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25 CENTS



Mario Tabraue:
Owned pet store.

By JEFF LEEN
Herald Staff Writer

FBI agents and Miami police Wednesday morning arrested six people, including a Miami exotic-animal dealer and his father, a prominent Little Havana jeweler, on charges of operating a marijuana ring that employed Miami police officers to collect, count and disburse "large amounts of currency."

The ring is also charged with disposing of a federal informant by cutting him apart with a chainsaw.

Mario Tabraue and his father, Guillermo Sr., were indicted by a federal grand jury Tuesday on charges

Six charged in drug ring tied to police

of racketeering and running a "continuing criminal enterprise" that smuggled 500,000 pounds of marijuana worth \$75 million from 1976 to 1986.

A task force of federal agents and police participating in "Operation Cobra" arrested the Tabraues at their respective homes around 7 a.m. Agents at Mario Tabraue's walled Coconut Grove estate witnessed a \$50,000 bundle of cash thrown out of a window by Tabraue's wife.

"It almost hit one of the agents in the head," said

Please turn to DRUGS / 7A



CHRIS USHER / Miami Herald Staff

Guillermo Tabraue is taken into FBI headquarters after arrest Wednesday.

S. Korean vote favors regime

Managua approves cease-fire

Ortega decrees Christmas truce

From Herald Wire Services

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — President Daniel Ortega announced Wednesday that his government will decree a cease-fire in all combat zones with contra rebels on Dec. 24-25 at the request of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

"Only offensives against our forces and the civilian population will be repulsed," Ortega said from the patio of the cardinal's offices in Managua after meeting with Obando.

The Sandinista government ear-

MEXICANS get wage increases but face higher prices in a new wave of austerity / 6B.

lier had rejected a proposal that Obando made on Dec. 4 for a Christmas truce with the U.S.-supported contras.

Ortega also said that his government would send a commission of foreign technical experts to meet with a similar group of contra representatives next Monday in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

What had been scheduled as the first face-to-face negotiations between representatives of the Marxist-led government and the contras was postponed on Monday at the Sandinistas' request.

Obando said the Nicaraguan Resistance "has agreed to the meeting of technical groups next Monday."

The first indirect talks were held in Santo Domingo on Dec. 5-6.

Archie on AIDS: Don't be a jughead

By MARY VOBORIL
Herald Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Moose, the brawny blond dimwit of Riverdale High, runs up to Archie with the usual harebrained comment: "D-uh! Hey, Archie!! Wow! Is this ever a great day!! My girl Midge hasn't got mad at me in three days, an' last night she let me kiss her!"

And for 46 years, a chaste "Smooch!!" or two is about as explicit as the teen-aged romance got for girl-crazy Archie and his mainstream Pals 'n' Gals. But because of AIDS, sex — safe sex — has arrived in Riverdale, though in a bland, oblique, carefully worded way.

In 1988, the inside cover of 13 million Archie comics will show a chalkboard dominated by the words "Health education." Under that, in small letters: "AIDS is a serious worldwide problem that affects people of all ages, in all walks of life. Until a cure is found, there is only one effective weapon

Please turn to ARCHIE / 12A



Educator Sandra Feldman with Archie Comics' AIDS education ad.



Agence France-Presse

Student with handmade torch joins an estimated 20,000 others in an industrial district of Seoul, to protest alleged tampering with a ballot box.

Shoddy stockbroking led to big losses for small investors

Changing Wall Street / 1E

Hutton layoffs / 1E

From Herald Staff and Wire Reports

Shoddy broker practices cost small investors hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars in the stock market crash, according to a report to Congress Wednesday that details shareholders' horror stories from Wall Street's Bloody Monday.

In many cases, the report by state regulators says, investors had been set up for a fall well in

advance of the Oct. 19 crash by misguided advice or unauthorized trading by brokers.

"Many investors ... including most of the truly tragic cases reported, might not have lost as much or at all if their brokers had observed proper sales practices in

the weeks, months and years preceding the ... crash," the North American Securities Administrators Association said in the report.

The association, which represents state and provincial securities administrators in the United

States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico, based its conclusions on an analysis of 2,562 calls to a toll-free investor hot line between Nov. 9 and Dec. 4. Florida investors made

Please turn to BROKERS / 15A

Deaver guilty of lying under oath

From Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON — Former White House aide Michael Deaver was convicted Wednesday of charges he lied under oath in denying allegations that he had improperly used his influence with President Reagan while working as a lobbyist.

"I know in my heart I'm innocent," Deaver said afterward. His lawyer, Herbert Miller Jr., said

he would appeal the verdict, seeking a mistrial.

The jury of seven women and five men found Deaver guilty of two counts of lying to a grand jury and one count of lying to a House Energy and Commerce investigations subcommittee probing allegations that his lobbying violated federal ethics laws.

Each of the three convictions carries a five-year prison term.

Fines could total \$22,000.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson scheduled sentencing for Feb. 25 and allowed Deaver to remain free on personal recognizance.

The jury acquitted Deaver of one charge that he had lied to the grand jury and another that he had

Please turn to DEAVER / 23A

Hart defends candidates' privacy rights

DOVER, N.H. — (AP) — Gary Hart, his reborn candidacy less than a day old, said Wednesday that the "public does not have a right to know everything" about the private lives of those who seek to lead the nation.

Almost at once, the new Demo-

cratic presidential candidate was confronted with the issue that drove him from the race in May: his relationship with former Miami model Donna Rice and questions about his character.

At a high school here, a student asked Hart if he thought politi-

cians had the right to mislead the public deliberately and asked him to relate the question to his aborted campaign.

"No, I don't think they do have a right to mislead the public," Hart

Please turn to HART / 26A

Six charged in Miami drug ring linked to corrupt police

DRUGS / from 1A

FBI spokesman Paul Miller. "Could have hurt him." The agents found an Uzi and a MAC-10 submachine pistol inside Mario Tabraue's house at 3940 Douglas Rd. A MAC-11 submachine pistol was found at the pet store, Zoological Imports Unlimited, 3075 SW 39th Ave.

Agents and prosecutors also moved Wednesday to seize the Tabraues' assets, including their houses, the son's animal business and the father's store, Tabraue Jewelry, 940 W. Flagler St. The store was "a clearinghouse" for the ring's drugs and money, according to the indictment.

Mario Tabraue, 33, was the key defendant in "Operation Giraffe," a major drug case tossed out by a Dade judge four years ago.

"This is a doper that slipped through the cracks," Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Schnapp said. "He should have been prosecuted 10 years ago."

The new investigation began two years ago after the Miami Police Department went to the U.S. Attorney's Office with information two of its detectives had developed on Tabraue.

The names of Mario and Guillermo Tabraue surfaced in rumors after the FBI subpoenaed the records of 25 Miami police officers and several major Miami police drug investigations on May 7, 1986. The subpoenas were the first public indication of the scope of a major federal offensive against corruption in the Miami department.

Federal prosecutors said the police corruption portion of the Tabraue investigation is continuing. Wednesday's indictment does not name any of the Miami police officers who worked for the Tabraues.

"We do have information as to what officers may be involved," said Col. Jimmy Burke, commander of the Miami police Special Investigations Section (SIS), which joined in the Tabraue probe.

Burke and federal prosecutors in the case emphasized that the officers involved were not related to those implicated in Miami River Cops case. That case involved low-ranking uniformed patrol officers who ripped off large cocaine loads and sold the drugs. The Tabraue case, sources say, involves possible corruption among high-ranking police officials and narcotics detectives in the department's elite SIS unit.

"It has absolutely nothing to do with the River Cops," said Schnapp, chief of the U.S. Attorney's criminal division in Miami.

Mario Tabraue is also accused of paying \$150,000 in bribes to Monroe County police officers, including former Key West deputy police chief Raymond Casamayor, to protect drug loads in 1978. Casamayor is currently serving a 30-year federal drug sentence in an unrelated case.

Guillermo Tabraue, 64, a prominent figure in Miami's Cuban community, has close relationships with high-ranking members of the Miami police. His jewelry store has been frequented by Miami police officers for more than 15 years.

"The rumors were for years that Miami police officers could go in there and at extremely good prices purchase the kind of jewelry that they could never purchase otherwise," said a source with knowledge of the investigation.

In the past, Guillermo Tabraue has been questioned by Dade state attorney's investigators looking into jewelry gifts to public officials and a federal grand jury investigating drug rings in South Florida. He has never been charged.

Mario Tabraue was originally arrested with 10 others on May 7, 1981, in Operation Giraffe. More than six tons of marijuana were seized. Metro-Dade police called the case their most successful in years.

Tabraue, then-president of Florida City Exotic Animals, was identified as the leader of the alleged

drug ring. He was charged along with Miami police officer Samuel Streiner and a former federal prosecutor. Tabraue employed Streiner as his personal bodyguard.

The Giraffe case collapsed in state court in January 1983 after Dade Circuit Judge Theodore Mastos ruled that investigators lacked adequate reason to wiretap Tabraue. Hundreds of hours of taped conversations were thrown out, including one in which Tabraue offered a lawyer "a kilo of toco toucan." Tabraue went free.

But Miami police continued to investigate Tabraue.

Because of the magnitude of the case and the Tabraues' close ties to Miami police, SIS investigators Joseph Shepherd and James Potter took their information to Schnapp, the prosecutor directing federal probes of corruption in South Florida. The case was pursued by the multi-agency federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, which includes the FBI, ATF, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Customs Service.

"We initiated an investigation and, based on the scope of the organization, it basically would not have worked without bringing all these agencies together," Burke said. "We had jurisdictional concerns as well as manpower concerns."

Also charged with the Tabraues are Francisco Quintana, 46, of 3720 SW 107th Ave.; Orlando Cicilia, 30, of 3825 SW 132nd Ave.; Raymond L. Van Nostrand, 44, of 6121 SW 51st Ct.; Davie; Philip Epstein, 35, of 3180 SW 23rd St.; and Randy Chatfield of Fort Lauderdale. All were arrested Wednesday, except for Chatfield, who pleaded guilty to drug charges this week in Indianapolis.

A U.S. Magistrate Wednesday afternoon postponed Guillermo Tabraue's bond hearing until 2 p.m. today. Hearings for Mario Tabraue and Quintana were continued until 10 a.m. Monday. The govern-

ment is seeking to have all three defendants held in pretrial detention.

If convicted of the charges against them, Mario Tabraue faces 205 years plus life in prison and \$3 million in fines; his father faces 40 years and fines totaling \$500,000. Mario Tabraue also faces three 10-year counts for possession of the machine guns found by agents Wednesday.

In addition to the property seizures against the Tabraues, federal officials are seeking to take Quintana's house. The federal prosecutors also filed a restraining order to prevent the Tabraues' from liquidating their assets, including Mario Tabraue's two 1983 four-door Mercedes-Benz 500 SELs and the jewelry in Guillermo Tabraue's store.

Wednesday's indictment charges that "a federal confidential informant, Larry Nash, was murdered to protect the enterprise with defendant Mario S. Tabraue taking steps to conceal the murder by participating in the mutilation and burning of Nash's body."

Larry Vance Nash, an informant for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, disappeared on July 15, 1980. Investigators believe Nash, 31, was murdered and his body disposed of after someone discovered that he was wearing an electronic body bug.

According to Wednesday's charges, Nash was shot with a .380 Beretta handgun and federal agents have identified the two men who killed him. The men were not named in the indictment. That murder case will be turned over to state authorities.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement obtained a search warrant in July 1981 for Tabraue's Florida City Exotic Animal Farm in Southwest Dade, where an informant told them Larry Nash's body was buried.

The agents failed to find Nash's body, which remains missing.



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