

Police report: Witnesses back King



LOS ANGELES (AP) — An internal police report on the videotaped beating of Rodney King says civilian witnesses reported seeing King comply with officers' orders before he was beaten, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Nine witnesses told investigators that King did not exhibit the bizarre behavior officers on the scene described, and that he did not appear to be uncontrollable as the police said.

"It seemed to me he was obeying orders," said Dorothy Shimes, a nurse who lives in an apartment building across the street from where King was stopped.

"They told him to get down on the ground, and I looked and saw him on the ground with his arms spread out," Shimes told the *Pasadena Star-News*.

Shimes said one of the officers appeared out of con-

'He was beating him like you'd use a broom to kill a mouse — taking baseball swings at him.'

— Dorothy Shimes, witness to LA beating

trol to her.

"He was beating him like you'd use a broom to kill a mouse — taking baseball swings at him," she said.

Police spokeswoman Francine Spada declined to comment on the newspaper's account. She said she didn't have access to the police report, which was prepared by the department's internal affairs section.

Shimes' account matches that of other citizen witnesses, including a bus driver who was stopped behind.

Student paper prints anti-Holocaust ad

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — An advertisement claiming the Holocaust was a hoax has been printed in the University of Texas student newspaper after more than a year of debate.

The advertisement appeared in Friday's edition after the board that oversees *The Daily Texan* voted 6-5

to accept it. The panel had rejected two similar ads since the first one was submitted in late 1991.

Staffers said they were deluged Friday with calls and mail expressing outrage.

The ad was submitted by the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, a group claiming the

World War II Holocaust was fabricated to "drum up support for Jewish causes."

Barbara Harberg, director of the southwest regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said publication of the ad was a "sad commentary" on the newspaper.

'USA Today' fines reporter for photo

WASHINGTON (AP) — *USA Today* has taken "significant disciplinary action" against a reporter for his role in arranging a misleading photograph of gang members, the paper's president said Saturday.

"The picture was set up under false pretenses," said Thomas Curley, who declined to provide details on exactly how reporter Richard Price had been disciplined. "That was wrong."

"We took a significant disciplinary action. We feel that we did wrong and that there was an ethical lapse," Curley said.

Price set up a front-page picture published in Tuesday's editions that showed five angry-looking black men with guns for a story about the potential for gang violence in Los Angeles.

Neither the story nor the caption informed readers the men had been assembled by a community activist or that they were to surrender their weapons under a jobs-for-guns program. Likewise, neither mentioned the men originally had shown up without guns and Price had driven one of them to his mother's house to get his rifle so it could be displayed in the photo.

The Washington Post reported that Price had been suspended for a month and fined thousands of dollars.

Lee shows 'Malcolm X' to prisoners

NEW YORK (AP) — Film director Spike Lee used Sunday's 28th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X to show his movie on the black Muslim leader to 600 prisoners and urge them to draw inspiration from the slain activist.

Lee reminded the inmates at the Rikers Island jail that Malcolm X was in prison when he turned to education and religion and turned his life around. Lee said he was showing the film in the hope of inspiring inmates to stay out of jail after their release.

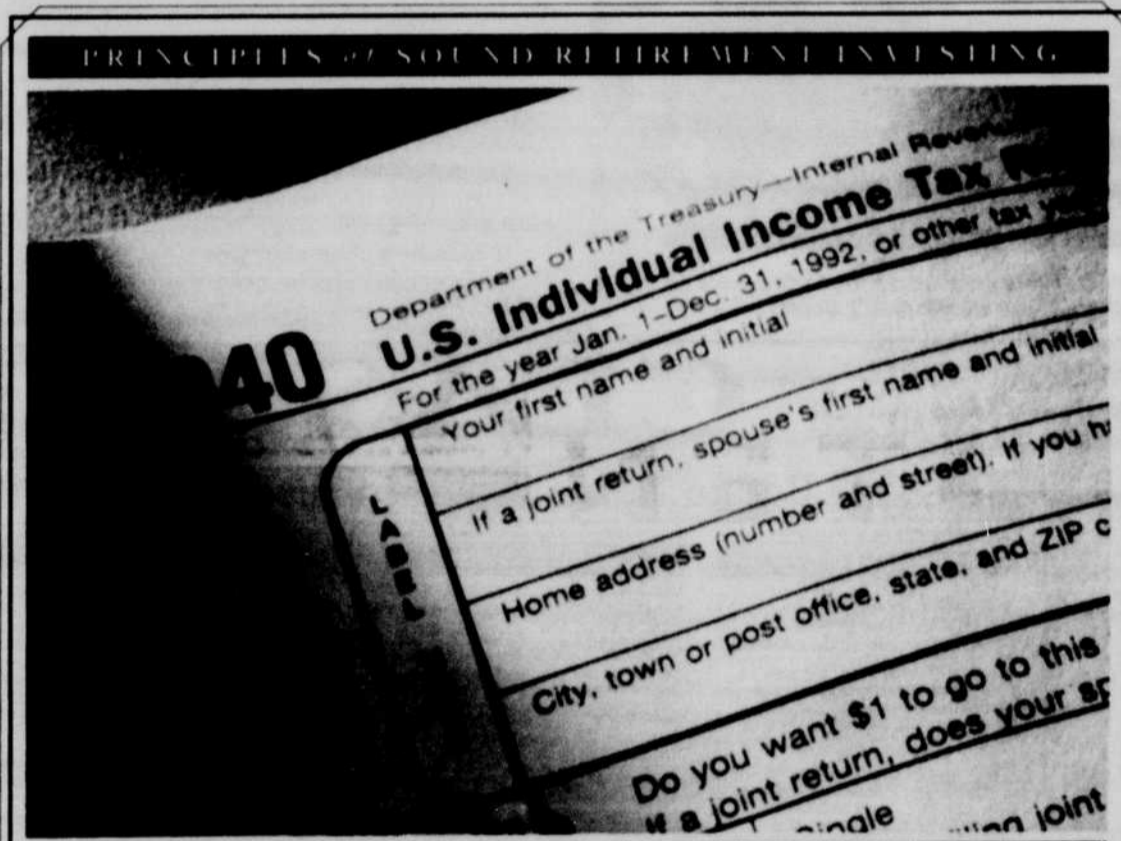
In a question-and-answer period with the inmates after the screening, Lee chided the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for nominating *Scent of a Woman* and not *Malcolm X* for best picture. He said *Scent of a Woman* will be forgotten in 40 years, but *Malcolm X* won't.

"I think history will bear us out," he said.

Lee, whose film opens with portions of the videotape of the Rodney King beating, alluded to racial bias in the criminal justice system. He said it was "no coincidence" that most of his prison audience Sunday was black or Hispanic.

Lee said he was inspired to show the movie in prisons after boxer Mike Tyson, serving a sentence in Indiana for rape, asked to see it. Tyson loved the movie and is now reading several books a week and studying for a high school equivalency degree, Lee said.

Other groups commemorated the anniversary of Malcolm X's assassination across the city. In the Harlem section of Manhattan, members of the Black Nation marched to the Audubon Ballroom, where Malcolm X was allegedly gunned down by members of the Nation of Islam Feb. 21, 1965.



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