

The Rockies

Witness hears gun conversation

Associated Press
SEATTLE — Two members of the Order once discussed a problem with a gun allegedly used to kill a Jewish talk show host, a witness said Friday at the trial of 10 members of the white supremacist group on robbery and other charges.

Robert Merk, in his third day of testimony in the racketeering trial of 10 alleged members of the white supremacist group, said defendant Gary Varbrugh and Bruce Pierce talked in July 1984 about how the machine gun had jammed after firing 12 rounds.

Bodie had Alan Berg was gunned down on June 18, 1984, outside his

Mac 10 jammed in Berg killing

Denver Post
His death is one of numerous crimes attributed to The Order, which allegedly was plotting a race war against Jews and the government with the aim of establishing a white homeland.

The defendants and 12 other people also were accused in a federal indictment of raising more than \$4 million through armed robberies to finance their Aryan revolution.

The government alleges Pierce was the triggerman in the killing, while Richard Sotardi and the late Robert Matthews acted as lookouts

and defendant David Lane drove the getaway car.

Merk, a former member of The Order, said order members were at a house in Boise, Idaho, in July 1984, counting money from a \$2.5 million armored car robbery when the weapon was discussed.

"I understood him (Varbrugh) to be describing the failure of the murder weapon on the 12th round," Merk said. "This was very significant for Mr. Varbrugh."

He said Varbrugh was concerned that the gun "wouldn't empty the clip."

Merk said the weapon was described as a Mac 10 machine gun, and Pierce "confirmed the fact there was a problem with the Mac 10 as far as its reliability is concerned."

A Mac 10 said by police to have been the murder weapon was recovered late in 1984 from Varbrugh's home near Sandpoint, Idaho.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron Howes tried repeatedly to have Merk testify about other discussions he had with other Order members about the Berg killing, but was stymied by defense objections.

High-tech healing 'horrific,' Lamm says

Associated Press
TORONTO — Better high-tech medicine can cost so much while saving the lives of so few that society will soon face tough choices, Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm said Friday.

"Because extraordinary medicine is such a dramatic, publicized event, we don't see the programs and people that have had to sacrifice to pay for it," Lamm said.

The budget to rid the world of malaria, but far fewer people will benefit, he said.

"My criticism is not of high technology. On the contrary, I believe that high technology, if correctly

applied, can save far more lives at a lower cost if we manage it correctly," Lamm said.



Gov. Richard Lamm applied, can save far more lives at a lower cost if we manage it correctly," Lamm said.

Fires were set by arsonist, police claim

Associated Press
EAGLE — Eagle County officials say two fires started nearly simultaneously in the remote hamlet of Derby Junction probably are the work of one arsonist.

Jeff Beavers, spokesman for the Eagle County sheriff's office, said an arrest is expected soon.

The fires destroyed a cabin and a 60-foot trailer house Wednesday evening. Firemen from Gypsum evacuated about 100 nearby residents after discovering that someone had fired a bullet into a 200-gallon propane tank near the fires.

Derby Junction, popular with rafters and fishermen, is on the Colorado River between Dolores and Barns.

Wire check

Somebody who survives

Longmont

Some young Longmont actors are getting good reviews for their video about a 23-year-old boy who drank himself to death.

The 25-minute video is called "The Last Party" and focuses on the tragic death of Richard Dorman. He died 13 hours after drinking heavily at a party in Longmont last January. Dorman's body was found on a hike path just a few blocks from his home.

The video will be shown Saturday to a convention of Students Against Drunk Driving at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Joseph Sandram, director of the project, said the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department and others who have seen the video have praised it and plan to buy a copy.

Sandram, director of Alternatives for Youth, a Longmont group for troubled teen-agers, said he decided to make the video because he wanted to make "something positive" of Dorman's death.

Denver

City to fight airport parking cheaters

Parking lot scofflaws at Stapleton International Airport, including a few airline employees, are prompting Denver officials to propose an ordinance covering theft of parking services.

Assistant City Attorney Tom Combs said Thursday that scofflaws have been costing Denver thousands of dollars each year, up to now with relative impunity as they mislead automated ticket dispensers to arrive at parking fees.

Denver has no effective law on the books to deal with the problem, Combs said.

'Psychologist' is arrested for assault

A Denver man has been charged with posing as a psychologist and sexually assaulting a woman client, police officials said.

Harold "Hal" Louason, 48, also known as "Dr. Louason," is president of Denver Catholic Counseling Services, which is not connected with the Denver Catholic Archdiocese but which provided psychological testing for the archdiocese.

The charges filed in Denver County Court on Thursday include one count of third-degree sexual assault on a woman client, three felony theft counts, four misdemeanor theft counts, and seven counts of criminal impersonation involving eight clients.

Groups ask Legislature for farm foreclosure moratorium

Associated Press
DENVER — Leaders of three rural and church organizations on Friday urged the Colorado Legislature to impose a moratorium on farm and ranch foreclosures in the state.

The leaders want a moratorium like the one declared by Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad earlier this week. Branstad invoked a Depression-era

statute on Iowa's books. Colorado does not have such a statute, so the Legislature would have to pass a bill enabling the governor to impose a moratorium.

At a news conference at Denver's Holy Ghost Catholic Church on Friday, moratorium legislation was urged by leaders of the Colorado Rural Crisis Hotline, the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and the

Colorado Council of Churches Committee on Human Needs and Resources.

The three groups will sponsor a series of rural hearings this fall to allow farmers, ranchers and others to map out a comprehensive proposal for dealing with the agricultural crisis.

Also present at the news conference were members of the Nitty

Gritty Dirt Band. The band earlier had presented the Colorado Rural Crisis Hotline with \$10,000 in funds raised during the recent Farm Aid concert in Illinois.

On Thursday, Farmers' Union spokesmen Dale Carter described the situation Colorado farmers face: The sugar industry is bankrupt. The sugar industry is bankrupt. Some beet growers are still owed

up to \$100,000 from Great Western. The wheat prices have gone down. The cattle market went to back this spring. We're talking about literally hundreds of people facing foreclosure or bankruptcy.

FSAH owns 95 Colorado farms worth \$25.8 million, taken through farm foreclosures. That compares with seven in 1981 and 50 last year.

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