



Spring arrives

Spring came officially to Vancouver on March 20, but West Coast residents, ablaze after a February of sunshine and early blossoms hardly noticed. These five North Vancouver residents take in a bit of spring along with its blossoming cherry trees during a walk in Stanley Park.

\$150m libel suit filed

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — Arizona businessman Kemper Marley Sr. filed a \$150-million libel suit Wednesday against Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. and 312 other defendants.

The suit was filed in Maricopa County Superior Court one year after an IRE story critical of Marley was published in newspapers around the country.

Among those named in the suit were Robert Greene, an editor at Newsday, Long Island, N.Y., and head of the IRE Arizona Project; 37 reporters who participated in the project, and various newspapers which published the Marley story.

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Teamster official 'arranged killing'

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Post quoted unnamed law enforcement officials today as saying that slain Teamsters official Salvatore Briguglio personally arranged "the contract murder" of Jimmy Hoffa.

The 1975 disappearance of Hoffa, onetime Teamsters Union president, is unsolved. But two federal investigators in Detroit have said the Briguglio slaying could bring a break in the case.

The sources said New Jersey Teamsters boss Anthony "Tony Pro" Provenzano, currently on trial here on a loan-kickback charge, was believed to have initiated the order that led to Hoffa's killing, according to The Post. Provenzano was one of three men Hoffa believed he was to meet the day he vanished.

The newspaper said Briguglio was Provenzano's most trusted henchman. It quoted its sources as saying that the two men who actually did the killing were officers of Briguglio's Teamsters local, one a relative of Briguglio and the other a close friend.

Briguglio, 48, a \$31,000-a-year business agent for the Teamsters, was gunned down by two men late Tuesday night in Manhattan's Little Italy.

Briguglio was one of three men hauled into a police lineup in December 1976 in front of two witnesses who saw Hoffa in the company of several men about the time the ex-Teamsters president vanished on July 30, 1975, in Bloomfield Township north of Detroit.

One of the witnesses tentatively identified Briguglio as one of the men with Hoffa that day, federal investigators have said. The evidence, however, was not conclusive enough to seek indictments.

Two federal investigators said Wednesday in Detroit they believe the Briguglio killing may compel those who participated in Hoffa's presumed abduction and murder to co-operate with federal authorities.

"This could scare others," said a federal source in Detroit close to the Hoffa investigation.

In New York, federal sources said there were no new developments in the Hoffa case, which many officials believe will never be solved.

"Briguglio was a potential witness in a number of criminal investigations, including the Hoffa case," said Thomas Emery, special agent in charge of the Newark, N.J., FBI office.

Emery declined to comment about reports that the slain man had been talking to federal investigators in the Hoffa case.

Federal investigators say they believe Hoffa was abducted and slain by organized crime figures who feared his efforts to regain the Teamsters presidency would expose Mafia ties to the largest labor union in the U.S.

'Soviets a threat'

NEW YORK (AP) — The Soviet Union's expanding military capabilities might be used in some part of the world for a "grievous acquisition of territory," says Gen. Alexander Haig.

NATO's military chief told a Foreign Policy Association meeting here on Wednesday the "relentless character of the growth in Soviet power" might provide the "underpinning for an imperialistic phase."

The expansion has left "a large residue of modern arms that is serving as 'the cutting edge of a growing Soviet influence in Africa,'" the general said. He said the area was serving as a "breeding ground for Soviet imperialist mischief."

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