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Contra indictments avoid links to Reagan, drugs

MIAMI (AP) — Two long-awaited indictments accusing a private network of illegally supplying mercenaries and arms to the Contras steered clear of thorny questions about the group's links to the Reagan administration or drug trafficking.

The indictments also left other questions unanswered. Thirteen men are accused of having violated the U.S. Neutrality Act by mounting an illegal campaign to help the Contras overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

The defendants include the brother of a top Contra leader, the head of the group called Civilian Materiel Assistance, and at least two men reputed to have drug ties.

The latest development in the case is the government's response, filed Sept. 16, to defense contentions that the Neutrality Act does not apply because the United States was effectively at war with Nicaragua.

But the U.S. attorney's office avoided confronting that issue directly in its response, saying the matter should be decided in trial, not during a special hearing requested by the defendants.

Other unresolved issues include possible Reagan administration oversight of the illegal activities, the question of drug ties to the operation, the absence of key figures among those indicted and the sluggish pace of the investigation, which covered events in 1984 and 1985.

"The biggest question is who were the people not indicted," said Jack Blum, special counsel to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is preparing a report on a parallel investigation.

"They are prosecuting the weakest players who, by and large, were not the movers," Blum said. For example, he notes, testimony from his committee traced connections be-

tween CMA, former National Security Council aide Oliver North and military intelligence, but the indictment stopped with CMA head Tom Posey.

Two of the men who were indicted, ex-mercenary Jack Terrell and Joe Adams, were the most candid witnesses before prosecutors and congressional committees, he said. They and other defendants claim they were working with the knowledge and cooperation of the government.

Interim U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen has indicated that issues involving North and other higher-ups in the Reagan administration are in the hands of the Independent Counsel's office in Washington.

Lehtinen's assistant, Richard Gre-

gorie, said that when some names came up in their investigation, the special prosecutor told the Miami office that the subjects had immunity.

Jim Wieghart, Washington spokesman for Iran-Contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, confirms their investigation continues, although by law he cannot comment on its targets. He noted that Walsh's mandate does not include Neutrality Act violations, the basis of the Fort Lauderdale indictments.

A key figure missing from the indictment is John Hull, a U.S. citizen whose Costa Rican ranch was identified by congressional witnesses as a base for military operations against neighboring Nicaragua — as well as a waystation for cocaine traffickers.

Jury: Teen-ager fabricated story of sexual abuse

NEW YORK (AP) — A months-long investigation of an alleged rape and abduction that led to repeated charges of racial discrimination and several protest demonstrations began with a teen-ager's fabricated tale, the *New York Times* reported Wednesday.

A special state grand jury decided not to indict anyone after finding overwhelming evidence that 16-year-old Tawana Brawley of Wappingers Falls lied and helped create the conditions in which she was

found, dazed, wrapped in a garbage bag and smeared with excrement, the *Times* reported.

The black teen-ager claimed she had been kidnapped by a gang of white men on Nov. 24 and subjected to four days of sexual abuse.

But the grand jury, in Poughkeepsie, concluded after more than 100 witnesses and a variety of evidence that she had chosen not to return home and hid for four days in an apartment from which her family had recently been evicted, the *Times* said.

The grand jury speculated she may have feared punishment from her mother's boyfriend for her late nights out, and that drugs and her relationships with shady characters may have played a role, the *Times* said.

Brawley's story attracted national attention, especially when she refused to testify on the advice of family lawyers and advisers, who then repeatedly accused the state of a cover-up and leveled charges against public officials and the news media.

The grand jury subpoenaed Brawley but eventually abandoned hope of ever hearing her story firsthand and rescinded its vote to subpoena her, the *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported Tuesday.

Prominent people who spoke sympathetically of her plight included heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson and actor Bill Cosby, who put up a \$25,000 reward.

One of Brawley's advisers, the Rev. Al Sharpton, said Tuesday that he would not be surprised if the grand jury concluded, as reported, that Brawley fabricated her claims.

"We said from the beginning the grand jury would not come back with anything," he said.



Stairway to heaven . . .

Walter Kruger, assistant foreman in the paint shop, carries his drywall plaster tools to the second

floor of the Forsythe Center in the MSC Tuesday. The Center should be completed in November.

Photo by Jay Janner

Laboratory tests show Shroud not of Christ

ROME (AP) — Laboratory tests show the Shroud of Turin was made in the 14th century and could not be the burial cloth of Christ, the scientific adviser to the archbishop of Turin said he learned on Tuesday.

Professor Luigi Gonella said he has not yet seen the official report from the three laboratories that conducted the carbon-14 dating tests, but that all the leaks to the press dated it to the 14th century and "somebody let me understand that the rumors were right."

"It is quite evident somebody sold out to the press," Gonella said in an interview from his home in Turin.

He refused to identify who had told him about the results of the tests at Oxford University, the University of Arizona and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at the University of Zurich.

The shroud — 14 feet, 3 inches long and 3 feet, 7 inches wide — bears the faint, blood-stained

image of a whipped and crucified man. Some have maintained the herringbone patterned linen is the burial cloth of Christ, while others have dismissed it as a clever forgery.

"We are certainly disappointed in knowing that the shroud has a medieval date, but this is because it is a cherished object, Gonella said.

"It's like having a portrait in your attic that turns out not to be a picture of your grandfather. But you don't love him less," Gonella was quoted as saying to Britain's domestic news agency, Press Association.

The shroud was removed April 21 from the silver chest where it is kept wrapped in red silk on an altar in the cathedral in Turin.

A strip — four-tenths of an inch by 2.8 inches — was cut from the cloth and then divided into three smaller pieces for the laboratories, each of which, in addition to another piece of cloth of a known age, was used for testing.

Jury finds first suspect guilty in San Diego gang rape trial

SAN DIEGO, Texas (AP) — The first man tried in this community's "crime of the century" was convicted Tuesday of sexual assault and given the maximum prison term of 20 years, bringing a sigh of relief from the 19-year-old woman who says she was gang raped.

"It was right, because I don't want him to go and do it to somebody else," the woman said in an interview in Corpus Christi Tuesday afternoon, hours after 24-year-old Orlando Garza was convicted and sentenced for raping her.

"I'm relieved, too, because now it will take off some of the stress and the pain that I had," she said, adding that she is prepared to testify against the other men accused in the gang rape.

The woman accused Garza of helping abduct her and being the first of as many as 23 men to rape and sodomize her the night of March 26-27 at a ranch near an illegal cockfight and in two other places.

"Orlando Garza was the head dog," Assistant District Attorney Rodolfo Gutierrez told the six-man, six-woman jury before it began deliberations about 2:10 a.m. Tuesday. "He was the one who brought the meat."

The woman testified during the week-long trial that Garza also had raped her three days before the alleged gang rape.

He was the first of 10 men charged in the case to face trial, which ended six months to the day the alleged gang rape took place.

Co-defense counsel Nago Alaniz called the case "the

crime of the century" for the community, because of the attention it has brought the South Texas community of 5,000, many of whom are related to each other.

Garza, who faces a later trial on an aggravated kidnapping charge, claimed the woman insisted on having sex with him twice outside the cockfight. But she testified Garza and the other men held her down on the hood of a car and took turns sexually assaulting her.

Defense attorneys characterized her as an immoral, adulterous liar who was "cleaned up" by the prosecution for the trial.

"To me, it's devastating that a young woman placed herself in a situation where something just extraordinary may have happened," defense attorney Albert Pena said in his final argument to the jury early Tuesday.

"She went out there to that cockfight because she wanted to be with this man here," Alaniz told the jury during final arguments as he pointed to Garza.

Garza's calm expression did not change as the verdict and stiff sentence were read in the 229th District Court in Duval County.

Formal sentencing was scheduled for Oct. 17. The next trial in the case also is scheduled for that date, but attorneys do not know who will be the next defendant.

Gutierrez said plea bargains from the others accused in the case were more likely because of the conviction.

Researchers say AIDS cases will escalate

Editor's note: This story is the last in a three-part series about acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Staff writer Kelly Brown attended a state conference on "AIDS and the College Campus — Policies and Perspectives" earlier this month.

By Kelly S. Brown
Staff Writer

Since the first reported case of AIDS in the United States in 1981, the number of people with AIDS has risen to 68,000. Without a known cure, researchers say that number will continue to escalate with the same ferocity and mystique that it has been scouring the country with for the past eight years.

Some people think AIDS is non-existent in Bryan-College Station. The patients who have it wish it was.

The Texas Department of Health has reported 20 cases of AIDS in Brazos County since 1981. Eighteen of those patients have died.

Stewart Gallas, coordinator for the Brazos Valley AIDS Helpline, said that many more cases have not been reported.

"There are cases where the indi-

vidual lives here but has been diagnosed in another city, and it's never reported in Brazos County, so it's hard to have solid statistics."

The statistics change quickly, too.

Dr. John Moore, a staff member at the A.P. Beutel Health Center, said that several AIDS cases have been diagnosed at the Health Center, and referred elsewhere for specialized treatment.

"I'm not certain on the amount of patients who have been diagnosed with AIDS here because there are different doctors working with different patients. However, next year we should have a computerized system and accurate statistics will be made available then."

Diagnosis of AIDS depends on whether opportunistic infection is present.

Opportunistic infections are microorganisms that usually do not cause diseases in a healthy person, but do cause disease in those whose immune systems have failed.

The presence of opportunistic diseases and testing positive for antibodies to HTLV-III (the virus that causes AIDS) can make a diagnosis of AIDS possible.

When individuals 18 years and older donate blood, they automatically are tested for AIDS. If the test comes out positive, they are contacted.

Michael Gardner, assistant coordinator for the Brazos County AIDS Helpline, said that although the Health Center does offer a free and confidential blood test for the HIV antibody, he does not recommend that anyone be tested there.

The Health Center does not include the results in a patient's official medical record — the results are put in a locked file instead.

Gardner said such a procedure is risky.

"Assuming that the records are completely inaccessible, there is still the risk of a court-ordered subpoena," he said. "In that event, the staff would have no legal choice but to turn over the records."

"The local branch of the State Department of Health offers anonymous testing, which assures that nowhere, not even under lock and key, is there a record with your name on it," Gardner said.

The HIV test results don't always mean much.

The American College Health Association says that the presence of HTLV-III antibodies means that a person has been infected with the AIDS virus, but it does not tell whether the person is still infected. Also, not everyone who is exposed to the virus develops AIDS.

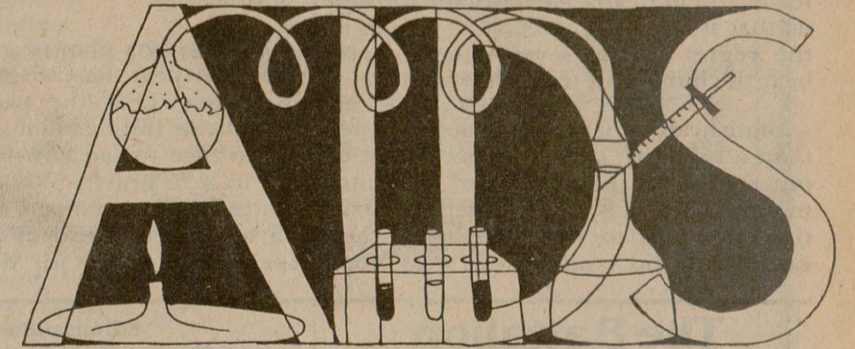
The antibody test screens donated blood and plasma and helps to prevent AIDS cases which result from blood transfusions or the use of infected blood products.

The ACHA says that there is not a danger of contracting AIDS by donating blood. They emphasize that the need for blood is acute, and individuals who are not at risk for having AIDS are urged to continue donating blood.

Donating time and energy, researchers continue to search for a cure for AIDS.

Gardner said that transmission is possible only through contact with infected blood, semen, vaginal secretions, feces and urine with blood.

The ACHA says that drugs have been found that inhibit the AIDS virus, but they do not lead to clinical improvement. Although treatment



Graphic by Kelly Morgan

to restore the immune system of an AIDS patient has not yet been discovered, they say doctors have been successful in using radiation, drugs and surgery to treat some of the illnesses individuals with AIDS have.

Eventually, the ACHA says, an effective therapy may be a combination chemotherapy to be used to combat the virus and restore proper functioning of the immune system.

Until a vaccine is discovered to prevent infection by the AIDS virus, everyone should take preventative measures, the Public Health Service says.

The Service recommends the fol-

lowing steps to prevent the spread of AIDS:

- Do not have sexual contact with persons known or suspected to have AIDS.
- Do not have sex with multiple partners or with persons who have had multiple partners.
- Persons who are at increased risk for having AIDS should not donate blood.
- Physicians should order blood transfusions for patients only when medically necessary.
- Don't abuse intravenous drugs.
- Don't have sex with people who abuse IV drugs.