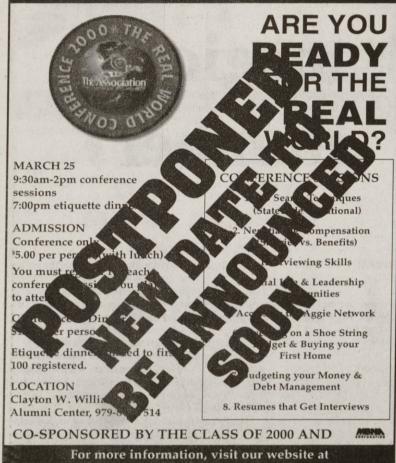


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# Police shooting case examined for racist motives

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) - Police were accustomed to being called to Fidas Restaurant, a late-night diner where people gathered, and often brawled, when the nightclubs closed.

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But one night in January, a disturbance didn't end with the usual roundup of troublemakers.

An off-duty African-American officer rushed to aid two white officers, who mistook him for a suspect and shot him to death.

The debate over whether prejudice or bad judgment was to blame has reached Washington, where Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., has asked the Congressional Black Caucus to examine the case. On Monday, he will introduce legislation that would create a task force to study racism in police departments and other government agencies.

'This is not a problem with Rhode Island. It is a national problem," said Joseph Almeida, an African-American state representative and former Providence police officer. "Somebody should not have to have died to bring this up.

The victim, Sgt. Cornel Young Jr., 29, was the son of Maj. Cornel Young, the highest-ranking black member of the Providence force. Maj. Young has said he has reached no conclusion about the case. But the slain officer's mother has.

"Racism exists," said Leisa Young, a community college counselor. "Is it as blatant as the Ku Klux Klan burning their cross on your lawn? No. But people have their perceptions of things. Because of where it was, the side of town, and the fact that my son was black affected what those officers saw." Young was one of 33 African-Americans on a po-

lice force of 470, which puts their percentage in the department at 7 percent. In the 1990 census, they made up nearly 15 percent of Providence's 161,000 residents. The officers' defenders say inexperience played a

"[Racism] is a national problem. Somebody should not have to have died to bring this up."

- Joseph Almeida R.I. state representative and former police officer

big role in the shooting. Officer Michael Solitro had been on patrol just seven nights. His partner, Officer Carlos Saraiva, had been on the force three years.

Saraiva's attorney, Joseph Penza, said the shooting wasn't racially motivated. But he said he couldn't comment further because a grand jury is investigating.

Civil rights leaders have pointed out that Saraiva graduated in the same 48-member Police Academy class as Young and have said the officer should have recognized him.

Young was in street clothes when he stoppeda diner after midnight on Jan. 28. Two women start fight, and the night manager ordered everyone out When the two officers arrived, they said they sawan with a gun.

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Young apparently saw the confrontation unfold drew his own gun and rushed outside to confro suspect, Aldrin Diaz. The officers said Young dd identify himself as a policeman and did not respo their repeated calls to drop his weapon, so they sho

When news of Young's death spread through city, civil rights leaders and others began question first quietly then through protests and vigils, what Rhode Island law enforcement could be trusted to vestigate two of its own.

Adding to the critics' suspicions, Diaz was charge with murder because prosecutors said he displayed in the confrontation that ended in Young's death. D lawyers say police used their client as a scapegoa

State Attorney General Sheldon Whitehou created a commission to study police relations minorities. But Whitehouse has refused to appo independent investigator, angering many com leaders.

It all came at an especially sensitive time. State lice were objecting to a just-introduced bill that we study racial profiling. Another lawmaker drew crit for proposing eliminating the word "plantations M freshma the official state name - State of Rhode Islanda Providence Plantations. He said "plantations" conju up images of slavery.

# Teamsters strike causes snack shortage

**Twinkie trouble** A Teamsters strike has hurt East Coast junkfood junkies where they live. Weekly deliveries of about 2 million Twinkies and other baked goods, such as Yodels and Ring Dings, have dried up as bakeries have shut down. For those that can't do without, here's a recipe for a simulation of that staple American snack.



Cooking supplies Twinkle-sized bot sized bottle Twelve pieces of aluminum foi Pastry Bag

Cake ingredients 4 egg whites One 16-oz. box golden cake mix 2/3 cup water Nonstick spray Filling ingredients 2 Tbsp. butter

2 Tbsp. butter 1/3 cup vegetable shortening 1 cup powdered sugar 1/4 cup granulated sugar 1/3 cup evaporated milk 1 tsp. vanilla extract 2 drops lemon extract

Directions Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Make molds by folding foil around bottle, leaving the top open. Arrange on a cookle sheet and apply nonstick spray. Beat egg whites until stiff, then combine with cake mix and blend. Fill each mold 3/4-inch deep with batter and bake about 30 minutes. G cream butter and shortening. G Enjoy!

BOSTON (AP) — Forget the high gas prices. Folks along the East Coast are swallowing bitter news this week: There is a shortage of Twinkies and other snack-food favorites, courtesy of a labor dispute.

Supply problems are being reported from the nation's capital to Maine, wreaking havoc on untold snack breaks.

"I'll have to eat healthy food," complained Rubens Breeden, a 28-year-old state worker longing for Ring Dings and Devil Dogs on Tuesday.

Charlie Bianchi, who works at a snack bar in one of the busiest state office buildings, has faced the wrath of the hungry masses.

"All day long, they're saying, 'Where's my Twinkies? Where's my coffee cake? Where's my pound cake? Where's my Devil Dogs? Where's my Yodels? Where's my Ring Dings?" Bianchi said.

"They're ready to kill. They look at me with doubt in their eyes. They think that I forgot to place the order. It's always the coffee slinger's fault," said Bianchi, 42, assistant manager of Hal's Place.

Actually, a Teamsters strike has led to shortages in a variety of well-known bakery products, including Wonder bread and Hostess brands such as Twinkies.

As shelves empty across the region, the area will have to do without deliveries of about 2 million Twinkies and cupcakes per week and another 400,000 loaves of Wonder bread, a company official estimated.

The strike began a week ago when 1,400 Teamsters responsible for delivery and sales of products from Interstate Bakeries Co.'s only New England bakery in Biddeford,

Since then, that bakery and others have shut down as Teamsters in other states honored the pickets. Interstate Bakeries officials say five bakeries in four states have closed.

The union has accused the company of refusing to honor arbitration rulings. The company maintains it was shut out of the arbitration process, and it has asked a judge to clarify the process.

One of the major sticking points has been the company's requirement that drivers deliver more than one brand of Interstate products. The Teamsters say drivers are supposed to be paid different amounts for each brand.

All of this comes as the Twinkie, the yellow, spongy, cream-filled cake, approaches its 70th anniversary next month.

Some people are already seeking to make a buck off of the Twinkie crisis. What was billed as "The last box of Twinkies known to Man?" was being offered on the Internet auction site eBay, with the minimum bid set at \$2,500. There were no takers late Tuesday.

Pamela Anderson, a mother of two, picked up some of the last Twinkies at a gas station in Concord. N.H.

"I say they're for my kids, but they're really for me," she said.

Lisa Towne, a dental hygienist with Aesthetic Dental Center in Concord, saw a bright side to the strike: "The dental community might even benefit."

In downtown Boston, shelves usually occupied by Hostess products were bare or getting there quickly.

To Breeden, the Massachusetts state worker, eating Twinkies and other snack cakes is just part of growing up American.

in water wells The Texas LOS ANGELES (AP) - Abou one-third of drinking water wells in 31 states may be contaminated with and women the gasoline additive MTBE, accord-Quadrangular

**MTBE** found

ing to a study released Wednesday. ts second we The federal government already is acting to ban use of the chemical. ate Univers Researchers with the U.S. Geo-

logical Survey and the Oregon Grad Oklahoma U uate Institute's Department of Envi- squad --- but pronmental Study found about 9,000 to build into the of 26,000 wells looked at were with With only in a kilometer of a leaking fuel tank, them, the team head researcher John Zogorski said al qualifying

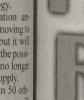
But Zogorski said it's likely that The men' not all of the 9,000 wells are contam-Sophomore E nated with MTBE, or methyl tertiary sional mar butyl ether. access from

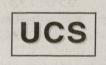
'We like to say a significant but relay team o currently unknown number of community water supply wells may be a sophomore risk," he said. "The number 9,000 is so large that the number of wells that may be affected may well be worrisome."

The study omitted 19 states, including California and Texas, because they lacked needed information on well sites. The study was posted in the online edition of the journal Environmental Science & Technology.

The Clinton administration announced Monday that it is moving to ban MTBE from gasoline, but it will take at least a decade before the possi bly carcinogenic substance no longer poses a threat to the water supply

The study and more than 50 othrs on MTBE be presented this weekend in San Francisco during the national meeting of the American Chemical Society MTBE has been used in gasoli for two decades to limit air pollution It is hardly the only carcinogenic pollutant to be found in leaking underground fuel tanks. But other po lutants, like benzene, "tend to absort more toward soil and degrade much faster," Zogorski said.





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> Women's Lives, Women's Voices, **Women's Solutions**

### Shaping a National Agenda for Women in Higher Education

Join us for an exciting national teleconference sponsored by the University of Minnesota, which seeks to actively involve women throughout the country through a network of local caucus sessions

March 27<sup>th</sup>: Women's Voices: Imagining Ourselves into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century The teleconference will open with a keynote address by Johnetta Cole, Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women's Studies, and African American Studies at Emory University. Dr. Cole's address will be followed by a panel discussion of issues facing women in higher education. Noon - 2:00, 501 Rudder Tower Bring a Brown Bag Lunch, Refreshments Provided

### March 28th: Local Caucus Session

Meet with other women from the TAMU campus to identify and discuss issues of importance to women at Texas A&M. Our issues and strategies will be forwarded to the national site for inclusion in the national agenda. 11:45 - 1:30, 502 Rudder Tower Bring a Brown Bag Lunch, Refreshments Provided

March 29th: "Women's Solutions: Setting a National Agenda" A moderator and four panels of women from four sites around the nation will synthesize feedback from the local caucus sessions 10:00 - Noon, 501 Rudder Tower, Refreshments Provided



For more information, contact Anne Peterson at 845-2111 or dap@tamu.edu

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### News in Brief

**Mistress gets land** 

HELENA, Mont. (AP) - A judge Wednesday awarded the Montana fishing retreat of the late CBS correspondent Charles Kuralt to his longtime secret mistress.

A letter Kuralt wrote to Patricia Shannon two weeks before he died in 1997 clearly expressed his wish that she have the 90 acres along the Big Hole River after his death, state District Judge John Christensen said.

Kuralt's two children had argued that the letter merely expressed Kuralt's intention to someday draft a

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will giving Shannon the property, which includes a former one-room schoolhouse and was valued at \$600.000.

Four months earlier, he had given Shannon 20 acres and the fishing cabin the two of them had built on the banks of the fishing stream. Shannon still lives there.

### Subway murder retried

NEW YORK (AP) - Revenge, not mental illness, drove a man to shove a woman to her death in front of a subway train, prosecutors said during closing arguments during his second murder trial. The

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defense said he suffered a mental 'earthquake.

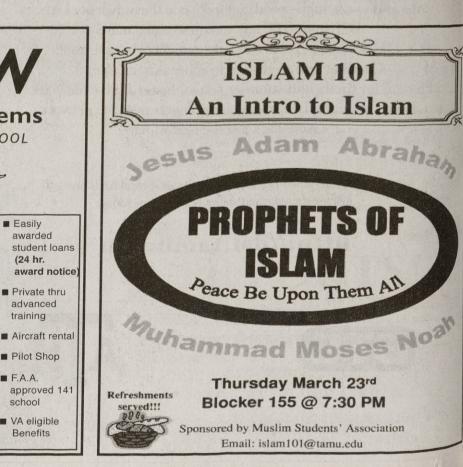
A jury began deliberations Wednesday on the fate of Andrew Goldstein in the death of Kendra Webdale on Jan. 3, 1999, two weeks after he was released from a mental hospital.

The jury in his first trial deadlocked and a mistrial was declared, with two jurors maintaining that Goldstein wasn't criminally liable for the death.

Violence is not a symptom of schizophrenia, the prosecution argued, quoting a prosecution psychiatrist.

Many variables play a role in de termining whether MTBE will make it into a well, Zogorski said.

"Pumping excessively makes the situation worse," said Zogorski, from the Geological Survey. "It draws down contamination into the well. If the pump rate is low, typically the plume (of MTBE) passes right by."



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