

WORLD AND NATION

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly

Ambushed

Miami beefs up security as highway robberies mount

Associated Press

MIAMI — A public outcry has forced authorities to dispatch police decoys, add patrols and repair broken lights along portions of Interstate 95 in South Florida where highway robbers are ambushing motorists in mounting numbers. "The amount of injuries and assaults in the last two months is alarming. It's tragic," said Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Noel Roy.

The patrol reported 97 highway robberies in Dade County since Jan. 1. Most occur between 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., authorities said Wednesday.

The modern-day highwaymen attack drivers alongside their disabled cars, throw rocks through windshields as motorists sit helpless in bumper-to-bumper traffic and place

objects in the road, such as tire rims and nails, that motorists run over.

The bandits, who make off with cash and jewelry, occasionally beat motorists with guns, police said.

The robbers find motorists easy prey because many lights along I-95 are burned out and fences along the interstate are in disrepair.

Incensed at the danger along the interstate, citizens have spoken out and prompted the state Department of Transportation to change burned out lights immediately.

Meanwhile, the highway patrol assigned 12 units to patrol a seven-mile stretch of I-95, as well as 6½ miles of I-195 and one mile of I-395, where robberies have also occurred, said patrol Lt. John Baker.

Since January, state troopers have arrested 23 men, Baker said.

Factions split at open of Arab conference

Associated Press

CASABLANCA, Morocco — An emergency Arab summit meeting called by Morocco's King Hassan II to further Arab unity opened badly divided Wednesday night, with five of the 21 Arab League members not represented.

Libya was a last minute drop-out, but Syria, Algeria, Lebanon and South Yemen had said earlier they would not attend.

Palestinian sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the heads of state met Wednesday afternoon to find a limited agenda on Arab unity and the question of a Palestinian homeland.

But no one would confirm the report in the newspaper as-Siyasah.

One of the topics of the conference will be a joint effort by Jordan and Yasser Arafat's wing of the PLO to meet with the United States as a prelude to opening direct peace talks with Israel.



Turner agrees to buy MGM, drops bid to takeover CBS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Cable TV magnate Ted Turner announced plans Wednesday to acquire the roaring lion of MGM-UA Entertainment Co. and drop his bid to buy the eye of CBS Inc.

Turner Broadcasting System Inc. agreed to acquire MGM-UA for \$29 a share, leaving some industry analysts questioning whether Turner, TBS' chairman, can raise the \$1.5 billion cash for the deal.

"Obviously, MGM wouldn't have made the deal if Mr. Turner couldn't finance it," said Arthur Rockwell, spokesman for Frank Rothman, chairman and chief executive officer of MGM-UA.

CBS executives were "pleased" by Turner's announcement that he was dropping his proposed cashless acquisition of the network, but his intentions for the entertainment company were unknown Wednesday, and MGM-UA spokesman Ernest Sando refused to comment on them.

The MGM-UA deal calls for Turner to pay \$1.5 billion up front for the company. Immediately

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thereafter, the United Artists Corp. film-production company would be sold to Tracinda Corp. for \$470 million. Tracinda is a holding company controlled by financier Kirk Kerkorian, currently MGM-UA's largest shareholder, owning 50.1 percent of the stock.

Turner Broadcasting and MGM-UA said their agreement was approved by both companies' directors but remains subject to approval by MGM-UA's stockholders and government regulators.

Industry analysts, however, wondered how Turner will raise the

money without incurring huge losses. For the first nine months of its current fiscal year, MGM-UA lost \$61.2 million on revenue of \$478 million.

Turner Broadcasting earned \$10 million on revenue of \$281.7 million in 1984.

"Can he pull it off?" said Harold Vogel, an analyst for Merrill Lynch in New York. "Probably."

"Will it be profitable? That's down the road. It's doubtful."

"Where Turner will get the money, I don't know."

TBS operates the SuperStation, WTBS, a nationwide distributor of sports, movies, regular commercial programming and news to cable television systems, and Cable News Network.

Turner's decision to drop his CBS takeover attempt was expected. Last week he lost a legal bid to halt a financial restructuring of CBS, making it impossible for him to proceed with his bid.

"CBS is pleased with the outcome," said Anne Luzzatto, a network spokeswoman.

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