

inter/national news

From Associated Press reports

'Freeway Killer' found guilty

LOS ANGELES

Truck driver William Bonin was found guilty of 10 murders today as the Freeway Killer who sodomized and killed young men and boys in his van and then dumped their bodies near freeways.

Bonin, a 34-year-old twice-paroled sex offender, was acquitted of two killings. The Superior Court jury of seven men and five women found insufficient evidence to prove Bonin guilty in the slayings of Thomas Lundgren and Sean King.

But the jury did find "special circumstances" that may warrant a death penalty if the jury so decides during the penalty phase of the trial.

Bonin sat calmly as court clerk Sandy Montoya read the verdicts one by one in a rollcall of the dead youths. Bonin showed no reaction.

In the front row of the courtroom, relatives of the murder victims gasped as each verdict was read. King's mother collapsed into the arms of another son, apparently dismayed that

the jury had found Bonin innocent in her son's death.

Space shuttle failure diagnosed

WASHINGTON

The fuel cell failure that cut short the space shuttle Columbia's second flight in November may have been caused by a speck of aluminum that apparently blocked a hole only 1/21,000 of an inch wide, space agency technicians have surmised.

When the hole was blocked, a buildup of hydroxide deposits occurred and caused the cell failure, said the technicians who dismantled the fuel cell.

James Kukowski, a spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said Tuesday that the other cells were found to be in excellent condition.

No date has been set for the third flight of the shuttle from its Cape Canaveral, Fla., launchpad, but the goal is sometime in late March.

Ex-Green Beret released on bail

FORT COLLINS, Colo.

Eugene Tafoya, sentenced to two years in prison on a conviction of assault and conspiracy in the shooting of a Libyan dissident, says he is tired of the publicity generated from his trial.

"I just want to go home, get a job and be with mama (his wife)," Tafoya said late Tuesday after his release on \$10,000

bond, pending appeal.

The former Green Beret was convicted for the October 1980 shooting of Colorado State University student Faisal Zagallai. He was sentenced Tuesday by District Judge J. Robert Miller.

Tafoya contended he wasn't a criminal but a patriot on assignment from the CIA when he shot Zagallai, who was blinded in one eye from the attack.

He said he believed he was under orders by the CIA to "rough (Zagallai) up," but shot the Libyan twice in the head in self-defense.

Iraq launches major offensive

NICOSIA, Cyprus

Iraqi and Iranian forces were reported locked in fierce fighting in western Iran, where Iraq claimed its forces launched a major offensive on the eve of its army's 61st anniversary.

Iraq claimed 1,800 Iranian troops were killed, while Iran contended its forces killed 250 Iraqis in fighting that erupted Tuesday in Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar in the Kurdish area of Kermanshah province bordering Iraq.

There has been sporadic fighting in the area about 100 miles northeast of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad since the Iranians launched an offensive last month for strategic hills and highways leading into Iraq. The two countries have been at war for more than 15 months.

Callers claim U.S. general dead

VERONA, Italy

Anonymous callers to Rome newspapers said Wednesday that Red Brigades terrorists had killed kidnapped U.S. Brig. Gen. James Dozier, and his body would be found near at a farmhouse in central Italy.

In past kidnappings, the Red Brigades have said that they had killed their kidnap victims when in fact they had not. Verona police said they were investigating the calls to La Repubblica's Rome and Milan offices and to Il Messaggero's office in Pescara. They gave no other information.

Northern Ireland gets British aid

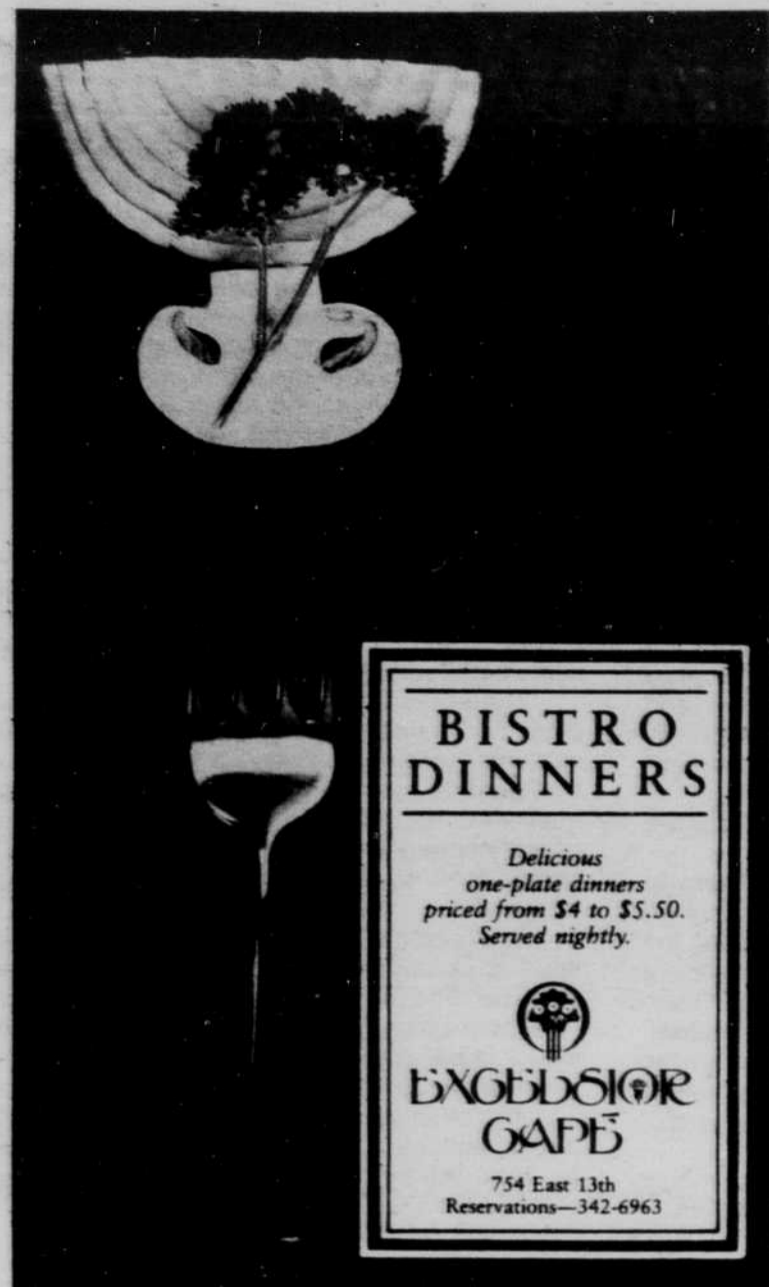
BELFAST, Northern Ireland

The British government Wednesday granted \$173 million in financial aid to Northern Ireland, where one worker in five is unemployed.

Northern Ireland Secretary James Prior said the aim was to create 9,000 jobs and help restore political stability in the British province, where sectarian violence has killed at least 2,170 people since August 1969.

"What I have announced today does, I believe, represent a major response by the government to the particular problems of Northern Ireland," Prior said.

"This package is part of the government's policy to improve the economy and help bring about an end to the violence," he added.



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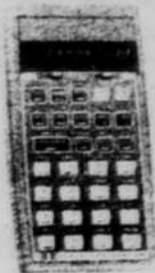
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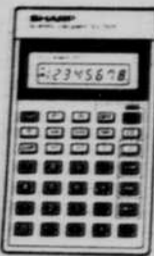


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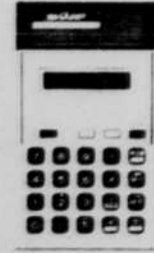
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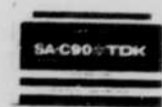
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