

World and Nation

Nofzinger found guilty for lobbying top aides

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan's onetime political director, Lyn Nofzinger, was convicted Thursday of illegally lobbying top White House aides by jurors who said they had no trouble finding evidence of influence-peddling.

"The evidence just kept coming up all the time," Towana Braxton, the foreman of the federal court jury, said of the convictions. Nofzinger faced three counts of illegally representing private clients at the White House within a year of his resignation from Reagan's staff in January 1982.

The jury, which deliberated about six hours, cleared Nofzinger of a

fourth illegal lobbying charge and acquitted his partner, Mark A. Bragg, of a single aiding and abetting allegation.

Nofzinger, the first former high government official convicted under the revolving-door provisions of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, attacked the statute as a "lousy law" and compared his offense with "running a stop sign."

"I feel I am innocent," Nofzinger, whose lawyers vowed to appeal the convictions, said. "I don't think I did anything wrong."

The former White House political director, who dates his association to the president back to Reagan's days

as governor of California, could receive a maximum two-year sentence and a \$10,000 fine for each of his convictions.

But lawyers familiar with the case said it was unlikely the former presidential aide would be given a term at his sentencing, which was set for March 25 by U.S. District Judge Thomas A. Flannery.

Nofzinger was convicted of appearing to then-presidential counsel Edwin Meese III in an April 1982 memo for help getting West Corp. a \$32 million no-bid contract.

FBI classifies public letter as top secret

WASHINGTON — The FBI assigned a secret classification to material circulated publicly by a conservative group, and sent it to more than 30 field offices in an investigation of opponents of Reagan administration Central American policies, according to an FBI document and interviews.

The conservative group aide who compiled the information said Thursday he found it somewhat humorous that the material was classified, and became part of a major investigation.

The aide, Mike Boos of the Young America's Foundation of Reston, Va., said he sent the same material to about 500 conservative individuals and organizations in the Washington area. It was published in a conservative newsletter, the *American Sentinel*.

FBI spokesman Ray McElhany said the material contained allegations of criminal wrongdoing over which the FBI has criminal jurisdiction, and the bureau was duty bound to check it out.

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Drug cartel launders cash, backs Contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Colombian drug cartel made \$200 million a month in profits in the United States, laundered the cash through Panamanian banks and spent some of the money to bankroll the U.S.-backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua, an imprisoned accountant testified Thursday.

"I am a capitalist," Cuban-born Ramon Milian Rodriguez said as he detailed the workings of a far-flung, intricately organized drug empire he said paid him \$2 million to \$3 million a month for his ability to make the money appear to be of legitimate origin.

Rodriguez also told a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee that his money-laundering operation had ties to both the CIA and the Contras fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government. Neither connection was pursued in open session by the panel, which is investigating Panama's involvement in drug smuggling.

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World Briefs

Court says no drug tests on rail workers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The government's policy of requiring the nation's 200,000 railroad workers to submit to drug or alcohol tests after accidents or rules violations was struck down as unconstitutional Thursday by a federal appeals court.

In a ruling that runs counter to the Reagan administration drug testing plans, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said such testing is not justified simply because a worker was on a train crew that

got into an accident or drove too fast.

The court said there must be grounds for suspicion that an individual worker was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"Accidents, incidents or rule violations, by themselves, do not create reasonable grounds for suspecting that tests will demonstrate alcohol or drug impairment in any one railroad employee, much less an entire crew," Judge Thomas Tang said in the 2-1 decision.

Candidates struggle to gain caucus vote

Associated Press

Rep. Richard Gephardt turned on Democratic presidential rival Michael Dukakis on Thursday, declaring him ignorant of the "complexities of trade policy."

Vice President George Bush pleaded with Republicans to help him stem Bob Dole's tide in New Hampshire.

"I'm working my heart out here," Dole, the struggling GOP front-runner, said. "So can you help me?"

Dole sounded like a man on a roll, delivering a speech on the

Study shows relations of young, old

WASHINGTON (AP) — A little excitement in infancy can lead to a sharper mind and clearer thinking in old age, according to a group of researchers studying the effects of aging on the brains of laboratory rats.

Robert M. Sapolsky, a Stanford University researcher, said he and a group of Canadian scientists found that giving just minimal handling to infant rats imprinted a hormonal response that eventually led to a smaller loss of learning ability and memory

Boy saved from lake by pet retriever

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A 10-year-old boy fell into an icy lake while trying to save his golden retriever, then was helped to safety by his pet, who kept him afloat and nudged him toward solid ice, the boy's father said.

"We'll have to find a nice steak bone for him," Glenn A. Henderson said of Merle, a 65-pound, 2-year-old retriever.

The dog stayed with Glenn "Sam" Henderson until a rescue

team could pull the boy from the lake just west of Evansville after the mishap Tuesday afternoon.

Merle was chasing a stick when he had thrown when the golden retriever broke through the ice. Henderson, believing his dog was in trouble, fell into the water while trying to save his pet, Henderson said.

A neighbor called the Township Volunteer Fire Department.



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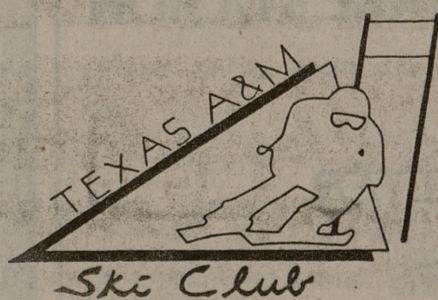
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