Two dead in North Carolina factory fire

KINSTON, N.C. (AP) — An explosion followed by a raging fire demolished a plastics factory Wednesday, killing at least two people and injuring at least 37. Three others were feared missing in the burning ruins, which sent a black, acrid smoke billowing over the countryside.

There were conflicting reports on the number of casualties, but Gov. Mike Easley and Mayor Johnnie Mosley later said two deaths had been confirmed. The mayor also said three people were unaccounted for.

Plant manager Thomas Clagon appealed to workers to check in to help figure out who was still missing.

The cause of the thunderous blast at the West Pharmaceutical Services plant was not immediately known. The factory, which made syringe plungers and IV supplies, was cited for numerous safety violations last fall.

Workers who escaped the fireball and the choking smoke said they thought the factory was under terrorist attack. Sampson Heath said the explosion on the other side of the factory sent a plume of fire toward his work station and knocked him off his feet.

When he stood up, he saw wires and tiles hanging from the ceiling and he could hear trapped co-workers screaming for help.

"Your life did flash before your eyes," Heath said as he stood in the yard of a church, getting hugs and kisses from relatives.

The first emergency crews on the scene said they repeatedly rescued workers who were dangling from steel beams. Many had third-degree burns.

KRT CAMP

Fire fighters battle a blaze resulting from an explosion at the West Pharmaceuticals Plant in Kinston, N.C. on Jan. 29.

The Red Cross said at least 37 people were injured, some of them critically.

The blast was felt for miles and the building was still burning seven hours later, with the smoke punctuated by exploding fireballs. Nearby trees and brush were aflame.

"The damage is catastrophic to the building," said Greg Smith, operations chief of the Kinston Public Safety Department. "The structure is so compromised that you just can't enter and walk around."

Emergency officials urged residents within a mile of the plant to evacuate because of the smoke, which included fumes from burning plastic. Lee Edwards, who lives a tenth of a mile from the plant, said the blast sent debris from two 800-foot water towers flying through the air.

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Doctor indicted for dilution

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A urologist was charged Wednesday with watering down an expensive drug used to treat people with advanced cases of prostate cancer.

Victor Souaid, 40, of Lighthouse Point is charged in the 60-count indictment with health care fraud, product tampering and the wholesale distribution of prescription drugs without a license.

Authorities say Souaid failed to properly administer the drug Lupron to at least 32 patients diagnosed with prostate cancer between July 2000 and November 2001.

Souaid allegedly tampered with and diluted Lupron to inject the drug into more than one patient, the indictment said.

The doctor's attorney, Bert Kuehne, said his client was a highly respected physician who "remains greatly disturbed that the government has charged him with something he didn't do."

Nurse killer executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A former machinist who wrote bad checks to pay for massage treatment at a Beaumont clinic was executed Wednesday night for gunning down the clinic owner and another woman there nearly 1 1/2 years ago.

Richard Dinkins declined to make a final statement, responding to the warden, "No sir," when asked if he wanted to say anything.

In a written statement, however, he asked for forgiveness and expressed regrets

Dinkins was the fifth Texas inmate to receive lethal injection this year and the second of three on consecutive evenings this week.

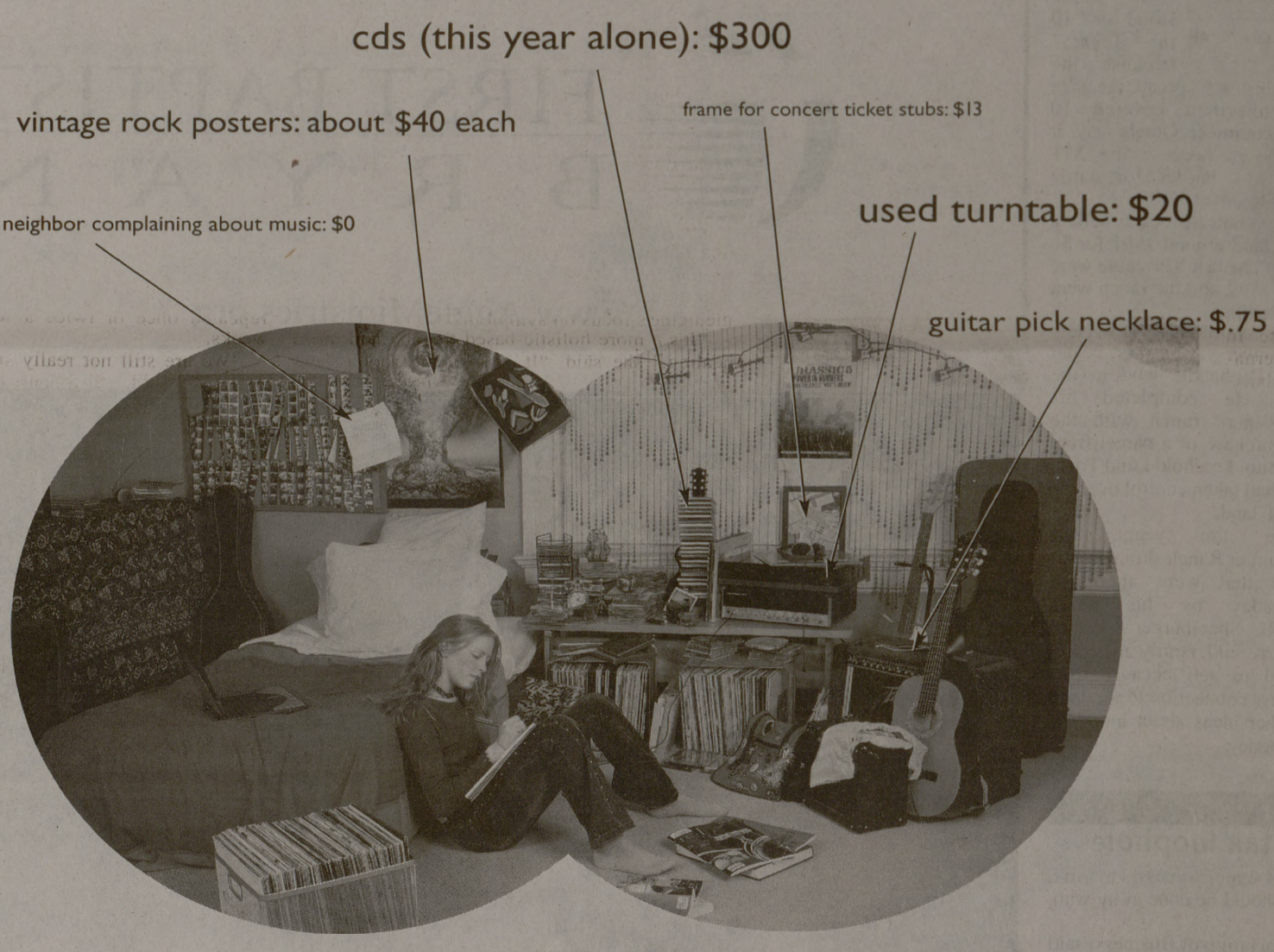
A smoke alarm brought emergency workers to the massage therapy clinic. When they arrived, instead of discovering evidence of a fire, they found the two fatally wounded women.

Dinkins, 40, contended his gun "just went off" during a struggle that left clinic owner and nurse Katherine Thompson, 44, dead.

Prosecutors say the shooting moments later of the second woman, Shelly Cutler, 32, convinced them and jurors that Dinkins should go to death row.

Evidence showed Cutler, an Idaho-based traveling nurse who was filling out paperwork as a prospective patient when gunfire erupted, ran to an office, closing the door behind her.

Dinkins fled, and the smoke from the gunfire was believed to have tripped the fire alarm.



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Official Rules. No Purchase Necessary to Enter or Win. Eligibility: Open to legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia who are 18 to 25 years of age and are enrolled as full- or part-time undergraduate students in a U.S. Department of Education accredited 2-year or 4-year college/university as of 1/28/03 and at the time of winner selection and notification. Employees of MasterCard International Incorporated ("Sponsor"), MasterCard member financial institutions, Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., MLB Advanced Media, L. 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This Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited. **How to Enter:** 1.) Visit www.mastercard.com and click on the MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ icon between 9:00:01AM Central Time ("CT") on 1/28/03 and 8:59:59AM CT on 4/11/03 ("Promotion Period"); 2.) Click on the icon representing your preferred MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ course of study: Sports Management or Music & Entertainment (collectively "course of study"); 3.) To access the application form for your selected course of study, click on the "Apply Now" button or register for one of six free course of study specific MasterCard Priceless Edge™ online distance-learning seminars developed by NEXTMOVE and complete the selected seminar. Participating distance-learning seminars are approximately thirty minutes in duration and academic prerequisites are not required for participation; 4.) Submit an essay of no more than (250) words answering the question for your selected course of study. Essay questions for each course of study are as follows: *Sports Management:* If you could start a new professional sports business, what would it be, and why? *Music & Entertainment:* If you could start your own music or entertainment company, what would it do and how would it be different? The entry must be your original creation, in English and cannot have been previously published or submitted in any prior competition. Modification of an existing work does not qualify as original; 5.) Fully complete the online entry form; and 6.) Click the "Submit" button. **Limit one entry per person and per e-mail address for each selected course of study for the duration of the Promotion Period (i.e. a maximum of one Sports Management and one Music & Entertainment essay). Additional entries received from such person and/or e-mail address thereafter will be void.** Your submission of an online entry constitutes your consent to participate in this Contest and your consent for Sponsor to obtain and deliver your name, address and other information to PST for the purpose of administering this Contest and for other uses by Sponsor as permitted by applicable law. Sponsor is not responsible for lost, incomplete, late, stolen, or misdirected entries or submissions; theft, destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries; failures or malfunctions of phones, phonelines or telephone systems; interrupted or unavailable network, server or other connections; any error, omission, interruption, defect or delay in any transmission or communication; traffic congestion on the Internet or for any technical problem, including but not limited to any injury or damage to entrant's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation in this Contest; errors in these Official Rules, in any Contest-related advertisements or other materials; the selection or announcement of winners or the awarding of prizes; the cancellation, suspension or modification of online distance-learning seminars, or other problems or errors of any kind whether mechanical, human, electronic or otherwise. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to void any and all entries of an entrant who Sponsor believes has attempted to tamper with or impair the administration, security, fairness, or proper play of this Contest. The use of automated entry devices is prohibited. All entries will become the property of Sponsor and will not be returned. **Judging:** A total of (96) winners [(50) Sports Management Winners and (48) Music & Entertainment Winners] will be selected for the duration of the Promotion Period based on the date and time entry is received in accordance with the Entry Periods outlined below beginning at 9:00:01AM CT and ending at 8:59:59AM CT respectively: Entry Period #1: 1/28/03-2/20/03, (16) Sports Management Winners, (16) Music & Entertainment Winners. Entry Period #2 : 2/21/03-3/17/03, (17) Sports Management Winners, (16) Music & Entertainment Winners. Entry Period #3: 3/18/03-4/11/03, (17) Sports Management Winners, (16) Music & Entertainment Winners. Entries received for each respective course of study during one Entry Period will not carry forward to subsequent Entry Periods. Entries will be judged by an independent panel of judges supervised by PST (an independent judging organization whose decisions will be final and binding in all matters relating to this Contest) based on the following criteria: 1.) Originality: 0-40 points; 2.) Creativity/Written Expression: 0-30 points; and 3.) Relevance to the theme: 0-30 points. The likelihood of winning a prize will depend on the quality of each entrant's submission as compared to the quality of all other entrants' submissions as judged in accordance with the aforementioned criteria. In the event of a tie, all such tied entries will be rejudged based on Originality: 0-100 points. If a tie still exists, the remaining tied entries will be rejudged based on Relevance to theme: 0-100 points. Winners will be notified by telephone and/or mail on or about 5/2/03. Neither Sponsor, nor anyone acting on its behalf, will enter into any communications with any entrant regarding any aspect of this Contest other than to notify potential winners. Limit one prize per person, family, or household. **Prizes:** (50) Sports Management Winners & (48) Music & Entertainment Winners: Attend the MasterCard Priceless Edge™ Summer Study Program (hereinafter "summer study program") at a participating university to be designated by Sponsor between 6/2/03 and 7/3/03 featuring an introduction to each winner's selected course of study (either the Sports Management or Music & Entertainment industry) with access to select industry experts designated by Sponsor, specialized curricula, classroom sessions four days/week (Monday-Thursday) and off-campus excursions one day/week (Friday). Prize includes round-trip coach air transportation from major airport nearest each winner's residence in the U.S., standard double-occupancy room/board on participating university's campus, on-campus meal plan designated by Sponsor, ground transportation to/from off-campus excursions, $1,000 which may be used toward spending money, and the opportunity to compete for one of twelve MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ post summer study internship invitations for each respective course of study (Approximate Summer Study Program Retail Value "ARV"=$6,700). Total ARV of all prizes=$656,600. The MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Sports Management internship experience consists of (but is not limited to) the opportunity to join a MLB™ Club designated solely by Sponsor and participate in a two-week internship at said MLB™ Club's administrative offices to support the development and implementation of an in-stadium promotion. The MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Music & Entertainment internship experience consists of (but is not limited to) the opportunity to join Interscope Records and participate in a two-week internship at their administrative offices in Santa Monica, CA to manage and promote the release and media support of an artist/group to be determined solely by Sponsor. Both the Sports Management and Music & Entertainment internship experiences will also include a 5-day/4-night trip for intern to the 2003 MLB™ All-Star Game® in Chicago, IL between 7/12/03 and 7/16/03 consisting of round-trip coach air transportation from major airport nearest intern's residence in the U.S., standard double-occupancy hotel accommodations, a total of $1,000 spending money, a ticket to both the 2003 CENTURY 21® Home Run Derby® event and the 2003 MLB™ All-Star Game® exhibition, ground transportation to/from select promotion-related events, and other on-site activities to be determined by Sponsor. Prize and internship details not specifically set forth herein are at Sponsor's sole discretion. Exact dates of internship experience (tentatively early August 2003) to be designated by Sponsor. Internship selections will be conducted by the Dean of the summer study program and judged by a participating university faculty representative designated by Sponsor whose decisions are final and binding in all matters relating to the production internship team and selection thereof. Internship selection process will be based upon numerical scores awarded as outlined below per each student's participation in summer study program activities, including but not limited to, performance during study group activities and case study analysis, teamwork, attendance and overall participation, and compliance with summer study program and University codes of conduct as follows: Issue identification and skill performance: 20%; Case study performance and study group interplay and cooperation: 50%; class and field study attendance/participation: 15%; and compliance with summer study program and university codes of conduct: 15%. Summer study program classroom/off-campus excursion attendance is mandatory and winners must comply with all MasterCard rules and regulations relating to their participation in the summer study program. Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, impose disciplinary sanctions on winners/interns, ranging from a warning to expulsion to referral for state or federal prosecution, for violation of federal, state or local laws, summer study program and participating university student codes of conduct. Content of summer study program to be determined solely by Sponsor and courses are not for credit. Travel restrictions may apply and travel must take place on dates specified by Sponsor or prize will be forfeited and awarded to the runner-up. MLB™ Club(s), artist(s)/group(s), university(s) and/or other organization(s) or personality(s) featured in MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Contest promotional advertising are subject to availability. If any named MLB™ Club(s), artist(s)/group(s), university(s) and/or other organization(s) or personality(s) is unavailable to participate in the capacity specified for any reason, an entity/individual of similar stature as determined by Sponsor will participate in lieu of the applicable named entity and/or individual. **Miscellaneous:** No transfer, assignment, cash redemption, or substitution of prizes except by Sponsor due to prize unavailability, and then for a prize of equal or greater value. Federal, state and local taxes and all other costs and expenses not specified herein are winners' sole responsibility. Winners will be required to execute and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability Release and (where legal) Publicity Release within (3) days of issuance of notification along with a copy of their current college/university transcript and must be in good academic standing as defined by their respective college/university at time of prize award. If any prize notification letter is returned as undeliverable, a runner-up will be awarded the prize. By participating, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and 1.) Attest that their entry is an original creation that has not been previously published or submitted in any other competitions; and 2.) Agree that Released Parties and their designees and assigns: a.) shall own the entry (and all material embodied therein) and shall have the perpetual, worldwide right to edit, publish, exploit and use the entry (or any portion thereof) in any way and in any media for advertising and/or trade purposes and/or for any other purpose in any media or format now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission or notification from/to entrant or any third party; b.) shall have the right and permission (unless prohibited by law) to use entrant's name, voice, city/state of residence, photograph and/or other likeness for advertising and/or trade purposes and/or for the purpose of displaying their name as a winner and/or for any other purpose in any media or format now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission or notification; c.) use of entry shall not violate the right of any third parties and shall not violate any applicable federal, state or local laws or ordinances, d.) shall have the right, in their sole discretion, to disqualify any entries that they deem to be obscene or otherwise not in good taste; e.) shall have no liability and entrant will defend, indemnify and hold harmless Sponsor and the other entities named herein from and against any liability, loss, injury or damage of any kind (including attorney's fees) to any person or entity including, without limitation, personal injury, death or damage to personal or real property, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of a prize or participation in this Contest and any travel related thereto including, but not limited to, any claim that entrant's submission infringes or violates the rights of any person or entity. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify, terminate or suspend this Contest should virus, bugs, nonauthorized human intervention or other causes beyond the reasonable control of Sponsor, including but not limited to war, strikes, and/or acts of God, corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness or proper play of this Contest and, if the Contest is terminated or suspended, at its discretion award prizes in a judging from among all non-suspect entries received prior to event requiring such modification, termination or suspension. **Winners List:** For the winners' names, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by 6/2/03 to: MasterCard® Priceless Edge™ Winners, P.O. Box 13106, Bridgeport, CT 06673-3106.
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