

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Toxic chemical found in Coos Bay clams

NORTHWEST
COOS BAY, Ore. (AP) — Health officials are warning the public not to harvest or eat clams from three areas of the Coos Bay estuary after high levels of a toxic chemical were measured in the shellfish.

Tributyltin, or TBT, is known to impair the immune systems, the brain and nervous systems. Clams in the North Slough, Jordan Cove, and the Catching Slough have been found to have high levels of TBT, state Health Division officials said Monday.

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — A Washington state man was sentenced to 15 years in prison Tuesday after pleading guilty to murder in the death of a White City man.

James Mriglot, 29, of Tacoma, Wash., admitted being an accomplice in the March murder of Donald McMillen, who was shot to death in his trailer home. Robbery charges against Mriglot were dismissed in exchange for his guilty plea.

Police said he was one of three people from Tacoma, Wash., who traveled from Washington to rob McMillen of money and drugs.

Upcoming elections to constitutionalize Saddam's presidency

NATIONAL
BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq will hold parliamentary elections next year to try to enhance Saddam Hussein's legitimacy following his sweeping victory in a presidential referendum, the deputy prime minister said Tuesday.

The parliamentary vote is part of Iraq's effort to make the transition from "revolutionary legitimacy" to constitutional legitimacy. Deputy Minister Tariq Aziz told reporters.

There has been growing speculation that Saddam, who has ruled Iraq with absolute power since 1979, would seek to improve his regime's tarnished image after triumphing in Sunday's one-candidate referendum.

The referendum endorsed Saddam as president for the next seven years, with 99.96 percent of the vote.

But the reforms Saddam has promised have never materialized and Iraq's 250-member parliament remains a rubber-stamp body called on to endorse Saddam's decisions.

Aziz said Tuesday the powers

of the National Assembly speaker "will be enhanced and elections for a new assembly will be held early next year."

He gave no date for the election. Diplomatic sources have said the regime also plans to pass a law permitting political parties. Iraq has been ruled since 1968 by the Baath Arab Socialist Party, which long ago became subservient to Saddam.

Aziz also lashed out at the United States for dismissing Sunday's referendum as a sham and the promised democratic reforms as a "mockery."

"Washington's only goal is to dominate all the oil reserves in the region," he said. "Only when we say 'please come and take our reserves' will the United States be able to praise us."

He also criticized the United Nations for saying that Iraq had lied about its weapons of mass destruction, which Baghdad must destroy under the terms of the Gulf War cease-fire.

Last week, Rolf Ekens, the chief U.N. weapons inspector, told the Security Council that Baghdad had repeatedly misled U.N. monitors.

That reduced Iraq's chances of persuading the council to lift crippling U.N. sanctions, imposed after Saddam invaded Kuwait in August 1990, anytime soon.

Fatal hepatitis B prevented through infant, teen shots

WORLD
CHICAGO (AP) — The most cost-effective way to prevent potentially fatal hepatitis B infections is to immunize infants, a new study found.

But if babies aren't vaccinated, immunizing children as adolescents is the next best thing, federal researchers say.

The findings support a 1991 federal recommendation that all infants get the vaccine and a further recommendation in February 1995 that unvaccinated adolescents be immunized, said Miriam Alter, chief of epidemiology for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hepatitis branch.

As recently as two years ago, only 60 percent of children under 2 had received their full three-shot series of vaccine, Alter said Tuesday.

About 200,000 new hepatitis B infections occur each year in the United States and about 5,000 people die annually from chronic liver disease or liver cancers that develop from hepatitis B.

The infections occur more fre-

quently in adults, but they are more sinister in infants. Infected infants, who often have no symptoms, have a 25 percent chance of dying eventually from chronic liver disease or cancer. Newly infected adults have only about a 1 percent chance.

The new study, led by Dr. Harold S. Margolis of the CDC, found that vaccinating children just after they are born lowers their risk of ever getting hepatitis B by 68 percent. Waiting until adolescence to administer the vaccine lowers lifetime risk by 45 percent, the researchers reported in Wednesday's issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

A related report in *JAMA* from Canada describes a highly successful school-based program to immunize adolescents in British Columbia. It was the first large-scale effort in North America to offer universal hepatitis B screening outside infancy.

More than 43,000 sixth graders participated in the 1992 program. More than 95 percent of them completed their shots and only 69 reported adverse effects such as reactions at the injection site, fainting or rashes. Some 98 percent of the students completing shots developed immunity to the hepatitis B, the report says.

Three teens expelled for yelling "Oi!"

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A garage-band group was enough to earn three teenagers a trip to police headquarters and suspension from school.

The lesson is, don't yell "Oi!" in a crowd. Someone may think you're anti-Semitic.

The three Hasbrouck Heights juniors performed at a high school talent show Thursday night, where a \$100 prize was offered for the group that got the loudest applause.

Since the music they play is sometimes called "Oi!" — "Oi! Oi! Oi!" is a typical chorus — the three 16-year-olds of Utter Con-



THAN FICTION

fusion started yelling, "Oi!" to warm up the crowd.

The crowd yelled "Oi!" back.

Then two people in the audience went to school officials, complaining "Oi!" is an anti-Semitic slur. ("Oi!" sounds like "Oy!" — a Yiddish expression of dismay.) The 16-year-olds, Len Longo, J.M. Burr and Albert Min, were kicked out of school for a week and called to police headquarters.

No charges were filed. "Personally I still don't have a

clear understanding of what the whole thing was about," said Lt. Michael Colaneri, the bias officer who conducted the brief investigation. "I guess you could say it was 'Utter Confusion.'"

Naval Academy sailors urinate on command

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — All 4,040 midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy were given urine tests for drug use after two students were caught with LSD.

The two midshipmen, who have not been identified, were confined to the grounds Sunday. They could be court-martialed or, more likely, expelled.

As part of the investigation, the

other midshipmen underwent urinalysis on Sunday and Monday. The results are due in several weeks.

The academy already randomly tests about 240 midshipmen each week and also tests about 2,000 at a time twice a year, when they return from leave.

That testing led to the expulsion of two midshipmen for drug possession earlier this year.

O.J. returns to the greens for 18 holes

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP) — O.J. Simpson, whose chipping-in-the-dark alibi was ridiculed by prosecutors at his

murder trial, was back on a golf course Tuesday with girlfriend Paula Barbieri looking on.

Barbieri, whose family lives in the area, watched from a golf cart and later left with a woman in a white pickup truck, said WMBB-TV reporter David Deliman.

Sources told Deliman that Simpson's game was a little shaky on the first half, but improved on the back nine. Sources also said that Simpson didn't talk about the trial during the game.

After finishing the 18th green, Simpson and his party posed for his own photographers but the news media was kept away, Deliman said.

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