

Spat of sports violence disturbs researchers

(AP) — Let's not forget the word "fan," as in sports fan, is a shortened form of "fanatic."

Reminders of this have come fast and furious recently as championship victories have led to riots in such diverse cities as Montreal, Dallas and, on Sunday night, in Chicago.

"It could be seen as a way of allowing fans to vent the frustrations of everyday life," said Richard Lapchick, director of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sports in Society. "The irony is that sports is an escape from everyday life, from the problems and violence of society."

The latest celebration to turn ugly followed the Chicago Bulls' third-straight National Basketball Association championship.

Two shooting deaths were linked to the celebrations, and nearly 700 people were arrested on charges including disorderly conduct and vandalism.

It was the third time in as many years that a Chicago NBA title has

resulted in violence.

But such sports-inspired street rumbles are not unique to Chicago.

Earlier this month, hockey fans joined crowds outside Montreal's Forum for a rampage following the Canadiens' Stanley Cup victory over Los Angeles. Stores were trashed along with police cars, buses and subways. Some 115 people were arrested and 168 were injured, including 49 police officers.

In February, a rally celebrating the Dallas Cowboys' Super Bowl victory left 18 injured and 26 under arrest. Groups of youths among the crowd of 400,000 attacked bystanders.

The past decade has seen similar disturbances in Detroit and San Francisco. While troubling, such incidents are not new.

Fighting and vandalism associated with sports were common in the 19th century. Authorities in this country and Canada even banned boxing in many places because of violence that followed

the fights.

The University of Missouri's Charles Korr, an expert on the social history of sports, recalls living near the baseball stadium in Philadelphia, watching angry fans reacting violently to an umpire's disputed call.

"The biggest thing that's new is the ability to instantaneously see the riot taking place in Montreal," Korr said. "People see that, and in their minds they say, 'We got to show them we are as happy as the people in Montreal about our victory.'"

Soccer hooliganism is rampant in Europe, where Dutch fans have even tossed bombs at each other. Korr said British police now use a sophisticated network of informers and computerized projections to determine where best to marshal their forces each week.

"If you walk to a first division match, you'll see the police lining the streets, at other matches you'll see nobody," Korr said.

What motivates fans to violence? Lapchick believes being

part of a crowd gives some a license to misbehave.

"It's a situation where people act in ways they wouldn't on a day-to-day basis," he said. "They think that they can do on this particular night something they can't do on another night."

Bruce Kidd, a sports historian and political scientist at the University of Toronto, calls it a situation of "permissive misrule."

"It's a moment of social leveling," he said. "People say, 'If our guys won everything than maybe for a moment we can act like kings and do anything we want.'"

Korr believes there is a misplaced sense of connection that gives fans such a strong emotional response to a victory.

"There is a sense that we can identify with a team in a way we no longer do with any other civic enterprise," he said. "It used to be your church, your parish, your community. What can you show that you belong to anymore, except a sports team."

Judge rules in favor of woman in AIDS case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge ruled Monday that a woman wasn't negligent for not telling doctors before surgery that she was infected with the AIDS virus.

But Superior Court Judge David Horowitz refused to reduce a \$102,500 jury award against the woman, upholding jury verdicts of fraud and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Horowitz said Jan Lustig had "no duty" to be truthful about her medical condition and that government policy allows HIV-positive people to "maintain their confidentiality of their medical condition."

Ms. Lustig, 46, a clinical psychologist from Vancouver, Wash., was sued by a medical technician who was pricked with a blood-covered scalpel while caring for Ms. Lustig after a biopsy and breast-reduction surgery in 1991.

Ms. Lustig had not disclosed to The Breast Center in suburban Van Nuys before surgery that she had tested positive for the HIV virus.

She said she was fearful the center would deny her care if doctors were aware of her positive test. The biopsy showed that the breast lumps were noncancerous.

A jury ruled last February that Ms. Lustig committed fraud and negligent and intentional inflictions of emotional distress. It awarded the technician \$120,000 in compensatory and punitive damages.

Ms. Lustig asked the judge for a new trial or a reduction in the award.

Ms. Lustig's attorney, Daniel K. Slaughter, said that to reduce the award, Horowitz would have had to reject all the claims, not just the negligence ruling.

Cristophe sets record straight on Clinton cut

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cristophe, President Clinton's coiffeur, wants to clear up some confusion over the so-called Hair Force One scandal.

For one thing, Clinton is "not into hair," the First Stylist said in an interview published Sunday in the Los Angeles Times.

And last month's trim on the tarmac at Los Angeles International Airport didn't cost \$200, as widely reported, Cristophe said.

The Beverly Hills barber, who's fluffed the manes of celebrities such as Farrah Fawcett, Dustin Hoffman and Julio Iglesias, wouldn't divulge what Clinton's cut cost. A card posted in his salon lists his prices at from \$125 to \$250.

Clinton family tree branching out

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's family tree is more like a wild bush, with branches going every which way and some roots buried so deep they're lost.

His natural father died young and his mother married three other men, one of them twice. The family says he has six step-siblings and at least one half-brother, fledgling singer Roger Clinton.

Now there's talk of an older half-brother he never knew about, a retired janitorial service owner who says he and the president had the same father. Although marriage and birth records support the claim of Henry Leon Ritzenthaler, some of the president's family don't think he's related.

Without confirming the report, Clinton said he tried to call Ritzenthaler, 55, on Monday. "I placed a call but there was nobody home. I don't think I should say anything until I've talked to him," Clinton told reporters.

Clinton's father, W.J. Blythe of Sherman, Texas, died in a traffic accident a few months before the future president was born. Blythe's widow, Virginia, moved to Hope, Ark., to live with her parents.

She gave birth there to William Jefferson Blythe in 1946 and married car dealer Roger Clinton in 1950, when Bill was 4.

The family later moved to Hot Springs, Ark., a raucous gambling town, and Virginia, an avid horse player, had her second son, Roger Clinton. Although only half-brothers, Virginia's two boys were close. Bill, who took his stepfather's name, is 46, Roger 35.

Roger spent a year in federal prison after pleading guilty in 1984 to distribution of cocaine and conspiracy to distribute it. As "older brother" moved into the White House, Roger's singing career improved.

Their mother divorced the elder Roger Clinton, an abusive alcoholic, then remarried him before he died of cancer in 1968.

He had had two children by a previous marriage, George Murphy and Roy Murphy, both of Hot Springs. The president is not close to either man, although he knows both politically, his mother says.

Virginia's third husband, Jeff Dwire, had two daughters, one of whom has been jailed on drug and burglary charges in Texas. Clinton had little contact with that daughter over the years, family friends say.

Virginia was married to hairdresser Dwire for six years before he died of complications from diabetes.

Her current husband, retired food broker Dick Kelley, has two children by a previous marriage. Dick Kelley Jr. works for a Little Rock engineering firm and Kathy Ferrar lives in Hot Springs.

Clinton was an adult by the time his mother married Dwire and Kelley.

On the Blythe side, Clinton's aunt, Ola Hall of Sherman, said last year that Clinton still "is a Blythe. He's our boy."

Several members of the Blythe clan in eastern Texas visited Clinton each year at Christmas, and they attended the inaugural ball this year.

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