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PARTLY SUNNY High today will be near 90 and lows will be in the lower 70s. There is a 20 percent chance of afternoon rain. **WEATHER, 2A**

SPOOFING THE SOAPS 'SOAPDISH' REVIEW **ACCENT, 1D**

HEALTH HAZARD ON DOG BEACH? BRINY BREEZES DEBATE **LOCAL, 1B**

LAKERS EDGE BLAZERS 91-90 FACE BULLS IN FINALS **NBA PLAYOFFS, 1C**

The Palm Beach Post

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1991 · SOUTH COUNTY FINAL · 108 PAGES · 35 CENTS

Turnpike tolls to jump 30%

Penny-a-mile increase will be second in 2 years

By BILL DOUTHAT
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH — Tolls are scheduled to increase about 30 percent beginning July 1 for trips on Florida's Turnpike north of the Lantana toll plaza, officials said Thursday.

The increase, the second in two years, will average about a penny a mile.

Officials said resistance to the price increase will chase about 5 percent of the turnpike traffic — or 1,250 cars a day — onto alternate routes such as Interstate 95 and State Road 7.

The state turnpike agency announced the price increase at a public hearing Thursday at the Palm Beach County Governmental Center. Besides four turnpike employees and a court reporter, the only people who showed up were a newspaper reporter and a Florida Department of Transportation administrator.

The turnpike agency, a division of the DOT, ran one ad in *The Palm Beach Post*'s Sunday Arts and Entertainment section and did not issue any news releases in advance of the meeting.

The failure of the public to attend the hearing was not the result of the scant public notice, said Steve Moon, director of finance and programs for the Office of Florida's Turnpike.

"We like to believe that the reason people don't show up is that the Florida turnpike is the best value

Please see TURNPIKE/10A

PROPOSED TURNPIKE TOLLS

HEIDI KLIER/Staff Artist

19-year-old inmate suit nears end

Chiles proposes deal on poor prison care

Palm Beach Post Staff and Wire Reports

TALLAHASSEE — A 19-year-old inmate lawsuit over health conditions and crowding in Florida prisons is closer to dismissal under a proposal announced Thursday by Gov. Lawton Chiles.

"We're in control of our own destiny again," Chiles said. "We'll be in control of our own state, as we should be."

The federal lawsuit filed in 1972, known as the Costello case for the inmate who brought it, focused on poor health care, crowding and bad food at state prisons.

Fighting the suit cost taxpayers more than $4 million, Chiles said.

Since 1972, a federal court has maintained control over much of the prison system, which state officials have admitted was deplorable during the 1970s.

The agreement announced Thursday, signed by an attorney for Florida's 45,600 inmates, requires the state to pay an independent state agency, the Correctional Medical Authority, to ensure that prisoners get adequate health care.

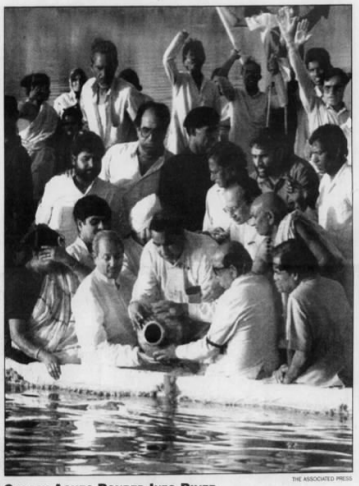
It also calls for keeping the prison population at no more than 133 percent of capacity, where it is now. That will require legislative approval.

Approval of the settlement by a federal judge could lead to dismissal of the case within 90 days, said Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay, who handled negotiations for Chiles.

"The days of 'Cool Hand Luke' really are behind us," said MacKay, referring to a film that depicted prison brutality.

MacKay said if the state doesn't provide adequate care for its prisoners, the inmates will be the first to let officials know.

Bill Sheppard, appointed to represent inmates in 1981, said the agreement was the most significant step since the suit was filed.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GANDHI ASHES POURED INTO RIVER

NEW DELHI, India – Congress Party officials empty an urn containing ashes of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi into the Yamuna River Thursday. Gandhi, killed by an assassin's bomb May 21, was cremated last Friday in a ceremony attended by more than 100,000 people. His ashes were put into 32 urns and distributed throughout India.

CIA paid $300,000 to Noriega

Prosecutors say the U.S. was told about secret Panama Canal treaty talks.

Los Angeles Times News Service

MIAMI — Manuel Noriega may have been paid to spy for the United States, but he was never authorized to make drug deals that led to his indictment on felony criminal charges, prosecutors say in documents released Thursday.

Prosecutors admitted that Noriega was paid a little more than $300,000 by the U.S. government for information that ranged "from incidental information to the negotiating posture of the Panamanian government during the Panama Canal negotiations."

Noriega was head of Panamanian intelligence in 1978 when the Carter administration signed an agreement that gives control of the waterway to Panama Dec. 31, 1999.

But in response to a defense request for classified U.S. documents, Assistant U.S. Attorney James McAdams said much of the material was irrelevant to the charges Noriega faces. The former Panamanian dictator allegedly accepted $4.6 million from Colombian drug lords to look the other way as cocaine bound for the United States passed through Panama.

"The government again denies that Noriega was given direct or indirect authority to commit any

Please see NORIEGA/8A

State needs federal aid for Cubans, Chiles says

The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE — Gov. Lawton Chiles says he intends to demand federal help for the influx of Cuban refugees coming to Florida or being rescued at sea.

Also, the U.S. Coast Guard said Thursday that it was conducting additional patrols in the Florida Straits to look for refugees in distress, but it hadn't found any.

Chiles said he would travel to Washington next week to meet with Florida's senators and representatives and discuss problems a flood of refugees could cause.

"We're going to demand that they have a plan," he said during a stop in Broward County for the signing of several bills.

After the 1980 Mariel boatlift, state and local social programs were strained to the limit as nearly 125,000 Cuban refugees flooded into South Florida, many without friends or relatives to aid them.

Although Chiles said he is not

Please see REFUGEES/9A

Hula-dancing judge won't be disciplined

By CHRISTY HARRIS
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

OKEECHOBEE — When an Okeechobee County judge donned a grass skirt, bikini top and long, dark wig to collect donations at a Shriners' benefit in November, he violated judicial ethics that prohibit charity solicitations, according to his lawyer's statement, which was released Thursday.

Miller

The Judicial Qualifications Commission found County Judge Edward Miller's conduct "improper and distasteful," said Miller's attorney, Robert Dennis, in a statement dated May 23.

But the commission will not file formal charges.

Miller admitted dancing in a hula costume and collecting money for the Shrine Club's annual luau for the past five years, but he said his conduct didn't violate the Code of Judicial Conduct.

"I asked no one to attend the luau except members of my family, and I paid for their tickets," he said in response to the complaint. "Nor did I ask or directly solicit anyone in the audience to contribute — I merely made myself available for those who wanted to make a donation to put bills in the waist of my grass skirt or in a small cloth bag."

Judicial Qualifications Commission officials would not discuss the case. Complaints are

Please see JUDGE/10A

Smith wants woman tested for AIDS

By CHRISTINE STAPLETON
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH — Attorneys for William Kennedy Smith lobbed a terse counterattack at prosecutors Thursday, asking that the Jupiter woman who said she was raped by Smith be ordered to take an AIDS test.

Smith's request came a day after Assistant State Attorney Moira Lasch asked Circuit Judge Mary Lupo to order Smith to undergo an AIDS test.

"Just as the complaining witness seeks assurance that Mr. Smith does not have AIDS, so too does Mr. Smith seek assurance that (she) does not have AIDS," Smith's attorneys wrote.

Smith, 30, does not admit that he had sex with the 29-year-old woman in the court papers filed Thursday. The assumption that the two had sex is carefully attributed to DNA test results that showed blood taken from Smith matches semen samples taken from the woman March 30, hours after the alleged attack.

David Roth, the woman's attorney, declined to comment on Smith's request.

Under a Florida law passed last year, a judge can order a person charged with sexual battery to undergo an AIDS test if the victim requests it. But that law says nothing about whether a judge can order a victim to be tested for AIDS.

Smith's attorneys contend he has as

Please see RAPE/9A

West Palm man off Death Row; murder conviction overturned

By CANDY HATCHER
Palm Beach Post Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — In a rare order from the state's highest court, a West Palm Beach man sent to Death Row in 1988 for torching a 12-year-old Punta Gorda girl will be released from prison.

Scott

Circumstantial evidence against Bradley P. Scott, a former landscape worker who has maintained his innocence for 13 years, does not support a murder conviction, the Florida Supreme Court ruled Thursday in a unanimous opinion.

The justices, who said the state should not have taken 7½ years to indict Scott, ordered that he be sent back to court in Charlotte County and acquitted of the 1978 murder.

The news angered the family of Linda Pikuritz, the girl who disappeared Oct. 12, 1978, after bicycling to a convenience store for a pack of chewing gum.

"That's really bad," said Patty Pikuritz, who did not say how she was related to Linda and refused to discuss the case further.

But for the family of Scott, who was arrested two days after his son was born, the order meant justice. Finally.

Please see DEATH ROW/9A

SHERMAN ZENT/Staff Photographer

"I knew he was innocent," said April Scott, with Jonathan and Stormy.

INSIDE

TAKING A LOOK – Court expands police powers to search containers in cars without a warrant. **STORY, 2A**

TAKING LEAD – EPA must act quickly to get lead out of water. **JAC VERSTEEG, 12A**

TAKING SIZE – County officials propose limiting size of signs in unincorporated areas. **LOCAL NEWS, 1B**

TAKING A VOW – Making interfaith marriages work is up to the couple. **ACCENT, 1D**

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