell his story," Mrs. Batey was told by a Denver district court judge that she will not be released on \$25,000 bond until she tells authorities the whereabouts of her son.

Speaking from his home in California Saturday, the boy's father, Frank Batey, said he questioned the authenticity of his son's statement.

"That's not Brian speaking, that's a frightened child," he said. "It sounds like a forced confession. Often religious groups like that will cause children to do that. The Rev. Jim Jones did that to 76 children," Batey said, referring to a mass

suicide led by Jones in Guyana in 1978.

Mrs. Batey has refused to close her son's whereabouts and said in court last week she does not know who is in care of him.

Gordon said Mrs. Batey "doing fine after getting her rest." He said she has been "a groundswell of support" for religious organizations across the country.

Gordon, who described Brian as "a spirit-filled Pentecostal," said he wants to be producing the boy until Batey is assured he won't be turned automatically to her.

Olympic hopefuls will run in Boston

United Press International
BOSTON — The Olympic futures of several international runners rest on their performance today at the 88th annual Boston Marathon.

Geoff Smith, a student at Providence College and the No. 2 finisher in the last New York Marathon, has been "told indirectly" by his government that he must place first among the

nearly 6,800 Boston Marathon runners in order to be named to the British Olympic team.

In a year when the Olympics have diluted the men's and women's fields, it is also the reason that some top runners are competing to qualify for their country's Olympic teams.

American men have won 43 Boston Marathons, which has been slipping in stature because it will not provide any prize

money or expense money. If Smith has his way, that number will remain the same for at least another year.

Smith was asked at a weekend press conference whether he would be running in Boston if he didn't need the Olympic qualification time.

"I'd rather not answer that," he said.

But Lorraine Moller, one of three top New Zealand runners

taking part in the race, said that winning is secondary to her obtaining a time sufficient to qualify her for her country's marathon team.

The word is that Smith might make his move in the first half of the race and try to set a record on the downhill segments of the 26-mile course between Hopkinton and the Prudential Center in downtown Boston.

Smith finished the New York Marathon in 2:09:08.

Paul Ballenger of New Zealand, also running with the Olympics in mind, needs 2:12:30 to make the team.

Gasoline prices rise in 3 week period

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — The overall average price of gasoline, including taxes, rose more than a penny a gallon over a three-week period, to 120.59 cents, industry analyst Dan Lundberg

said Sunday.
 The Lundberg Survey of service stations in all 50 states showed gasoline up 1.29 cents a gallon over the period.

The average wholesale price, without taxes, was 89.41 cents,

up 1.47 cents a gallon.
 Regular leaded at self-service averaged 109.59, up 1.55 cents. Regular unleaded was 116.89, up 1.47.

At full-service pumps regular leaded was 129.02, up 0.93 of a

cent a gallon, and regular unleaded 135.45, up 0.95 of a cent.

Lundberg said the rise of gasoline prices in the first quarter of the year was a reversal of recent years when gasoline price

fell during the first months of the year.

"With the headstart of summer prices in the first quarter he said, "one can entertain a strong possibility that a price increase would continue through the second quarter."

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