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The Region

Man Guilty in '92 Denny Attack Dies

Antoine Miller, 31, who was videotaped opening the truck driver's door, had been shot Feb. 1.

By ANDREW BLANKSTEN Times Staff Writer

Antoine Eugene Miller, part of the mob that attacked trucker Raymond Denny in the first hours of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, died a week after being shot during an altercation outside a Hollywood nightclub, police said.

Miller was shot at 2:30 a.m. Saper Bowl Sunday in a parking lot across from a nightclub in the 6000 block of Schrader Boulevard, said Los Angeles Police Department homicide Det. Mike Thersner.

The 31-year-old was pronounced dead Sunday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said Los Angeles County coroner's spokesman David Cumpbell. The cause of death was a skull fracture, but it was not clear if the skull fracture was the result of a gunshot wound or a fall.



Antoine Eugene Miller's shooting is under investigation.

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Miller was one of three suspects charged in that case. In a scene captured on video footage from news helicopters above, Denny was pummeled, his skull shattered into roughly 100 fragments.

One doctor later compared Denny's injuries to being involved in a high-speed automobile accident without a seat belt. Denny's brother, Williams, was convicted of mayhem for hitting Denny in the head with a brick. He received a 10-year state prison sentence but was released about four years later.

Williams is now serving 30 years to life behind bars; he was convicted last May for fatally shooting a man in Southeast Los Angeles.

Henry Keith Watson, who placed his foot on Denny's neck, received no jail time because the 17 months he had spent in Los Angeles County Jail was greater than the maximum penalty handed down in the case.

Miller was videotaped opening the door to Denny's truck. He spent 17 months in jail and was placed on 37 months' probation after pleading guilty to grand theft, receiving stolen property and assault in the Denny case.

Miller was arrested again in August 1994 for having a gun in his car and in 1995 received a six-month prison sentence.

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding Miller's death. Numerous friends had accompanied Miller to Hollywood when he was shot in the early hours of Feb. 1, Thersner said.

At least 100 people might have witnessed the altercation and shooting, though none has come forward to tell his or her story to police.

"There was some kind of altercation between the altercator and Thersner said. 'We are looking at it as if it could possibly be gang related.'"

Preschool System's K Is Expected

L.A. County will use tobacco taxes to build one of the nation's most ambitious programs. Initially, it will enroll only 4-year-olds.

By CARLA RIVERA Times Staff Writer

With more than \$130 million in tobacco tax funds flowing into its coffers annually for children's health and education, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is probably the envy of most hard-pressed government agencies.

The commission is scheduled today to approve a plan for one of the most ambitious programs in the nation to educate the county's children before they enroll in kindergarten. But its leaders concede that their pockets are not deep enough to do everything they want.

They have spent nearly a year testing such theory questions as: Can both 3- and 4-year-olds be accommodated in a \$100-million annual budget? Will classes be a full day or a partial day? Where will the initial preschools be located? What level of training should teachers have?

The road has been marked by disagreements, compromise, sticky shock and some deadlocks. For example, a major issue — whether classes will be free or require a co-payment based on income — was left unresolved for weeks.

The plan calls for focusing on 4-year-olds for the time being, partly to save costs and partly because some parents seem less willing to enroll younger children.

Karen Hill-Scott, a veteran educator who has run the planning process, brought together a 200-member advisory team of heavy hitters in business, education, philanthropy and child care, many of whom have competing agendas.

The panel was co-chaired by former Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg and children's advocate Nancy Daly. Hertzberg was state secretary of Education Richard Riordan.

"This is a great opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of children in Los Angeles," Nancy Riordan said. "Everybody would like to see everybody do better, but people like that were heard and were able to trust the process enough and let go of their ideas."

So, when the first preschool opens next fall, the program is expected to begin a gradual build-up over 10 years. Plans call for an initial 4,000 to 10,000 4-year-olds in 100 classrooms, with a goal of 17,000 4-year-olds in 5,000 classrooms within a decade.

Home-based child-care providers and existing preschools such as Head Start would be used to extend classes from half-day to full day under the plan. Scores of new centers would be built.

The go-slow approach is important, Hill-Scott said. "The excitement of a big bang launch is not worth the discontent it can create out in the community." Preschool programs in other states advised Los Angeles County to "start small and get control."

The goal is a system that could become an entitlement as K-12 education and that eventually would be supported by other state and private funding. Planners said that is important because the tobacco money will diminish gradually as smoking declines.

Proposition 13, also known as the California Children and Families Protection Act, was championed by Elizabeth Rob Reiner and approved by voters in 1996 to help children during the first five years of their lives. It levies a flat per-pupil tax on cigarettes, overseen by a statewide commission and 38 county judges. Los Angeles County received about \$134 million of the \$662 million generated statewide last year.

Although other counties are considering their own programs, the Los Angeles preschool effort is a part of a larger effort, planners say it will provide a national model.

The costs of such a vast new system gave planners a reality check. Hill-Scott's team devised a computerized model that allowed panel members to propose their ideal scenarios and come up with price tags.

One example called for enrolling 3- and 4-year-olds in the county within two years in free half-day classes, taught by teachers with specialized training. Such a plan was determined to be cost-prohibitive, annual cost would be \$600 million in the first year.

The question of free or fee was perhaps the most vexing. Surveys of parents indicated a willingness to pay a sliding fee based on income, with poor families receiving free services.

Proponents say the fees would help fund the enrollment of more children in the subsidized program for the poor. A decision on fees is expected to be announced next month.

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Corona Man Held in Death of His Son, 12

By SANDRA MURILLO Times Staff Writer

A 42-year-old Corona man was arrested late Tuesday in connection with the fatal shooting of his 12-year-old son, authorities said.

Bill Ray Cutlerby was booked on suspicion of murder and on Wednesday was held without bail at Robert Froy Detention Center in Riverside, said Riverside County Sheriff's spokesman Dennis Otermeier.

The boy, whose name was not released, was shot about noon Tuesday in the 13800 block of Dawson Canyon Road. The boy reportedly resided with his father and another relative in a mobile home at the top of a double-dirt road near Corona, officials said.

After the incident, Cutlerby called police to report an accidental shooting, Otermeier said. Sheriff's officials from the Jurupa Valley Station, the Sheriff's Department's Central Homicide Unit and paramedics from the Riverside County Fire Department all responded. Cutlerby's son died at the scene.

Otermeier declined to comment about a motive for the shooting, but said the mother lives out of state and, as of late Wednesday, authorities had been unable to reach her.

Neighbors said the boy was friendly and well-mannered. "It's just really quite shocking," said neighbor Connie Chan. "He was a good kid who always played outside with my son. I really don't know anything about the father."

Guide Dogs, Trainers Pass Test

About 300 canines are in training with puppy raisers for Guide Dogs of America. Graduates will join visually impaired owners.

By BOB POOL Times Staff Writer

Down down and tails up, a group of beagling guide dogs passed their college entrance exam Wednesday with flying colors.

Not to mention fragrant barbecued ribs, hamburgers, tacos and nearly every other enticing food item that man could throw at them.

Puppy raisers working for Guide Dogs of America took a luncheon trip through the sprawling Farmers Market in the Fairfax District to test how their animals react to crowds and how well they resist the temptation to snatch a ham sandwich off a patio dining table.

"A restaurant in Glendale won't let you in if you're not a dog," said Melissa Hyams, a real estate agent who lives in Burbank.

"I went in knowing that eventually I'd have to give him up, but knowing he would make an incredible difference in somebody's life," she said.

Her 88-pound black Labrador retriever, Kaiti, has accompanied Hyams and her husband, Joe, to Disneyland, Universal City and the wine country as well as on daily trips to stores and shops. He's been taught to sit next to her



POOPED PUPP: Melissa Hyams of Burbank smiles at the Labrador retrievers that she is training as they rest during an outing to the Fairfax District Farmers Market on Wednesday.

desk when she works. "Only once was there a problem. And it was not the dog's fault."

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Wednesday, about a dozen of the future guide dogs rode without incident on The Crow's trolley before entering the market, where a security guard said, dogs are not normally allowed.

Inside, there was no leashing or snobbering — although snuggly raises had to wave off the kindness of one lunch-table customer, who tried to lose a piece of pasta to one dog.

Fruity raiser Pam English, a vocational school instructor from Santa Clarita, said the black Labrador named Rex, that she has had for 12 months in the 14th guide dog training class she has raised.

And saying goodbye is never easy — even though English is in contact with some of the permanent owners of her past animals.

"It's a way Valentine's Day is the perfect day for the dogs to move to the next level. It's a celebration of love. And that's what we have for these dogs."

IN BRIEF

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
3 Guilty in Conspiracy to Illegally Solicit Bail

A son of San Bernardino County's former sheriff was among three defendants who pleaded guilty Wednesday to a conspiracy to solicit bail.

Steven Wayne Tidwell, son of former San Bernardino County Sheriff Floyd Tidwell, and Joseph Allen Lash each pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy to illegally solicit bail.

Tidwell's wife, Karole, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges related to the crime, according to Deputy Dist. Atty. Cheryl Berges.

The trio were among 30 people charged in January with conspiracy, extortion, solicitation of bail for just inmates and license-fee violations.

The charges against the other defendants, including Daniel "Boose" Tidwell, another son of the former sheriff, are pending. Berges said that Steven Tidwell and Lash were involved in a scheme to pay inmates a kick-

back for referring other prisoners to the bail bond business operated by Tidwell.

As a result of their pleas, all three will lose their bail licenses, pay restitution and receive three years' probation.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
51 Million Approved to Widened Winchester Road

The Riverside County Transportation Commission voted Wednesday to spend \$51 million to widen Winchester Road between Dawson Parkway and Hunter Road.

The county has also committed \$1 million to the effort, which will fund preliminary design work and environmental review to widen the two-lane road to four lanes through Winchester.

The funds will come from fees developers pay for building approvals. The actual widening could cost more than \$30 million. Twenty commissioners voted to approve the funding, three commissioners abstained and three opposed.

64 Illegal Immigrants Are Discovered in Small Home

They were being held for ransom in rural Riverside county, authorities say.

From Associated Press

More than 60 illegal immigrants held ransom in a small Riverside County home Wednesday after one immigrant escaped and told authorities officials said.

Three alleged smugglers also discovered at the home were taken into custody and could face state and federal charges, said Sheriff Richard Kite, a U.S. Border Patrol spokesman.

The 64 men and women, from Mexico and other Central American countries, were found in a 900-square-foot home in a rural area between Riverside and Perris.

"The interior of that house was in deplorable condition," said Cpl. Dennis Gutierrez, a spokesman for the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

"You can just imagine 64 people stuffed in a 900-square-foot home [with no food, little water]."

Authorities believe that the immigrants were held captive until families or friends could pay for their release, Gutierrez said. From then covered the home's windows, he said.

"It appears there 64 were part of an elaborate alien smuggling operation," Kite said.

The discovery came after a man escaped from the house and alerted a sheriff's deputy about 2:30 p.m. of "coyotes," or smugglers, holding him and others against their will, Gutierrez said.

Border Patrol agents assisted by sheriff's deputies later raided the home. No major injuries were reported. The immigrants were being interviewed and processed for possible deportation. The smugglers were believed to be Mexicans in the country illegally, Gutierrez said.

Lottery Results

For Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2004

Super Lotto Plus
Jackpot: \$46 million

Jackpot: \$46 million

Fantasy Play: 1:242,033

Daily Three (weekday): 2-4-6

Daily Two (evening): 7-7-6

Daily Derby:
\$100,000

50/50 Cash:
\$100,000

Results on the Internet:
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