

ROBIN BRANCH
Staff Columnist



Water panel lawyers playing us for fools

The funniest part about the \$5.7 million in increasingly ludicrous bills submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by those zany jokers at the Northeastern law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom is the firm's reaction to complaints about them by Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth.

"Butterworth has never called me," says an indignant Jim Rogers, lead Washington attorney for the firm. "I would have been happy to fly down there with my accounting staff."

Gosh, yes, Jim. Fly on down with your accounting staff. It will be a good chance for them to get their dry cleaning done.

In fact, we can almost hear the conversations taking place in the homes of your accounting staff as bills to the water district became ever more ludicrous, as the accountants' clothing became ever more derelict, and as still no call came from Butterworth:

"Honestly, Helen, your pin-striped suit is becoming spotted and a disgrace to the accounting staff of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom."

"I know, Harold. But surely Bob Butterworth will tell us that we fly down to Florida to discuss our bills any day now, and that way we can put our dry cleaning on the Florida taxpayers' tab. Oh, and I might as well take your dry cleaning along, too. They'll never know the difference."

One absurdity after another

Not that the \$32.80 spent by Florida taxpayers on laundry services for one (1) Skadden, Arps lawyer on one (1) five-day trip was the most ridiculous of the charges submitted to the water district, of course.

How could it be when Florida taxpayers paid \$17 for the Washington courier who bought and delivered a 75-cent newspaper to the Skadden, Arps offices?

Right. And our elected officials wonder why they don't get any respect from the taxpayers. Please.

Skadden, Arps was hired in 1988 on a \$50,000 contract to fight a federal lawsuit over pollution damage to the Everglades. Since then, Florida taxpayers have paid \$5.7 million in cost overruns partly due to ludicrous charges such as those described above, and partly, says Butterworth, because Skadden, Arps may be stalling to generate higher fees for a firm in which partners get \$300 an hour.

"It's obvious this Wall Street law firm has found itself a sucker," Butterworth said.

Former County Commissioner Ken Adams, an appointee on the water board, has repeatedly — albeit futilely — questioned the bills from Skadden, Arps.

"I asked for an audit of those fees several months ago," he said. "It may be a bit premature, but I'd expect the attorney general's concerns may be valid."

Poor stewardship is charged

Adams said the board had the authority to oversee and control the expenditures but never used it.

"It's been an abusive waste of taxpayers' dollars," Adams said.

Butterworth, who was particularly critical of the law firm's photocopying charges, also questioned payments for congressional lobbying, for first-class travel, and for food, including meals for water management staff in South Florida.

But Rogers said the law firm refrained from charging for all the things it could have and even "absorbed \$24,509 in food charges," to which we can only say, "Huh?"

Not only are Florida taxpayers doing Skadden, Arps' laundry, but they're buying Skadden, Arps' groceries as well?

Apparently so.

Either that or those zany jokers at Skadden, Arps are pulling our collective leg, which, with all due respect to the attorney general, would be my guess, so stand by.

After all, they've still got until midnight tonight to fax us the two little words that would explain it all. And if they're wondering just how to frame the message, they could try "April fool!"

INSIDE LOCAL

Observers say former Boynton Beach Mayor Gene Moore's impact will be felt for years. **3B**

Critics charge that a no-interest loan program in Delray Beach won't help those who need it the most. **3B**

Miami's Cuban Museum of Arts and Culture may challenge an eviction set for today. **5B**

5 emissions test sites open for drivers today

By NEIL SANTANIELLO
Staff Writer

Initiated under a federal clean-air mandate, emissions tests are being made, emissions tests are being made.

Starting today, all Palm Beach County drivers of 1975 or newer cars or light-duty trucks who have not yet renewed their vehicle registration for 1991 must stop at an emissions testing station before doing so.

Five testing stations — offering a total of 24 lanes to handle traffic — open their doors for the first time for official inspections in the county from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today.

After today, all county stations will be open for business from Tuesday through Saturday.

Technicians will look for signs of emissions system tampering. Computers and mechanical tailpipe "sniffers" will measure levels of four exhaust gases. Two of them — hydrocarbons, a precursor to smog, and carbon monoxide — must remain within state guidelines to pass the test.

"We'll be ready to go," said Peter Stubenvoll, Palm Beach County manager for Systems Control Inc., one of three contractors that are to operate inspection stations in six Florida counties, including Broward and Dade.

In all six counties, passing an emissions test annually will be a prerequisite to renewing that vehicle's registration.

The test, which is supposed to take three to five minutes, is only valid if it is done during the 90-day period before expiration of the vehicle's registration. The deadline in Florida falls on motorists' birthdays.

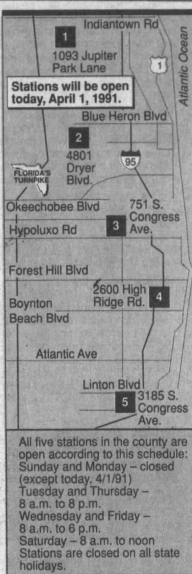
The Palm Beach County Tax Collector's Office will remind drivers of this obligation on their registration renewal notices, which generally are sent out 45 days before the registration renewal deadline.

The test fee is \$10; only cash is accepted. The first reinspection for a vehicle that fails is free. All stations offer optional, free safety inspections in one lane for motorists who pay for an emissions inspection.

A computer printout with test results will be given to every driver. The bottom section of the certificate can be mailed with vehicle registration renewal forms as proof of having passed, but that is not mandatory.

All test results will be fed directly from each station to a data base for Division of Motor Vehicle Registration via a computer that will serve as

SEE EMISSIONS /5B



All five stations in the county are open according to this schedule:
Sunday and Monday — closed (except today, 4/1/91)
Tuesday and Thursday — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday — 8 a.m. to noon
Stations are closed on all state holidays.

Staff graphic

Robber kills man in scuffle

By STEVE LIEWER
Staff Writer

BOYNTON BEACH — A man who scuffled with a would-be robber in the entrance to his apartment died early Sunday of a gunshot wound to the head. Charles R. Young, 74, of the 1700 block of Stonehaven Drive, died at 3:50 a.m. at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, less than four hours after the shooting.

Young and his wife, Suzanne, 67, were sitting in their apartment at the Villas of Banyan Creek just before midnight.

"There was a knock at the door" and Suzanne Young urged her husband to ignore it, said the couple's son-in-law, Mike Hasson of Boynton Beach. "Mr. Young, against better judgment, decided to open it."

When he did, a young man with a gun confronted him. The man demanded money.

"Mr. Young... argued," Hasson said. "The old man struggled with him. The guy pulled out a gun and shot."

Police say the gunman took off without getting any money. They do not know if he left on foot or in a car. Lt. Dale Hammack said Suzanne Young could give only a vague description of a man in his early 20s and about 6 feet tall.

SEE SHOT /2B

ANIMAL MAGNETISM



Staff photos/JILL GUTTMAN

Dreher Park Zoo officials have greeted a number of newborn animals. Left, Amps, a Goeldi monkey carries her baby, Meir, who was born on March 5. The monkeys are native to South America. Above, a Bennet's wallaby and her baby, which first appeared in January, become more familiar with their surroundings. The baby will hop in and out of its mother's pouch for several months.

Dreher Park Zoo and Lion Country Safari welcome, show off more than a dozen newborns to visitors.

By STEVE LIEWER
Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH — Spring is here, bringing new life to both Lion Country Safari and Dreher Park Zoos and lots of new life.

Dreher Park zoo keepers have greeted at least a dozen new animals in the past month. And at Lion Country Safari, four new animals were born last week alone.

"We're happy about this," said Sally Lieb, the Dreher Park Zoo's general curator. "It's a sign you're doing things right when all the animals are having babies."

The zoo's latest additions dropped in about 1:45 p.m. on Sunday when Clare, an African pygmy goat, gave birth to pint-sized black-and-white twins. The newborns attracted plenty of attention in the children's petting zoo as their mother groomed them.

"It was exciting just to watch them," said a volunteer who identified herself only as Bea. "It's gorgeous, really beautiful. You don't see this every day."

Lately, though, the animals' caregivers are getting almost used to it. Consider, at Dreher Park Zoo:

■ Naomi, a black-and-white Capuchin monkey, gave birth to a baby on March 4. The little one, whose sex has not yet been determined, clings to its mother's back.

■ Amps, a Goeldi's monkey, gave birth to an infant named Meir on March 5.

■ Zoo keepers are caring for a 1-pound red kangaroo named Owen. His mother forced the baby out of her pouch before he could fend for himself, so they rescued him to feed with a bottle. They have tried to simulate the mother's pouch. "We put the kangaroo in a pillowcase and hung it in an incubator," Lieb said.

■ Melanie, an African spider monkey, thrilled handlers when she gave birth recently. She had been badly mistreated by illegal ape importers when she and a male spider monkey were seized four years ago at Miami International Airport. Dreher Park officials never knew until now whether she had



Staff photo/MARK RANDALL

Diana Alexander, a Lion Country Safari official, holds a 15-day-old tawny frogmouth hatchling, an Australian bird of prey, named Becky.

SEE ANIMALS /5B

Hookers, clients take class to avoid jail

By JIM DI PAOLA
Staff Writer

No one in this country is ever sentenced to death for committing a misdemeanor. Yet each month, on the average, three women arrested on a charge of solicitation for prostitution in Palm Beach County learn they may be condemned to death.

They are diagnosed as having the AIDS virus.

"What's the penalty for solicitation?" Circuit Judge William Bollinger asked. "Sixty days in the County Jail. What's

the penalty for AIDS? Death."

To prevent the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Bollinger offers first-time offenders of solicitation a choice: a jail stint or a class called Risk Education for Sex Offenders.

Since its inception in February 1990, about 70 men from Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach have attended the AIDS-prevention course. They have come from all walks of life: They are drug addicts, construction workers and wealthy businessmen. Many are married or have girlfriends,

The streetwalkers attend the class in West Palm Beach, where about 1,000 people throughout the county have taken the \$20 course.

What they get for the money is a two-hour lesson from Michele Egan-Byron, a nurse who has been taught by sexually experts Masters and Johnson.

Tuesday was a slow day for Egan-Byron. She had only seven students instead of the usual 30. Two were women, five were men. One of the men was a transvestite and wore more makeup than the women.

Police say such men make as much

money as the women streetwalkers because the customers do not know they are being serviced by a man.

Egan-Byron has no high expectations of what this course can do. She says the class cannot change the world. Instead, she tries to let the offenders know the risks they are taking and then teaches them prevention.

It's an unusual sight, seeing the men and women, who usually meet anonymously in the night, sitting shoulder to shoulder and talking about safe sex. To

SEE AIDS /7B

AIDS

FROM PAGE 1B

Hookers, clients take AIDS stain to avoid jail stint

lessen the uneasiness, Egan-Byron jumps right into her lesson.

After watching a 20-minute videotape about AIDS, Egan-Byron begins firing questions at her students.

"Do you die of AIDS?" Egan-Byron asks.

A man in his 40s says yes.

Egan-Byron frowns. One of the streetwalkers pipes in.

"No, you die of whatever disease you catch from it," the street-walker says.

"How do you guys know you're not going to have sex with someone who is HIV positive?" Egan-Byron asks the customers, referring to the AIDS virus. "Because you're not going to bed with somebody who weighs 80 pounds and has sores all over their body? Is that it?"

"No," a woman in her 20s says.

"Why?" Egan-Byron shoots back.

"Because they look like you and me."

Police say it is difficult to make

an arrest for solicitation.

"It takes a lot to do a sting," Delray Beach Sgt. Geoff Williams said while patrolling northern parts of the city last week. "First you have to get male undercover officers to pick up all the women. Then you have to put women officers on the street to pick up the men."

"The biggest problem is the health issue," Williams said. "But the prostitutes sometimes rip the johns off. The prostitute will set the guy up and the pimp will rob him. But that doesn't happen too often."

The streetwalkers have certain hot spots they like to walk, mostly on North Federal Highway, straight through to southern areas of Boynton Beach. The traffic is heavy and there is a chain of small hotels that sell rooms by the hour.

When Williams patrols the streets, he knows a handful of prostitutes who prefer the more westerly parts of town near Northwest Fourth Avenue and Northwest First Street.

As he drives by the two churches, Williams sees a street-walker who has been arrested before.

The woman says she was born and raised in Delray Beach. She's 28 and has two sons, one 14, the other 12. She dropped out of Boca Raton High School.

Prostitute arrests rare in Boca

By Jim Di Paola
Staff Writer

BOCA RATON — Police in Delray Beach and Boynton Beach struggle to keep prostitutes out of their neighborhoods and to reduce the traffic of customers prowling the streets by making dozens of arrests each year.

Meanwhile, Boca Raton police sit back and watch.

It seems most of the Boca Raton patrol officers and vice unit officers cannot remember their last solicitation arrest.

"We don't have streetwalkers in the city," said Boca Raton Sgt. Mike McCutcheon, who has lived in the city for 35 years. "The last investigation anyone

could remember was in 1989, and there were no arrests."

Prostitutes throughout Palm Beach County usually concentrate their business efforts near and around Federal and Dixie highways, police said. They like those areas because in many cities they are dotted with adult-entertainment activities and cheap hotels that rent rooms by the hour.

"I really don't know why we don't have the problem," McCutcheon said. "The zoning in Boca may have something to do with it. We don't have any strip joints, no adult bookstores and no dirty movie houses. Maybe that's why. But it's just a guess."

She says she knows the risk of selling her body for sex, the physical abuse and the risk of sexually transmitted diseases. Still, she continues to hustle.

"It's for a lot of different things, and people do it for a lot of different circumstances," she said.

Williams has a more direct answer: drugs.

"For the prostitutes I see, this is their only means of income. Most of them are on some kind of dope. The men break into houses and steal things. The women streetwalk to support their habit."

The way Williams views prostitution is similar to the views of Egan-Byron and Bollinger.

"It's not prostitution, it's an ad-

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

When men are arrested and charged with solicitation for the first time, Palm Beach County Circuit Judge William Bollinger offers them a choice if they do not want to plead innocent: They can serve 60 days in the County Jail, or take a four-pronged program to withhold adjudication of guilt. The program includes:

- Taking an HIV blood test.
- Taking the Risk Education Course for Sex Offenders.
- Watching four court hearings in which prostitutes bail out of jail or take plea bargains.
- Reading a psychological profile of a prostitute who was diagnosed with AIDS.

she saw her clients. She answered: "I could care less about them. I have a drug habit to support."

Cuban Museum being evicted today

Reuters

MIAMI — Miami's controversial Cuban Museum of Arts and Culture, bombed twice in recent years for exhibiting works by artists living in Cuba, faces eviction from its city-owned building today.

Officials with the museum, on city property in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood, said they may challenge the eviction in court to force the city to renew the museum's lease.

The Miami City Commission voted last week not to renew the museum's lease, despite a warning earlier from the city attorney that eviction might be illegal.

"We want to see the museum continue," said museum president Santiago Morales, who noted that its future is uncertain because of the loss of several key contributors during the dispute.

The museum has sharply divided Miami's Cuban exile community since 1988, when the museum auctioned paintings by several Cuban artists who remained on the island after Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution.

Many fervent anti-Castro exiles — of which there are many in Miami — have taken the position that those who did not leave Cuba support Castro.

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SCHEDULE OF APRIL, 1991 MEETINGS

Due to the completion of the City Hall Renovation Project, all public meetings will now be located at the City Hall Municipal Complex - 3650 N.E. 12th Avenue OAKLAND PARK, FL

04/03/91 7:30 PM	City Council	Council Chambers
04/04/91 7:30 PM	Beautification Advisory Board	Council Chambers
04/08/91 7:30 PM	Planning and Zoning Board	Council Chambers
04/09/91 7:30 PM	Gentlemen's Pension Board	Council Chambers
04/09/91 7:30 PM	Civil Service Board	Council Chambers
04/10/91 4:30 PM	Administrative Hearing Board	Council Chambers
04/11/91 7:45 PM	Code Enforcement Board	Council Chambers
04/15/91 7:30 PM	General Employees Pension Board	2nd Floor Conference Room
04/15/91 7:30 PM	Unsafe Structures Board	Council Chambers
04/16/91 5:30 PM	Housing Authority	Council Chambers
04/17/91 7:30 PM	City Council	Council Chambers
04/18/91 7:00 PM	Police, Fire & Public Safety Officers' Retirement Board	Council Chambers
04/30/91 7:30 PM	Board of Adjustment	Council Chambers

If a person decides to appeal any decision made at the above City meetings with respect to any matter considered at such meetings, he will need a record verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

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