

New York city maps gridlocked with names

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK— It has clogged the city's map, lightened the city's purse and burdened the city's signposts.

But the City Council just can't stop renaming streets after people — war heroes, statesman, martyrs, Regis Philbin.

"Regis Philbin?" asks cartographer Al Perri, keeper of the increasingly cluttered city map.

Last summer he was amazed when part of Cruger Avenue in the Bronx was renamed for the talk show host, who grew up there.

"At this rate," he predicts, "we'll have a city covered with street signs!"

The trend concerns Perri, who has had to shoehorn the new street names into city maps, including — until recently — its intricate zoning charts.

The longer the honorary name, the harder his job.

Try squeezing "Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Pl." (East 43rd between Lexington and Third) into a space smaller than an inch.

Officials put end to smuggling ring

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL PASO— Fourteen people have been arrested on charges of smuggling dozens of Chinese citizens into the country illegally, federal officials said Wednesday.

The arrests wrapped up a two-and-a-half-month investigation that showed immigrants would pledge \$36,000 each to be smuggled into the United States. Unknown amounts were pledged by immigrants who were moved through Mexico and into the United States.

"This was big business," said David Ham, supervisor of the anti-smuggling unit of the Border Patrol that sent undercover agents to act as drivers for the smuggling ring.

The immigrants were flown from China to Hong Kong and then to Paris. From Paris they were flown to Brazil and finally Belize.

They went from Belize to Mexico and traveled north to the Ciudad Juarez-El Paso border.

They crossed into the United States mainly through holes in a fence separating an El Paso high school from the Rio Grande.

Some of the people were delivered to undercover agents at the school's football stadium parking lot.

From El Paso they were taken to various U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, New York, Houston

and Portland. Also arrested in the investigation were 21 illegal immigrants. Agents seized \$36,000 and four vehicles.

The last arrest was made Oct. 16.

Ubaldo Gamboa-Tapia, 34, of Mexico City, is accused of being the person who moved the immigrants through Mexico.

"Even as we were (arresting) his compadres here, he was continuing to bring them up," said Mike Connell, assistant chief in the anti-smuggling unit.

"It was very lucrative," Ham said.

Agents believe Gamboa-Tapia was a key person in the Mexico smuggling ring.

"The sad thing is about this is the people we're catching are responsible for the transportation into the United States, but we don't have access to the people in China. They're the ones making all the money."

The immigrants likely would end up working in sweatshops or restaurants to earn the \$36,000 they owed the Chinese smuggling ring that got them out of China.

"I had one alien in Portland who thought he could make that money in three years," Ham said.

The El Border Patrol also worked with anti-smuggling units in Los Angeles and Immigration and Naturalization Service investigators in Portland, Ore.

Canadian man convicted of 1975 murder receives stay of execution

Judge extends killer's life to review 'conclusions of law'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE — A Canadian man awaiting execution this week for killing a Texas woman in 1975 has had his death date moved to December.

Joseph Faulder, 54, was scheduled for lethal injection early Friday for the stabbing death of Inez Phillips, 75, of Gladewater.

Judge Gary Stephens, a visiting judge in Longview, this week moved Faulder's execution date to Dec. 4. Assistant Attorney General Bill Zapalac said Wednesday.

"Additional time will be required to prepare a written finding of facts and conclusions of law," Stephens wrote in a brief order.

Faulder has had several of the postponements, known as date modifications. Such delays are not unusual in Texas death penalty cases. Faulder's case has attracted the attention of death penalty opponents and Canadian authorities, who say the execution would be an apparent violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Under the treaty, Texas authorities should have informed Faulder of his right to contact the Canadian government for help and should have informed the Canadian consulate of Faulder's detention.

Faulder was in a Texas prison for 15 years before

the Canadian government and his family, who believed he was dead, learned of his whereabouts.

State authorities contended Faulder was carrying an American state's driver's license at the time of his arrest and had applied for a Texas license. Although officials were aware he had ties to Canada and even had served prison time there, it was not immediately certain he was a citizen, Zapalac said.

Faulder was convicted of breaking into Phillips' home because he believed she had money hidden in a floor safe. When he found no money, prosecutors said he stole other household valuables, including the woman's wedding ring.

Phillips was bound and gagged with tape and beaten on the head with a blackjack. She also was stabbed with a knife, which was left imbedded in her chest.

Faulder, who has refused repeated requests for interviews while on death row, was charged with the killing nearly two years later while being held on an unrelated charge in Colorado.

His first conviction and death sentence was thrown out by an appeals court. A second trial resulted in another death sentence.

Records show the former auto mechanic had served time in prison from 1956 to 1961 in Manitoba and British Columbia.

Prescription drugs more expensive in U.S., congressional study says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON— Prescription drugs cost an average of 32 percent more in the United States than in Canada, according to a congressional study released Wednesday.

The difference in manufacturers' prices is due not to variations in the drug makers' costs, but rather to Canadian government programs that use mass buying power and regulation to limit pre-

scription prices, the study said.

The General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, surveyed manufacturers' prices for 121 of the most frequently prescribed drugs. While a few drugs were cheaper in the United States, most were substantially more expensive.

One drug used for control of angina, Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories' Isordil, cost more than nine times as much in the United States as in Canada.

Antibiotics, pain relievers, birth

control pills, anti-depressants and other preparations were among those that cost more.

"Once again, the United States is behind the rest of the world in providing affordable health care to our people," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who asked the GAO for the study.

"Canada has found ways to control prescription drug prices," said Waxman, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health and the environment.

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