

World and Nation

Cult members arrested for slayings

From Associated Press reports

MATAMOROS, Mexico — Members of a voodoo cult of drug smugglers arrested for the ritual slayings of at least 12 persons, including a U.S. college student, said Wednesday they sacrificed their victims to gain demonic protection from police.

Police dug for two more bodies Wednesday at the ranch where they found the mutilated bodies and said they were seeking a Cuban they believe led the bloody cult.

"We killed them for protection," Elio Hernandez Rivera, 22, of Matamoros, told reporters. He said at a news conference that he shot and killed one victim and decapitated another.

"Very clearly they believed the human sacrifices and the animal sacrifices put a magical shield around them that protected them from evil or harm, even up to bullets," said Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox.

In addition to the University of Texas pre-medical student, the victims included a Matamoros policeman, a Mexican federal police volunteer and a 16-year-old, Mexican and U.S. officials said. At least one victim was kidnapped in Brownsville, Texas, in the last month, and as many as three of the dead may be Americans, officials said.

Contrary to officials' assertions Tuesday, Oran Neck, U.S. Customs chief agent in Brownsville, which is just across the Rio Grande from Matamoros, said Wednesday there was no evidence of cannibalism.

Felipe Flores, spokesman for the Mexican attorney general's office, also said he knew nothing about reports of cannibalism, although he added that victims' brains were cut out and put on a fire, mixed with blood, herbs, rooster feet, goat heads and turtles.

Cameron County Sheriff Alex Perez said cult members removed

some victims' vertebrae to use them for necklaces.

Suspects in Mexican custody have told police of 14 human sacrifices, and evidence indicates there may be more, Neck said at a news conference Wednesday.

Mexican officials said five men were arrested in the case.

Mexican police took four of the men to a news conference Wednesday, and the four said they killed on the command of a cult "godfather," identified by police as Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo, a Cuban national in his late 40s. Police on both sides of the border are seeking him.

Constanzo killed one of the victims, University of Texas student Mark Kilroy, said another of the arrested men, Serafin Hernandez Garcia, 22, of Brownsville.

Garcia, Rivera and the three other men, all Matamoros residents, were being detained pending the filing of

formal charges of murder, kidnapping, possession of weapons and crimes against the state, said Jose Silva Arroyo, narcotics supervisor for the Mexican Federal Judicial Police in Matamoros.

Constanzo apparently introduced a sort of voodoo or black magic to the area, Neck said.

The ritual "has overtones of a religious cult that has been exported out of Cuba and Haiti as 'Santeria,'" Neck said, based on feathers and other evidence of rituals found at the ranch and at the Matamoros home of a woman also sought by police.

The Mexican attorney general's office said Costanzo is believed to have fled into the United States. Mattox said investigators believe the cult had 10 members.

The 12 bodies were found Tuesday in graves in a field about 20 miles west of Matamoros by Mexican officials on a routine drug search.

Eastern buyout bid falls prey to arguments over strategy

From Associated Press reports

NEW YORK — Peter Ueberroth's proposed \$464 million purchase of strike-bound Eastern Airlines collapsed over an impasse with its unions and parent Texas Air Corp., the former baseball commissioner announced Wednesday.

"We are deeply disappointed this transaction collapsed last night and is done," Ueberroth told a news conference. "Our agreement with Texas Air is terminated, it's finished, it's over."

Eastern President Phil Bakes said the Miami-based airline's strategy is to reorganize as a smaller carrier serving 50 percent to 60 percent of its pre-strike schedule of 1,040 flights a day and employing 15,000 to 18,000 people, compared with 31,000 before the strike.

The announcement that the Ueberroth deal had collapsed came following days of intense negotiations that continued Wednesday as a federal bankruptcy judge tried to salvage the sinking deal.

First lady's thyroid treated

WASHINGTON — Barbara Bush underwent radioactive treatment for a thyroid condition Wednesday, joking throughout and returning to the White House to be host for a reception for the Queen of Sweden later in the day.

In a standard procedure for people who suffer Graves disease, Mrs. Bush drank a radioactive iodine solution to destroy her thyroid gland because it was producing excess levels of hormones.

"She's just fine, piece of cake, never broke her stride," Mrs. Bush's press secretary, Anna Perez, said after the two-hour visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

She sipped the solution through a straw and told her press secretary it was a colorless liquid that tasted like water.

The aftereffect could be some pain in the neck for several days, said Perez, adding that Mrs. Bush "cracked jokes about that all day."

North told to destroy memos

WASHINGTON — Oliver North testified Wednesday he thought he was protecting President Reagan when he altered six Iran-Contra "problem memos" before investigators from the attorney general could see them.

The former National Security

News in Brief

Council aide, in his fifth day as his own chief witness, said he had orders of a year's standing from National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane to destroy the six memos but hadn't done it by late 1986.

A list of all memos he had sent to McFarlane on the internal NSC computer network had been taped to his computer terminal that whole year, North said.

"The gist of what he wanted removed from the documents was language that would indicate his knowledge or the president's knowledge about my activities in this time frame," North testified.

Historic reactor nears end

RICHLAND, Wash. — The pressure vessel from the world's first commercial nuclear reactor completed an 8,100-mile waterborne journey Wednesday and arrived near its burial site on the Hanford federal nuclear reservation.

All that remained to conclude the first complete life cycle of the nuclear age was a 23-mile overland trip to a giant ditch in the center of the arid, sagebrush-littered reservation in central Washington.

"That looks like Darth Vader's tomb," said Bill Whiting of Westinghouse Hanford Co., which operates the burial site for the U.S. Department of Energy, when the barge "Paul Bunyan" carrying the reactor vessel touched dock.

The reactor from the Shippingport Atomic Power Station, about 35 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, was built by the Atomic Energy Commission and commissioned in 1957. It was operated jointly with Duquesne Light to provide power for the Pittsburgh area.

Charges likely in Wright probe

WASHINGTON — The House Ethics committee has reached interim conclusions pointing to serious charges against Speaker Jim Wright because of legislative interests of a business partner from whom Wright received financial benefits, sources familiar with the investigation said Wednesday.

The sources cautioned that no final determination has been made on the crucial issue of whether the business partner, Fort Worth, Texas developer George Mallick, had "a distinct or special interest" in influencing Congress.

Food service

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happens."

Tom Hiegly, general manager of Odgen, said his company would not bid for the contract because Odgen provides only catering and concession services, not cafeteria services.

Cansler said Marriott had a good chance at the contract. "The fact that they've been here for five years won't hurt them, but they will be considered along with all the others."

University administrators and members of the committee will review the companies' bids, Shetley said.

A second recommendation involves including the campus snack

bars in the consolidation. But UNC Student Stores, which runs the snack bars, uses \$500,000 of snack bar earnings to fund scholarships each year.

If the snack bars were to join the consolidation, Student Stores would want a guarantee that the scholarship money would still come in each year, Lewis said.

The committee made several suggestions on how to generate the scholarship funds, such as offering UNC departments a 35 percent discount on merchandise bought from the Student Stores.

March

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to clear the streets of these people."

University police have not received any reports of rape in the past two years, Comar said. The Orange County Rape Crisis Center has reports of two UNC rapes and 28 Orange County rapes from January through March of this year, said Steve Mantz, volunteer coordinator for the center.

According to a Student Government survey, 15 percent of all UNC undergraduate women students will be raped by the time they graduate, and 12 percent will be subjected to attempted rape.

About 1,300 women are subjected to rape before they graduate, but there is a large gap in the numbers of rapes and the number reported, according to the report.

"When rapes are reported, we have never had an unsolved case," Comar said. "We pull out all the stops. We'll do everything we can to track that rapist down."

"If women would start reporting

rapes every time a sexual act happens, society will realize, 'Hey, these people are not to be victimized.'"

Women can also prevent rapes by using the SAFE escort program, by going out at night in groups and coming home together, and by making noise whenever a sexual assault or attempt occurs in a public place like a party or bar, Comar said.

"If Mr. Right puts his hands around you, it's okay. It's only when Mr. Wrong puts his hands on you when it becomes sexual assault."

Fuentes from page 1

driven underground and perverted by Spanish ears. Mexicans speak a different Spanish, one with an Indian tilt."

Fuentes said justice was a tenuous thing, but it was the duty of the writer to reinforce it and help it grow. "Our societies are weak, and the writer is silently elected to speak for them. We are two nations, as (19th century British Prime Minister Benjamin) Disraeli said, the divided rich and poor. We struggle with ourselves and our past, but we must be patient for justice."

"Ibero-Indo-Afro-America is moving towards justice, but we are facing a crisis: moral, economic, political. It is the task of writers to explore these things and expose them."

Fuentes talked about his new novel, "Myself With Others," due to be released in English later this year. "My new novel is set in Mexico of 1992, the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing. By 1992, the peninsula of Yucatan is being run by Club Med to pay off the interest on debts."

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