

# Coroner says AIDS-related disease killed Liberace, suspects cover-up

INDIO, Calif. (AP) — Liberace died of a disease caused by AIDS, the Riverside County coroner said Monday, and he accused the entertainer's doctors of covering up the cause of death.

"Somebody along the line wanted to pull a fast one on us," Coroner Raymond Carrillo said at a news conference.

Miscroscopic tissue analysis showed that Liberace died because of cytomegalovirus pneumonia due to human immunodeficiency virus disease, Carrillo said.

"In layman's terms, Mr. Liberace died of an opportunistic disease caused by acquired immune deficiency syndrome," he said.

Cytomegalovirus is a common virus that affects more than half the adult population without ill effects. It can be fatal, however, to people whose disease-fighting immune sys-

tem is weakened by the AIDS virus.

In addition to the fatal pneumonia caused by the cytomegalovirus, Carrillo said the contributing causes of Liberace's death included lung and heart disease and a hardening of the valve in the heart.

Carrillo said he believed that Liberace's doctors covered up the cause of his death. He died Wednesday at his Palm Springs home at the age of 67.

"The original cause of death did not make sense," he said.

Dr. Ronald Daniels, a physician who treated Liberace, said the entertainer died of cardiac arrest because of heart failure brought on by subacute encephalopathy, a brain inflammation.

"Encephalopathy does not cause heart disease," Carrillo said.

The coroner added that Daniels'

failure to report the correct cause of death would be reported for possible disciplinary action to California's Board of Medical Quality Assurance, and that Forest Lawn's similar failure would be reported to the state board responsible for regulating mortuaries.

Daniels' receptionist said the doctor was declining comment.

Liberace's aides repeatedly denied he had contracted AIDS. They maintained he was suffering pernicious anemia, heart disease and emphysema.

It was first reported Jan. 24 by the *Las Vegas (Nev.) Sun* that Liberace was suffering from AIDS. The newspaper attributed the information to unidentified sources.

Riverside County officials refused to accept the death certificate signed by Daniels when they discovered the

coroner had not been contacted, required in the case of possible contagious diseases, and because a doctor wasn't in attendance when Liberace died, Carrillo said.

Fans of Liberace have expressed outrage about the investigation, see whether the popular entertainer had AIDS.

"It just made me sick when I heard all this digging up dirt," Petersen said Sunday at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills, where Liberace was buried. "I resent anyone going into someone's private life."

Coroner's investigator Salinas said if proper procedure had been followed, it wouldn't have been necessary for his office to hold a news conference on the cause of death, offending Liberace's fans.

## Child-care programs growing in importance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Child-care programs, today a crucial problem for working couples, likely will become increasingly important to employers who want to keep experienced staffers on the job, a new study says.

"In the future, tight labor markets will make it harder to replace experienced female employees who leave work to start a family," says the report, published Monday by the private Population Reference Bureau.

In the years since the end of World War II, women have flooded into the labor market, and time away from their traditional homebound duties has faced millions of families with a dilemma of finding care for small children.

Today, more than half of married women with children under age six are employed, compared with only one in eight in 1950, Census Bureau statistics show.

Responses to this change have varied from family to family and region to region, with some employers initiating programs to assist their workers. Those actions will become increasingly important, says the

study by Martin O'Connell of the U.S. Census Bureau and David E. Bloom of Harvard University.

Some women can hire help, but most domestic workers do less than half the housework and "husbands are not much help either," with the majority of them doing less than one-fourth of the housework, the authors state.

Women have been seeking jobs in a market with a surplus of labor, during the time when the children of the post-World War II Baby Boom flooded the market. But that will end in the 1990s as the smaller "Baby Bust" generation comes along and there are more jobs than workers, the report comments.

In addition, pressure for better child-care programs also will be created by other recent trends such as delayed childbearing and the high divorce rate, according to the report "Juggling Jobs and Babies: America's Child Care Challenge," published by the private, non-profit population research center.

Meanwhile, "lack of affordable child care probably is preventing many poorly educated and low-income mothers from working at all,

when they are the women who need jobs the most," the study says.

Even after labor becomes more scarce, the report suggests that "most employers will need coaxing by federal, state and local government to adopt progressive child-care policies."

A variety of approaches is possible, O'Connell and Bloom state, including:

- Flexible work schedules, designed to make it easier for women to arrange their work times.
- Block scheduling, allowing workers to work fewer, longer hours to reduce the number of child-care hours needed.
- Other programs such as increased employee leave for maternity and paternity, government benefits and school programs.

guan government engage in extensive interrogation tactics against prisoners, including psychological pressure and threats used to elicit confessions.

The report also objected to the closing last summer of *La Prensa*, an independent newspaper, noting this action left Nicaragua with a government-sponsored media "dangerous situation."

## Contras

(Continued from page 1)

abuses that, to date, the Contras show no sign of curbing."

Specifically, the report said the Contras "engage in selective but systematic killing of persons they perceive as representing the government, in indiscriminate attacks against civilians."

It added that rebel kidnappings of civilians have been widespread, apparently for the purposes of recruitment and intimidation.

But the study also said the Nicara-

Council

(Continued from page 1)

a good chunk of the 800,000 square-foot expansion plan for the MSC.

Perry Eichor, executive president for administration, said the Council does not know how much space the expansion will be allowed.

"We are applying for a permit," Eichor said. "Each much, we're not sure."

"The Board of Regents approved the monies to expand MSC last spring," he said. "The MSC notified the University's Advisory Board in November to put together a program of improvements — space and other needs for the expansion plan."

The plan calls for the expansion to extend from the end of the MSC, between the Under Tower. It is to be a two-story expansion. One of the stories will be on the basement

## Manufacturers unveil new toys; interacting dolls to hit the market

NEW YORK (AP) — Once upon a time, dolls just sat there and looked pretty. Then they wet, they talked, and they walked. Now they hold conversations with each other without a child ever being in the room.

At the 84th annual American International Toy Fair, which started Monday, manufacturers unveiled animated talking toys that not only communicate with each other, but "understand" what a child says to them and respond with an appropriate answer.

Also introduced were high-tech action figures that will take electronic cues from signals beamed by new animated TV shows.

Manufacturers are hoping such toys can enliven the relatively flat \$12.5 billion toy market.

Rick Anguilla, editor of the trade publication *Toy and Hobby World*, said, "We see the area of growth in true interactive toys — not just toys that have something to say and randomly say it, but those that almost seem to think and can have real conversations."

Put two Talking Cabbage Patch Kids (\$100 a piece, retail) in a room and press the buttons on their stomachs. They'll sense each other's presence and begin chatting.

They may discuss ice cream — some are programmed to like vanilla, others chocolate or strawberry. Children can join in the discussion, too, of course.

The new dolls know what's going on around them. Take them for a bumpy car ride and the doll might

say, "OK, that's enough. All this bouncing up and down makes me dizzy." Kiss the doll's cheek, and it'll say, "Thank you for the kiss. May I have another one, please?"

Worlds Of Wonder, the company that introduced the animated talking Teddy Ruxpin, now has Julie.

Unlike past dolls that shot out random phrases with little relevance to what a child said, Julie has more than 100 sound-activated responses in her computer chip memory.

She recognizes voices and words. When she hears someone say he or she is hungry, Julie will respond, "Let's eat." Take her into a dark room and she'll ask, "Can you see OK? It's kind of dark." The doll can even be trained to only respond to its owner's voice.

## Council

(Continued from page 1)

A group of justice officials in the United States.

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