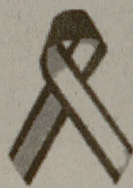
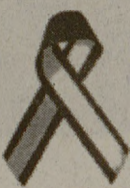


Bonfire Remembrance Ceremony



November 18, 2:42 a.m.

The MSC will provide a positive environment for students to gather and share in the Aggie Spirit. Prior to the ceremony, a wide variety of free, constructive activities are planned and professional counseling will be available.

•Dominoes, Cards, and Food
9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
MSC Hullabaloo

•Free Bowling and Pool
9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
MSC Basement

•Crafts: Painting and Card Center
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
MSC 212

•MSC Tours
Every Thirty Minutes
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

•Ceremony Cards
MSC Hallway
MSC Flagroom
Rudder Fountain

•Scripture and Prayer Service
University Lutheran Chapel
315 College Main, 12:42 a.m.

•Bonfire Remembrance Prayer Vigil
12:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
St. Mary's Catholic Center
603 Church Avenue

•"Fearless Witness"
Baptist Student Ministry
Saturday, November 18
Call 846-7722

•Forrest Gump &
Bonfire Benefit Concert
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Rudder Auditorium

•Camaraderie Breakfast
11:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
MSC 12th Man

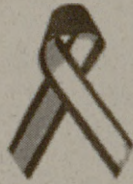
•Bingo
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
MSC 224

•Vocal Performances
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
MSC Flagroom

•Poetry Reading:
Poems from
Last November
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
MSC Flagroom

•Wesley Foundation
7:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m.
201 Tauber Street
Pastor Available

•Bonfire Service
Thursday, November 16
at the Bonfire Site
Episcopal Student Center &
Episcopal Churches of Bryan and
College Station



3 LAPD police officers convicted of conspiracy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three officers accused of framing gang members were convicted of conspiracy and other crimes Wednesday in the first trial resulting from the biggest police corruption scandal in Los Angeles history.

After weighing testimony from a parade of gang members and police officers, the Superior Court jury found Sgts. Brian Liddy and Edward Ortiz and Officer Michael Buchanan, guilty. A fourth officer, Paul Harper, was acquitted of all charges.

"There's good cops and there's bad cops," said jury foreman Victor Flores. "A lot of us on the jury felt that they just didn't happen to cover themselves enough and they never thought it would come back to haunt them."

The convicted officers face one to four years in prison at sentencing Jan. 16. Defense attorneys said they will appeal.

"There's been so much publicity about the Rampart scandal the jury might be afraid if they came in with all not guilty's, people would think it was the O.J. jury," said Harland Braun, who represented Buchanan.

The scandal, centered within the anti-gang unit at the LAPD's Rampart station, involves allegations that officers framed gang members, planted evidence, committed perjury and even shot innocent victims.

The scandal has led to the dismissal of about 100 criminal cases tainted by police testimony. Dozens of officers have quit or have been fired or suspended. According to some estimates, it may cost the city \$125 million to settle lawsuits resulting from the scandal.

The first trial was considered an important test that could determine whether prosecutors would go forward with cases against more officers. So far, only one other officer has been charged and is awaiting trial.

The partial convictions were a victory for District Attorney Gil Garcetti, who lost his re-election bid one day before the case went to the jury. He had been criticized for pursuing a case that appeared thin, and he was still stinging from losing the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

"The issues in this case go to the very heart of the criminal justice system," Garcetti said. "We must be able to depend on the honesty of all police officers."

Prosecutors had pressed forward with the trial despite losing their star witness: Rafael Perez, a disgraced former cop whose allegations started the scandal last year.

Perez turned informant in exchange for leniency. He was caught stealing \$1 million worth of cocaine from a police evidence room.

He was expected to be the top prosecution witness until he demanded immunity from murder allegations, now recanted — made by an ex-lover. The jury was already deliberating when Sonia Flores said she made the story about bodies buried in Tijuana, Mexico, because Perez had spurned her.

Without Perez, prosecutors were forced to rely on members with credibility problems and police officers who said they knew little if anything about the charges.

Ortiz, 44, said he was baffled by the verdicts.

"I still believe in this day that we are innocent and that we did our job to keep the citizens of L.A. keep the streets safe from all the gangs and the crime that's going on out there," he said.

Barry Levin, Ortiz's lawyer, said he should have tried to move the case out of Los Angeles. "I was definitely an officer that had already been found guilty in the minds of, not only the jurors, but the public," he said.

The four men were accused of wrongdoing in cases between 1996 and 1998. In one incident, an officer was accused of planting a gun on a gang member. In another, an officer allegedly rubbed a gun on a suspect's hand to get his fingerprints and frame him. Liddy and Buchanan were accused of fabricating a story about gang members trying to run them down with a truck.

Besides conspiracy, Liddy and Ortiz were convicted of filing false police reports. Buchanan, 30, and Liddy, 39, were convicted of charges related to their claims about gang members trying to run them down.

The defense called only the defendants and one agent-reconstruction expert.

A former partner of Perez is awaiting trial on a attempted murder charges in the next Rampart case. Officer Nino Durden is accused of shooting a handcuffed suspect and leaving him paralyzed.

"The issues in this case go to the very heart of the criminal justice system."

— Gil Garcetti
District Attorney

Television companies face minority issues

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Major broadcast networks have included more blacks in their shows but otherwise failed to live up to agreements earlier this year to provide more ethnically diverse programming, a coalition of civil rights groups said Tuesday.

The pictures at ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox remain largely black and white to the detriment of Asian-Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans, the coalition of the NAACP and others contend.

"There is no progress in terms of Latino representation in the media," Raul Yzaguirre of the National Latino Media Council told a news conference.

The NAACP, while lauding the increased hiring of blacks in acting and other behind-the-scenes jobs this season, said the coalition remains undaunted in its effort to make TV truly inclusive.

"We don't want them (the networks) to think hiring African-Americans will appease the entire minority community," said NAACP spokeswoman Debbie Liu, adding that there is still room for improvement for black representation.

Karen Narasaki of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium offered a dismal "report card" grading networks on their inclusion of Asian-Americans. The highest grade was a "D-plus" for NBC, which features a handful of actors such as Ming-Na in "ER." CBS got an "F." ABC and Fox both received "D-minuses."

She also blasted the networks for missing opportunities to make the casts of shows such as "Welcome to N.Y.," which is set in a conspicuously multicultural city, more diverse.

Last winter, the coalition secured agreements from the four networks to increase the number of minorities on-screen and development deals with writers and producers.

The deals were reached in January and February after separate discussions between the coalition groups and the networks. The agreements generally did not include specific numbers that could provide a benchmark for progress.

The networks opened negotiations with civil rights groups after the NAACP floated the threat of a TV boycott or legal action because of the lack of minority actors on the fall 1999 schedule of new shows.

The networks say they are trying to change. "Diversity remains an important initiative for us here at ABC," said John Rose, who is directing the network's diversity effort. "We've done a lot and made significant progress, but we realize more has to be done."

He said the network has started a talent development initiative that has enlisted educators and nonprofit groups to "nurture and support" minority writers and directors.

News in Brief Man indicted for three sex killings

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — A man was accused Wednesday of three sex killings dating to 1987 after investigators used new DNA technology to link the crimes.

The indictment against Patrick Baxter, 31, was unsealed in Westchester County Court. His attorney entered a plea of innocent.

Baxter is accused of killing a 14-year-old girl in 1987, a 15-year-old woman in 1988 and a 25-year-old woman in 1990.

DNA evidence from semen was recovered at each crime scene in Westchester County but the cases had not been linked because the DNA sample from the 1987 scene was too small to be tested until recently.

The county forensics lab determined this year that the same person was involved in the 1987 and 1990 killings, and the district attorney's office obtained a court order for a DNA test of Baxter, who had been a suspect.

Baxter was already serving a prison term for reckless endangerment and possession of stolen property.

Police officials said in June that the DNA linked Baxter to the killings, but he was not charged at that time.

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